

O C T O B E R 2 0 0 6

Cover Picture; Harvest! They don't do it like that any more!

Prayers for the Month,

For your generosity in creation;
for the beauty of the world around;
for the wonders of science;
for the creativity of our human minds;
for the glory of your goodness to us
and the love of your call to us, we thank you Lord;
and pray that we may use and appreciate
these great benefits wisely, sustainably and generously
to your glory, our own benefit, and the relief of those in need.
Amen.

**Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane,
0161 998 – 2615**

Dear Friends,

We come round to the harvest festival season in both St. Wilfrid's and the Methodist Church this month. It is a very joyful celebration, and I hope many of you will be able to get to church to join in with it, and that you will invite friends and family to share in it.

It is also a rather sobering celebration. I don't know about you, but I am conscious of how odd the climate has been this year, with temperatures in the 80s during September, and so on. Perhaps it is because I am aware of "climate change" that I see things that way, and in fact it is no different from, say, ten years ago ~ or perhaps not. I am conscious of how resilient nature is; grass that was parched and dead-looking after July's heatwave was a long luscious green by the end of August. But the thought of what may be happening to the climate is still sobering. To celebrate harvest festival nowadays should also make us reflect on how we use, and perhaps abuse, the world around us, and how we, in our small ways, can cut back on the abuse. I was shocked, while walking in Shropshire, to see how soil which had

been weed-killed after being harvested looked sick, and lacked any body to it. Can this be good practice, really?

And a practical note in connection with St. Wilfrid's; we do not now have much outlet for fresh goods. Last year quite a lot had to be ditched before it could be used. Even tins can be a problem. I pass some on to people whose giros haven't come through, but that does not take all that is received. Donations for the work of Christian Aid, or a similar development agency, are just as practical nowadays, or more so, as a gift for harvest.

Yours faithfully, **Greg Forster**

Northenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

Minister: the Revd. David Bown,
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF
0161 998 – 2158

Sunday Services.

29th 11.00am The Rev. Brenda Shaw

5th Nov. 11.00am Morning Worship

6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's

And please note that this year's British Legion Remembrance Day Parade service will be at Northenden Methodist Church

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Wythenshawe Meeting

There is a meeting for worship

at the Friends' Meeting House, Wythenshawe Rd.,

At 10.30am every Sunday.

Children welcome. Details from Enid Pinch (445 – 6778)

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

~ contact Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797,

Magpie ...

Christmas is a-coming, (though some of the early sales gimmicks are now muted by the invention of Halloween and bonfire night, to keep the cash tills ringing) and the Church Advertising Network has come out with its Christmas offering already. Oh dear! It's an empty beer mug. Just about right for

Xmas. Admittedly, if you've been told to look you can see the face of Christ in the froth on the side. Yes, you can come across Jesus in unexpected places, but you can also give unintended messages in a culture which already drinks too much, at Christmas and all the year round. Nice try, shame about the detail.

And what about All Hallows' Eve? Now that might be something for Church advertisers to go to work on. It does need a major makeover; a complete change of image. It should be a time of celebration, as we thank God for the lives of all his *Saints*. The trouble is, it has been hijacked ~ All Ghouls' day, with a bit of unpleasant blackmail thrown in by some trick-or-treaters. (Incidentally, when trick-or-treaters approach me, I always ask them what treat they are going to give me; that tricks them! Logically, they should be treat-or-tricksters.) So, have a party; light all the candles (safely, of course!), wear white, or yellow and gold, and crowns or clowns' makeup, bob the apples and celebrate the joy and hope of heaven, not the fear of hell.

What is happening with the Church Inn, following the fire which gutted it? I don't know, except that if it was too dangerous to keep the façade it would be down already. I think the existing plans remain, and may go through a bit quicker now there's an incentive to get the site sorted. As for the Barrow Motors site, on Palatine Rd., I gather that the council have finally taken legal action to make that site safe, and that much work has started.

NEW DAWN COUNSELLING.

Free, professional counselling
at the New Dawn Community Centre,
Button Lane, Northen Moor. Tel. 0161 – 962-8100.
*Counselling in a Christian context, under the auspices of the
Brit. Assoc. of Counselling and Psychotherapy,*
The service is free, though donations towards the costs are welcome.

St. Wilfrid's Church,

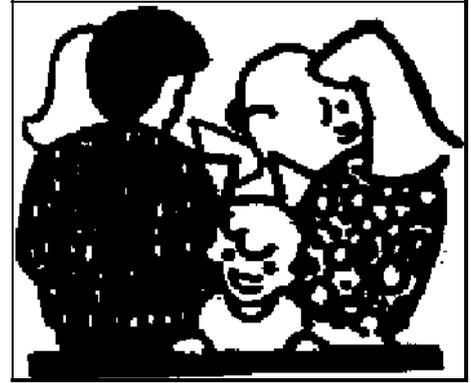
Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

[www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk](http://www.stwilfridsnorthenden.org.uk)

Services:



On Sundays at 8.00am, and on Thursdays at 10.00am there is a Communion service (using the old Prayer Book).

There is a "Sunday Club" for 7 – 11+ year olds in the Rectory at 10.30am, for about an hour, and ...

A Sunday School, for children from 3½ to 6+, meets in the Church Hall from 10.30 till about 11.30am., except when there is a Family Service (for parents and children together) in Church.

29th GMT 10.30am Holy Communion for All Hallows' Tide.

6.30pm Holy Communion (1662)

5th Nov. 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service
 6.30pm United Evening Worship (@ St. Wilfrid's)

Please note too that the church is open each Sunday afternoon from 1.45 – approx. 5.15pm, for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c. (special arrangements, 14th & 15th Oct.)

For your Diaries

We have two visiting teams of Bell-Ringers coming to the church on the afternoons of Thurs. 26th and Sun 29th Oct. ~ so that ringing in your ears is not imagination.

Wed. 1st Nov. Bible study, as above.

Sat. 4th Coffee Morning (church hall) 10am ...

Mon. 6th Women's Group ~ 7.45 for 8.00pm, Rectory.

WOMEN'S GROUP ...

And next month the speaker is Rachel Fordyce, who works on BBC Radio 4's "You and Yours" programme. *Sue Forster*

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

Ronald Murgatroyd (Coppice Dr.) 95,
Ronald Barber (Darley Ave.) 71. Eugenie Jarvis (Pickmere) 74,
Sylvia Whittle (Bradgate Close) 82),

Married in the Parish Church on Saturday 9th Sept.

Angela Louise Nickeas to Oliver Edward Brumby

and on Saturday 16th Sept.

Laura Wadsworth to Anthony Feeney

Baptised on Sunday 27th August

Emilie Honour Liddell.

and on Sun. 17th September:

Lilly-Jo Taylor, Anna Louise Ward.

Toilets update ~ church and hall: *Greg Forster*

Work on the Hall should have been finished by the time you read this, all bar the lift to help people from the entry lobby up to the main hall.

The work on the Church Toilets, in the south porch, should be commenced on October 18th. As part of the work a trench will need to be dug from the porch to the nearest manhole, by the church hall. It will be fenced off, and this may cause some inconvenience in gaining access to the graveyard. Please be careful as you pass it. Our apologies for the difficulty.

Confirmation notes. ~ Creator *Greg Forster*

How much do you know about the basics of our faith? Here are some notes I gave to those who were confirmed in June..

In the creed we say we “believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth...”

The most important thing that God revealed to the Jews was that He is One. For us the problem may be in deciding whether there is a God at all; four thousand years ago there were lots of rival gods, so people thought.

So the main point in the bible's stories of creation (like Genesis ch.1) is not how long God took to make the universe, but that **He** made it. He made the stars, the sun and the moon; they are not gods in themselves (so why do people bother with horoscopes!) He made the animals; they are not images of the many gods of Egypt. And what he made was good, very good.

And then he revealed that he is interested in people, in justice for them, and in befriending them. He is awesome, but not frightful. He is more interested in people treating each other fairly than in being bought off with the right ceremonies.

But can we believe in Him now?

- There are many pointers towards the existence of God; one is the fact that throughout history, and across the world, people have felt that there is something bigger than they are, whom they should honour (even if they do it in different ways, some weird and perhaps unpleasant)
- Another is the order and beauty of Creation, and the fact that it works ~ some scientists have worked out that if the “big bang” that started it all had been just a little bit bigger, stars &c could not have come together, and if it had been a bit smaller then it would have collapsed back on itself. As it is, it is just right for living in; they see an “anthropic principle” behind it ~ a posh way of saying it looks designed.
- A third pointer to God's existence is the sense of justice and fairness which we have as human beings. Again, we may have different ideas of what is fair and right, but we feel that there is a rightness in the world. These are not knock-down proofs, but strong indications and pointers to God.
- And most importantly, he has revealed himself in many, various ways. Christians look especially to the history of Israel, and its fulfilment in the life and teaching of Jesus, and his death and resurrection.

SOUTHERN CEMETERY ...

Greg Forster

Stories have been circulating that the City Council were proposing to close the offices at Southern Cemetery, and reduce the services available there. I was concerned about this, and had

a meeting late in September with the council Executive Member and officers to discuss it. They assured me that though administrative changes are being discussed, the office will not be closed, and information and help will still be available on site. They claim this will be a better service. Grounds maintenance will now be done by staff directly answerable to the council.