

CONCORD ~ October 2011

Prayer for the Month ...

Sovereign Lord, we say that the hearts of Rulers are in your governance. Help us to discern your purposes in the events of our times, and to hold our faith and trust when those events seem harsh or puzzling. Give wisdom to those in authority in our own and other lands, and may they be guided by your fairness and justice for all people. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

A couple of years ago the Civic Society produced a report on their vision for Northenden Village over the next ten years. I wonder if we need to do the same as a church, and produce a *St. Wilfrid's. 2020* report. Here are some initial thoughts.

Some things will remain the same. The Christian message that we are reconciled to God and our sins forgiven solely through God's generosity, lived out in Jesus, and clinched for us through his death and resurrection ~ that remains unchanged, as does our commission (voiced by St. Wilfrid) to live to God's glory. How we do that may change from generation to generation.

Worship at St. Wilfrid's will continue. Northenden is a distinct enough community to ensure that, as does the "listed" status of the church and churchyard. Already more lay people take a priestly role in that worship than used to be the case. This is bound to increase, for its own sake and because the role of Rector of Northenden is almost certainly going to be combined with a parallel role in another parish. More clerics are retiring now than are being ordained, and even if this were not the case the diocese will have insufficient funding to maintain separate incumbents in relatively small parishes such as our own.

I hope that the church hall will continue to serve both the church and the wider community, and I am taking steps to raise funds if possible to improve its insulation, wiring, &c. Will solar panels be acceptable and viable to provide electric power? We ought to use them on principle. Might the same be possible on the church? That's a trickier question, given English Heritage's interest, but work on the nave roof is desirable.

We shall have to come back to this!

Greg Forster

Northenden Methodist Church

Minister: The Revd. David Bown,
5 Kenworthy Lane,
Northenden, M 22
0161 – 998-2158

Sunday Services.

1st Sunday every month

Family worship ~ Sunday breakfast club ~ MESSY CHURCH

All start off with breakfast** together at 9.00am, then do activities with your child(ren) followed by a story, songs, and prayer based on the activities ~ finishes about 10.30am.

**Currently £1 per person

For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

- Oct. 2nd. 11.00am Mr. Bob Bartindale (Harvest)
 6.30pm United Service at N/den Methodist Ch.
- 9th 11.00am Holy Communion. The Rev. D. Bown
- 16th 11.00am The Rev. Margaret Hall
- 23rd 11.00am Mr. Nic Harding
- 30th 11.00am Holy Communion. The Rev. M. Purdy
- Nov. 6th 11.00am Morning Worship
 6.30pm United Service @ N/den Methodist Ch.

13th **10.45am Remembrance Parade Service.**

Followed by wreath laying at the War Memorial, 11.45 approx.

Community Lunch

Wed. 12th Oct 12 noon – 1.30pm

... November details to be announced

Fun Bingo

Last Saturday of the Month (29th), 12.00 noon - 2.00pm.
(to be confirmed in weekly notices)

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
South Manchester Meeting

There is a meeting for worship
at the Friends' Meeting House, Wythenshawe Rd.,
at 10.30am every Sunday.

Children welcome. *Details from Roger Hensman, 980-5158.

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;
~ contact Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797,

St. Wilfrid's Church, Northenden.

Ford Lane, M22 4WE

Rector ~ the Revd. Greg Forster,
Northenden Rectory, Ford La., M 22 4NQ

Tel. 0161 998 – 2615

Email; gsf @ stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

Services:

On Sundays there will be a communion service at 8.00am;

On Thursdays at 10am there will also be a communion service.

We run "Scramblers" ~ which I mustn't call a Sunday School ~
for children from 3½ to 7 ~ in the Church Hall, ...

... and "Sunday Club" ~ for children from 7 upwards ~ in the
Rectory between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays ...

... except when there is a Family Service in church.

Oct. 2nd. 10.30am **HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICE.**

6.30pm United Service at **N/den Methodist Church**

9th. 10.30am **St. Wilfrid's Tide** ~ Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

16th 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

23rd 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

30th 10.30am **All Saints' Tide** ~ Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

Nov. 6th 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service

6.30pm United Service at N/den Methodist Ch. **

13th 10.30am Remembrance Sunday ~ Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship.

** Our united evening services are juggled so as to avoid clashing
with Northenden Players' Productions at the Methodist Hall. Hence
the two consecutive months there (following two consecutive
months here in Aug. & Sept.)

Remembrance Sunday will be observed at St. Wilfrid's, but the
main village parade service will be at the Methodist Church, at
10.45am, followed by wreath laying at the War Memorial at 11.45.

Doors open at ...

The times given above for services are the times at which we aim to start formally. Doors are obviously open before then, but not too long before! On Thursdays for the 10am service and on Sundays for 8am and 6.30pm, please reckon on doors opening no more than five minutes before the stated time. On Sundays for 10.30am, reckon on doors being open no more than half an hour beforehand. As the weather gets more wintry this may save you a cold wait.

For funerals and weddings, however, when folk are sometimes gathering from quite long distances and may misjudge the travelling time, the doors are often open an hour before the set time.

Drop in ...

On Sundays from 2.00 till 5.00pm the church is open, for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.

And note that the next full Open Week End, with tower trips, displays &c., will be in May or June 2012.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!

Note the Farmers' Market on 1st Oct., 9.30ish to 3.30ish

If you get this in time ... St. Michael's, Northen Moor, have a harvest supper on 1st Oct. £7.50, I think. Details; 998-2461.

Sun. Oct. 2nd ~ Harvest Lunch after Morning worship (ca. 11.50am). Each bring food for half a person! (and the family!)

Mon. 3rd 7.45 for 8.00pm Women's Group Rectory

Wed. 5th 8.00pm Bible Study Rectory

Wed. 12th No Bible Study here. The Deanery Synod meeting mentioned in last month's Concord has now been rescheduled to this date, to fit in with the speaker, John Leech MP. Christ Church, W.Didsbury, coffee from 7.00pm.

Sat. 15th Coffee Morning in aid of **The Children's Society**
Church Hall, 10.00am ...

Wed. 19th and 26th Bible Study, Rectory, 8.00pm.

Thu. 27th P.C.C. Meeting 7.30pm (To be confirmed)

Sat. 29th Coffee Morning, 10.00 – 11.30am Church Hall.

Weds. 2nd & 9th **November.** Bible Studies, Rectory, 8.00pm.

NB the Farmers' Market on 5th Nov.

Mon. 7th Nov. Women's Group. 7.45 for 8.00pm

*Thurs. 10th Nov. Concert ~ Palatine Wind Quintet
7.30pm In Church (to be confirmed)*

*Last month I put the wrong date to December's Folk/Carol Concert
~ it is Thurs. 8th.*

And looking some time ahead, there will be a **Confirmation** here in St. Wilfrid's on Sunday 16th June, 2012, at 6.30pm. I shall begin preparation sessions round about Easter, but please begin thinking about whether you want to be in on it. I can explain more if you want. *GSF*

The Parish Registers –

In Memoriam ...

John Durham (formerly Kenworthy La.) 90.
Pamela Stubbs (Timperley) 59.

Baptised ... on Sunday 28th August ...

Jacob Ryan Hope, Joe Anthony Fisher,
Alexander James David Green.

Baptisms.

As I mentioned some months ago, recently several families asked for a baptism on a bank holiday Sunday, for family to travel from distant parts of the country more easily. This seems to make sense, and we did this in August, as you can see from the record above. I plan to continue this flexibility.

One of the keys of a baptism service is when the whole church is asked to support the candidates and then to welcome them into the church's regular life. In the liturgy there are formal words of welcome, but this welcome should not just be a matter of formality. It should show through by the way we all greet people at these services, or through Scramblers and other church activities. We're all in this together. With the help of God we will! **GSF**

Women's Group.

On Monday October 3rd Helen Crow will talk about the work of the Church Urban Fund ~ a charity which we support as a church from time to time in the monthly charitable donations which the PCC makes on our behalf.

Further meetings on Nov. 7th with Rose Mossie talking about being an Air Hostess, and Dec. 5th. (Probably a party!) **SDF.**

Magpie...

... has long been familiar with the old Allotment site behind Bagnall Court, off West View Rd. and backing on to the Motorway, but it seems that until the Civic Society jogged their memories a year or so ago, even the City Council's Allotment managers had forgotten about it. Now it is taking on a new lease of life, as a group of enthusiasts, prompted by the council but not funded by them, have taken it on, cleared a lot of it, shaped some plans and set about fundraising to convert it into a community garden and farm ~ open to a wide range of local people and not just individual allotment tenants. One of the aims in the Civic Society's "Northenden 2020" proposals was for this site to be revived for public use, and it is good to see it happening. Magpie does not have contact details, but if you are interested keep a look out round there. And who knows, perhaps if this works well, we will see similar projects in other corners of Northenden too. The Civic Society's ideas included similar use of some of the open land near Homewood Rd., and plans for a community orchard are in hand, as mentioned last month.

... kept his beady eye on the Boat Race on August 28th. What an event that was! A baker's dozen of boats ~ mostly inflatable dinghies ~ paddled by pirates and mullahs, smurfs and all-sorts, left Simon's bridge at 1.p.m, and reached the Tatton bridge by about 1.20. It was a bit windy, and the river was a little too full for comfort, but it was warm enough even for those who got wet. Crowds lined the start, and then raced the boats to the finishing line to cheer them in. Burgers were cooked and eaten, thanks to Chris Bailkowski; pints were pulled and drunk, mostly thanks to The Crown; prizes and trophies were presented, thanks to the National Leader of the Monster Raving Loony Party, who graced the event with his presence (and weighed up the chances of a Loony candidate in Northenden Ward. Actually, he can be quite a serious and effective local politician too, and was recently Mayor of his town in the South-West). The church tower was open specially with flags flying, and was well patronised, with a small charge being levied which went to the event's charity ~ the Christie Hospital, for their research programme. Last year the race raised over £3K through sponsorship, &c. I have not heard this year's final total yet.

... flew in to admire the good work that the Brownies have done finishing the Church Hall kitchen. **THANKS!** (To be more accurate, the Brownies found funds and Eagle Owl & Son did the work.)

Is Recession Good for Us? ~ *the Rector propounds heresy*

Newspapers and broadcast current affairs programmes are full of dire warnings and fears about our economic future. We as individuals may or may not be feeling the pinch, because of falling interest rates, static incomes and rising prices. Politicians and economists argue whether this is a double dip recession or not, and what we should be doing in order to grow the economy and so escape the problem. Spend more now! Balance the budget now!

Uncomfortable though it may be, I wonder whether this actually misses the point. As we, and 170 odd other nations, try to grow our economies and increase the wealth of our people, we are sapping the resources of our planet. Some of those ~ such as grain or timber ~ are renewable if we do not pollute or exhaust the soil they grow in. Others, such as oil, are not. Though new sources may be found they too will one day end. Someone calculated we now use Earth's resources 1½ times faster than they renew themselves.

So even if "growth" does get us out of the immediate problem of recession, is it a real answer to the real problem which lurks just over the horizon? I cannot see any politician, in Britain or any other country, calling for a contraction of the economy, for falling incomes and fewer goods at higher prices in our shops, but maybe it would be for our good, even if it is not for our comfort. I do not relish civil unrest in the UK, or Europe, or anywhere else, in the event of an economic collapse, but perhaps an end to the economic world as we know it will be the only thing that will prevent the end of the human world, full stop. Is God dropping a hint?

So let me hear economists and business leaders defining growth only in terms of reducing the amount we use of things that cannot be renewed; only in terms of developing technology which does not exhaust resources, or foul the land, sea and air. And God grant us thinking politicians who can reshape a society which can live with this ~ or perhaps the church should be showing the way.