

O c t o b e r 2 0 0 7

Prayer for the Month.

Loving Father, who give generously in Creation to good and bad alike;

Give us the eyes to see your wonder in the world around;

Give us the minds to use our part of your creation wisely;

Give us the hearts to share your creation generously;

Give us the wills to use your creation sustainably,

& give us the lips to thank & praise you, our Creator, truly.

Amen

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane, 0161 998 – 2615

Dear Friends,

There is a great deal happening this month, and I hope that you will be able to share in it ~ in particular the concert, bishop's visit and the harvest events on 7th and 14th. Details below!

I received a questionnaire recently about the health service. I confess that I did not return it. The questions did not seem to be the ones I wanted to answer. I've never had problems getting an appointment with my GP, largely because I've only needed a couple in the 28 years I've been here and none particularly urgently ~ but the unasked questions were about hospital hygiene. Too many people, admittedly elderly, go in healthy but injured, and come out with MRSA or the like. Questions like how many sq. metres of floor are cleaned with one bucket, or one dip of the mop? I can't go into detail (no names, no pack drill), but perhaps cleaner-training should come before patient satisfaction questionnaires.

Yours sincerely, 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.

7th Oct. 11.00am Harvest Service; The Rev. David Sanders

6.30pm United evening service.

14th 11.00am Holy Communion The Rev. David Bown

21st 11.00am World Church Sunday. Joyce Burgess
28th 11.00am Home Service

COMMUNITY LUNCHESES ...

2nd & 4th Wednesdays in October,
10th and 24th. from 12 noon to 1.30pm

Fun Bingo: Sat. 27th Oct., noon to 2.00pm.

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,

M a g p i e ...

... has heard (who hasn't?) that the Farmers' Market is coming to Northenden. Watch out for them, on the pedestrian island near Woolworth's. They are there one Saturday a month, for a six month trial (use it or lose it, as they say) and it is probably to be the first Saturday (i.e the 6th) but I have not seen that in print yet.

... nipped over to Wythenshawe Hall the other day, and found a hole in the ground. Not as big a hole as at our Mill last year, but a hole, none-the-less, in which the foundations of the old home farm complex were being revealed by school-children and grown-ups. More news (and a minister) next month.

... and for the record, our police station in Northenden is one of the busiest in the country. People who expect a desk to knock at may find that difficult to believe – but it is true; but thousands of incidents are reported, and acted on, through that cottage.

St. Wilfrid's Church,

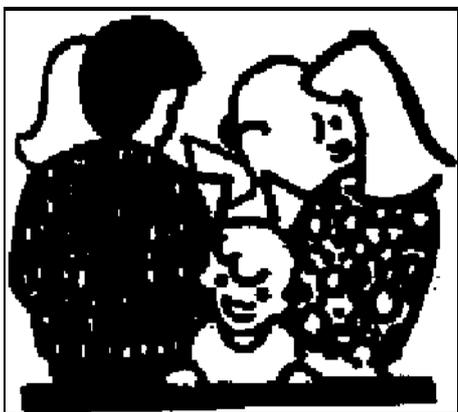
Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

www
stwilfridsnorthende
n . org . uk

Services:



Communion on Sundays at 8.00am,
and on Thursdays at 10.00am

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

... "Scramblers", 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.

Oct. 7th 10.30am Harvest Festival Family Service
6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.
14th 10.30am St.Wilfrid's Day ~ Holy Communion
6.30pm God's Creation – music and meditation.
(see article, page 4)
21st 10.30am Holy Communion
6.30pm Evening Worship
28th 10.30am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Holy Communion

Nov. 4th 10.30am Family Communion and Parade Service
6.30pm United Evening Worship at St.Wilfrid's

Note that the Remembrance day parade is at St.Wilfrid's this year

***The church is open each Sunday from 2.00– 5.00pm,
for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c.***

Note the special openings this month ~ a reading of the Gospel of Mark on 7th., and the Open Days on 13th & 14th.

There are a number of leaflets and booklets available which describe the church, or specific features within it.

A leaflet about the Millennium Banner is now available as is a revised booklet on the stained glass.

IT'S ALL HAPPENING ... for your diaries

Sun. 7th Harvest Lunch in the Hall after 10.30am service ~
Invite yourself and your friends to both!

Approx. 2.30pm. in Church. A continuous reading of St. Mark's Gospel (with a break for refreshments half way through the estimated 2 hour presentation!).

Thu. 11th Bishop's Visit. See article.
Fri. 12th 9.15am-ish School Harvest & St. Wilfrid's Service
Sat / Sun, 13th & 14th Open Days: see panel.
Wed. 24th Oct. Bible Study, Rectory, 7.45 for 8.00pm
Wed. 31st Oct Bible study, as above.
Thur. 1st Nov. P.C.C. meeting, Hall, 7.30pm
Sat. 3rd Coffee Morning. Hall, 10.00am

And note that the Remembrance Day Parade service in Northenden on Sun. 11th Nov. is at St. Wilfrid's this year.

WOMEN'S GROUP meets in the Rectory

at **7.45 for 8 00pm** on ...

..., *in the Rectory;*

... **Mon. 12th Nov. (n.b. a week "late"!) Ann Eustace**

Antarctic Adventure.

Sue

BISHOP'S VISIT AND GUEST WEEKENDS, Oct. 7th - 14th.

On 11th October the Bishop of Manchester visits Northenden in his "pilgrim" journey around the diocese. Some of his meetings and activities will be by invitation, but others, especially a service of dedication in church at 7pm will be open to all. Invitations, both specific and general, should be out now.

We are also holding what has been billed as a "Mission Weekend" over that week, linked with the bishop's visit.

Sun. Oct. 7th is our harvest festival, and you are invited not only to come to the thanksgiving service yourself, but invite your friends and neighbours, and to stay on for the lunch which will follow. Invitations are available for people to use. (Bring food for half a person – and your whole self!)

The school's harvest celebrations take place on Friday 12th at about 9.15am in church. Parents are especially welcome, but so are all friends of the school.

Sat. 13th, & Sun 14th are "Open Days", linked in with St. Wilfrid's 'Day' on the Sunday. As usual, these provide a shop window for church, but I hope we can provide more elaborate "tours" of the whole church, not just the tower, highlighting (with flowers) Christian features of the building and its history, and the reasons for them. As always there is an open invitation on such

occasions, but this year extra publicity via the school and a parish leaflet will go out, and other means will be used to publicise it.

On Sun. 14th we shall have the St. Wilfrid's Day service at 10.30am. Once again there is as always an open invitation to this time of praise and thanksgiving to God.

And finally, at 6.30pm we plan to use a format similar to the much appreciated "God Friday" of last April ~ "God's Sunday" ~ to think about Harvest and the wonders and challenges of Creation. Once again, everyone is welcome, but specific invitations will bring this home.

If this is to be successful a lot will depend on church members' willingness to use specific personal invitations, even for events which are open to all and any. A leaflet should go round the parish at the beginning of October (Help, please!).

Open Week-End ~ Church Open Days

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th September

St. Wilfrid's Church will be open on Sat. 13th from 11.00 – 5.00pm and on Sun. 14th from 12.30 – 5.00pm as part of our "St. Wilfrid's Day" invitation programme.

Tower tours; historical and modern displays; ancestor hunting.

Maintaining our heritage?

We have a lot to be thankful for in our heritage, both architectural and personal, but it needs to be maintained for it to be of use now and for the future.

We recently approached English Heritage for a grant to continue our repairs of the church slating, which has had no major overhaul since it was put on in 1875. They replied that they cannot help us, since we have a fair amount in the bank ourselves. That is fair comment, though without it we would not have income for routine maintenance. So, what do we do now?

We have asked our architect to prepare a less ambitious plan for the more urgent work, for instance replacing downspouts which have (literally) "cum off in me 'and, Guv." and the like. This work will probably be done early next year. There will be no specific appeal round the church or parish for this phase of the project. We are grateful for gifts for earlier phases, and will consider an appeal for a later, larger phase. G S F 17/9/07

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

Jack Jarvis (Pickmere), Ernest Turner (ex Monaco Dr.)
Florence Hindley (West View), Wilfred Howard (Royle Green Rd.)

Married in the parish church on Sun. 26th August.

Ruth Elizabeth Johnson to Gregory James Beardmore
and Lindsay Jane Flanagan to Paul Dempsey
on Sat. 1st Sept. Jenny Levers to Mark Alister Keith
on Sat. 8th Sept. Jodi J. N. S. Howarth to Paul A. Singleton

Baptised on Sunday, 26th August, 2007 ...

Daniel James McNiven-Smith

... and on Sunday 16th September:

Jake Oliver Hodnett

The visit of Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Manchester.



Thursday Oct. 11th. 7.00pm

A service in Church ~

Running the Race, Looking to Jesus

* We share our picture of Northenden ~
The bishop shares his vision for Manchester

Please join us for this celebration.

Harvest Festival ...

GSF

In connection with the way we celebrate this, can I repeat last month's request? One of the ways of thanking God for what we have is to share it. We often do this by bringing gifts at harvest festival. Very little is now distributed locally. Instead we aim to support the work of the Booth Centre, the Cathedral's drop-in for Manchester's street people, and other centres; for them cup-a-soup packets, and similar quick and easy foods, are the most helpful. These can be presented in church and put on display in the traditional way, but then used differently.

Other uses of the harvest produce are bags of tins for people whose benefit payments have been delayed, or who call at the Rectory in the hope of help. For these tins, which keep round the year, are more use than perishables with a brief sell-by date. And then again, there is the wider world; donations to Christian Aid are never wasted. We can provide envelopes on request.

So, I am grateful for the ways in which people show gratitude through generosity at harvest ~ but I am most grateful for gifts which can be used to meet people's needs as and when they occur round the year.

Jesus and the world around him. Matthew 6 vv25f. (GSF)

This is a passage from the bible which is often used at harvest time ~ so what has Jesus got to tell us in it?

He is mixing pithy sayings ~ "proverbs" or "homespun philosophy" ~ with more detailed teaching how to approach life.

For example, a modern "proverb" or moral witticism is "You are what you eat", which has a lot to do with dieting and healthy eating. Adverts and Sunday supplements make their living out of it. Eat our stuff and it will solve your waist-line. Or in contrast, beware, the more E103 you drink, the bouncier and zanier you will be. You might even think that healthy eating was the modern religion, and junk food was the modern sin ~ I jest (I hope!). Jesus says, "Actually, you are far more than what you eat." The real you is not just big Macs or bio-yoghurts, but your relationship with the Father who provides what we need. Jesus' proverb is "You are much more than what you eat."

Another proverb cum witticism, from Bill Shankly, was; "Football isn't a matter of life and death; it's more important than that." Tongue in cheek, to make people think twice. So who's the greatest? The one with Nike trainers and a no. 7 kit? Or a Benetton top? Or the latest 4x4? The king in all his state robes? Plenty of those whom Jesus met would have been proud of their latest outfit, showing off success in their lavish lifestyle. To them he says, "Look at that wild-flower meadow; King Solomon was a geek compared to that. If God clothes that, he can see you clothed with all you really need, too."

So, is Jesus saying, eat like pigs, look like slob? I don't think so. He is saying don't get hung up about it, either way. There's more to real life than all this. Go for God's kingdom (fairness, care, generosity, respect, gratitude and worship, teamwork and prayer, ...) and you'll find God sorts out the other stuff, and you get your life in proportion.

Incidentally, this passage is about trust in God, not about Jesus' attitude to famine and genuine hunger. He fed 5000 hungry people; he taught that feeding the hungry was offering him a service (Matt. 14 v 13 ff, and Matt. 25 v 35ff).

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.