

Prayer for the Month

Blessèd are you, Lord God, king of the universe,  
 For you have given us seed-time and harvest,  
 summer and winter and they do not fail;  
 you have given us plants and animals,  
 rock and rain, soil and sun,  
 and our lives are enriched and enhanced by them;  
 blessèd are you our Lord and God,  
 for all the benefits you have given us,  
 for ourselves and for sharing;  
 Help us to show our gratitude by the wise use of your gifts,  
 and the care we show to each other and your world.  
 Blessèd be God, Creator, Redeemer, Enlivener;  
 Blessèd be God for ever. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane.  
 0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

There is a fair amount of news in this month's issue ~ some of it from the end of August, and I apologise that it is so long after the event. It missed the deadline for September's issue, but is, I believe, important or interesting or both. I refer to the boat race, and the Neighbourhood Forum. So read on.

In the St. Wilfrid's diary section you will find reference to discussions about the prospects of this and other parishes in the Deanery Pastoral Committee. I hope that everyone concerned, whether it is all PCC members on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>., or all church members on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>, will make every effort to be there and be involved in our local discussions. There is a danger that simply by mentioning this I will scare people, and I do not mean to, but in a church and a world that is changing I believe that it is better for everyone to know what is being thought about, and why.

As you will know, we regularly make donations from St. Wilfrid's to charities and Christian Missions. Lately we have given in particular to Christian Aid, and The Church Mission Society for work they are doing to support refugees from Syria ~ turning our prayers into something practical too. At Harvest we have given to *Send-a-Cow* ~ about which more later. **Greg Forster**

Well, hello God, ...

... it's me again.

I've got to say it, and I hope you're not angry,  
but it just isn't fair!

No, it isn't!

I mean, it wasn't my fault, and it hurts.

I was out playing. I know I was chasing around,  
but that's part of playing, isn't it?

And then this other guy crashes into me  
and I go flying ~

well, not exactly flying, 'cos I landed up on the concrete,  
and I've got a scraige on my knee and my elbow won't stop  
bleeding ~ I'm limping and it hurts.

Why didn't you stop him?

He shouldn't have been chasing around!

And another thing that's not fair either.

Why did you think up younger brothers?

They can be such a pain. Why didn't you think of that before you  
started making them?

Couldn't you have done things differently?

OK, I know. I could have been someone else's younger brother ~  
or sister even. How would I like it?

But I wonder, did Jesus ever get knocked over  
when he was a kid? That's not the sort of thing the bible tells you,  
but I suppose he did.

If so, it wasn't fair on him either, really,  
but like Mum says, it's all part of growing up.

And come to think of it,

Didn't he have lots of younger brothers and sisters?

I almost feel sorry for him!

Yes, I suppose he learned a lot about sorting out arguments,  
and looking after people and that forgiving stuff ~  
but weren't they a bit of a pain?

Well, perhaps not.

But I can't get over it: it's not that easy.

I still reckon some things aren't fair.

Honest!

# Northenden Methodist Church

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

## **Sunday Services.**

*Usually# 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 £1.50p per person.

For details contact Amy Carline, 07816 888 704

# If the first Sunday is a bank holiday or a school holiday, check with Amy to see if alternative arrangements have been made.

Details of the Autumn Preachers' roster have not been received as of 19<sup>th</sup> Sept., so I cannot publicise them. There will be morning services as usual at 11.00am, each Sunday (except 10<sup>th</sup> Nov., when the Remembrance Day service will start at 10.45, to allow for the Silence at 11.00.). Evening services, here on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 6.30pm, and on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Wilfrid's.

## **Community Lunches**

Wed., ~ 9<sup>th</sup> October, 12 noon till 1.30pm  
(Next lunch, Wed. Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 12 noon till 1.30pm)

## **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 Enid Pinch, 445 6778

The main hall and smaller rooms are available for hire;

~ contact Peter Todhunter (Meeting House Warden) 834-5797
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## Northenden Civic Society

Northenden Civic Society **website** is now open - you can find it on < [www.northendencivicsociety.org](http://www.northendencivicsociety.org) >. Our Civic Society *Facebook* is also open: [www.facebook.com/NorthendenCivicSociety](http://www.facebook.com/NorthendenCivicSociety) You can also find a *Facebook* link from the website. And for a more personal encounter with the society, there is a meeting every second Tuesday in a month, in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, at 7.30pm.

### **Northenden Library.**

*GSF*

Readers will probably know that our Library's opening hours have been curtailed. They are now **Mondays, 2 – 5 pm**

**Tuesdays, 10am – 1pm, 2 – 5pm**

**Fridays & Saturdays 10am – 1pm.**

This is still in our own, proper Library building. I asked in early September whether they knew when they would be moving to the "Parkway Green" front office, but they did not know.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, I understand that library staff have visited the newly refurbished Methodist church and hall to assess its possible suitability as an alternative location.

And it has been suggested to the City Council that one way of spending its £14.5 million windfall from the Airport would be to retain its Libraries as they were. Their response ~ that it is already earmarked for keeping the City "clean and green." Well, since it was an unrestricted item of income, it could be *unear-*marked again, or, as several correspondents have suggested, a good library service would keep people off the streets, so that they do not drop litter there. But then, if the council backs down there will be a lot of lost faces lying around spoiling the environment.

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 also, at 10am, there is a communion service.

“**Sunday Club**” ~ for children from 7 upwards ~ meets in the Rectory, both between 10.30 and 11.30am Sundays ..... except when there is a Family Service in church (Oct.6<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, &c.)

**The Nigerian Anglican “Restoration” Congregation** now meets weekly at **12.30pm** for about 2 hours in St. Wilfrid's Church. The service includes traditional and modern music.

6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10.30am *Harvest Festival*

family service and parade.

6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Church

13<sup>th</sup> 10.30am St. Wilfrid's “Day”

Holy Communion ~ parish prospects (please attend !!!)

6.30pm Evening Worship

20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

27<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Prayer ~ *In Memoriam*

6.30pm Holy Communion

3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. 10.30am Family Communion & Parade

6.30pm United Evening Worship at St. Wilfrid's

10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

Please note that the Remembrance Day service will be at the Methodist Church, as is now normal, starting at 10.45am, to facilitate easy access to the wreath-laying

at the War Memorial at 11.45 – 12 noon approx.

Drop in on St. Wilfrid's ...

**On Sundays from 2.30 till 5.00pm  
the church is open**

**for private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.**

To visit at other times, please contact the Rector.

The Parish Registers –

In Memoriam ...



Some of the older among you will remember Frank Gates, who was churchwarden in the late '50s and early '60s.

He died, at the age of 97 back in February.

He held fond memories of Northenden, its church and its bells.

Baptisms;

Roxanne Eve Phillips Davies, Leo Matthew Phillips Davies,  
Charlie John Husband, George Anthony Holroyd.

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all

happening!



*Note the Riverside Park Friends' AGM in our Church Hall, 7.30pm*

**Note too the Farmers' & Others' Market on 5<sup>th</sup> in the village**

Wed. 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 8.00pm Bible Study, Rectory (NB none on 9<sup>th</sup>)

Thu. 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.15 (ish) School Harvest Service.

10.00 (ish!) Holy Communion, as normal.

7.30pm **PCC Meeting**, inc. discussion of report to

Deanery Pastoral Committee on Parish hopes and prospects.

Mon. 7<sup>th</sup> 7.45 for 8.00pm Women's Group. Gary Stretton will explain the ideas behind work at 21 Ford La. "Homes of Hope"

*Note the Northenden Civic Society meeting Tue. 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, Ch. Hall*

Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> Deanery Pastoral Committee meeting.

Wed. 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Bible Studies; Rectory.

Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> 10.00 – 11.30am Coffee Morning, sales &c.

Note again the Farmers' Market on Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.

Mon. 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 7.45 for 8.00pm Women's Group.

Weds 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Bible Studies at Rectory, 8.00pm.

**But on Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ a Concert, by the Palatine Wind Quintet  
In Church, at 7.30pm. ~ *don't miss it!***

And advance warning: December's Family Service is on the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Magpie ...

... came across a Government (or was it a Local Authority?) form the other day that had to be filled in on-line. The department was obviously aware that some people do not have access to computers, so offered advice and access for them, ... by going on-line at www . whatever it was . gov . uk ! Nice thought, anyway.

Now that's what I call  
a real S.U.V. !  
Vehicle ?

S. U. V. ... ?  
Sports / Utility



... was at the Boat Race. Were you? Or did you see all the photo coverage in the Evening News and the local free-sheets. Best coverage for Northenden in years! Well done to the folks at the Crown for setting it up. There was a record field (is that the right word for a boat race?) of 18 contestants, and 25 ducks. Most of the ducks fell at the first fence (or at least got grounded at the first corner.) Great fun was had by all, crowds lined the bridges and the river, and on a warm day no-one got too uncomfortably

wet. The event was to raise funds for the Christie hospital charity, and £2,000 + was handed over on 21 Sep. (and more to come.)

... Health and Safety is good, too. There is an H & S sign by the Tatton Bridge, warning people that there is no public access to the steps designed for the public to access the river for canoeing, &c. Magpie watched as the Rector, talking animatedly about the boat race, walked backwards into it and ended up bleeding.

... was flying quietly along (or rather cycling, to be honest) a road near the centre of Stockport at 12.30am (yes, *a.m.*) when two creatures bumbled out of someone's garden, crossed the road, caught sight of him, turned their black and white faces towards him, and then galumphed off into the playing fields. Yes, badgers.

**HS2** *I had hoped to be able to publicise a meeting specially in Northenden at which the details and implications of the routing of the proposed High Speed trains unto Manchester under the village would be explained and discussed. I have been in touch with both our own MP, Paul Goggins, and with Raj Chandarana, who is "Community and Stakeholder Engagement Manager for this region, about this. Mr. Goggins is keen to help, while Mr. Chandarana visited me, and promised to look into this local meeting for us, but as yet, after a month, I have not heard back from him. There is now probably no time to fit it in. What I, and I suppose everyone in the area, have received is a printout giving times and venues for the general information sessions, as part of the National consultation on the scheme. The ones relevant to us are in Bowdon on Sat. 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 10am – 5pm, Wythenshawe Forum on Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup> Jan (noon till 8pm) and in Manchester Town Hall on Friday and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Jan.*

*I notice, too, that the Tatton constituency has two sessions all to itself (otherwise only the railway town of Crewe and the Cities of Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham and Sheffield get this treatment). Are they expecting George Osborne, whose seat it is, to get a rough ride? Incidentally, on the week-end after the original announcement of the proposed route he was seen touring it in an unmarked car.*

*There are three issues at stake. One is the impact the route will have on communities and the environment that it runs through and the others, perhaps prior questions, are whether in economic terms the scheme will really be worth the billions allocated to it,*

*and whether the "green" cost or impact will be worth it either. These meetings will probably only address the first issue. They all raise moral as well as technical concerns.*

### **"Will Aid."**

Watch out in November for the opportunity that some Solicitors are offering of writing a simple Will, or advising if it is more complex, for free, in return for a donation to a Charity.

Writing a will is a good idea anyway, even if you reckon you don't have much. It simplifies matters for your next of kin, and lets them know where you really want your stuff to go. That might save an argument or two! And if you turned out to have more than you thought (houses have gone up in value!) the government would not get the top-slice.

Two suggestions: think in terms of percentages of the estate, so that the favourite niece you thought was getting the bulk does not end up with a relatively small fixed sum, while the residual legatees you barely saw get the lion's share; and if you have a favourite charity or two, leave them something, but not just a token. Some solicitors might try to suggest just a token gesture ~ £100, say ~ when it really means more to you than that.

## **WHY NOT JOIN THE NORTHENDEN BRITISH LEGION BRANCH**

WE CAN HELP WITH

**\*MOBILITY    \*WELFARE    \*FINANCE    \*VETERAN BREAKS  
\* PLUS MORE SERVICES.**

**PLEASE CALL IN ~ Mon., Wed., Fri., 10.00 – 14.00.**

**WE ARE BASED AT ASHTON RAINS ESTATE AGENTS,  
372 PALATINE RD, NORTHENDEN**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR CASEWORKERS:**

Brian Brereton, tel. 07544 223658 or  
Glyn Humphreys, tel. 07572 126844

### **NORTHENDEN launches its**

### **Neighbourhood Forum**

A meeting was held to establish a Neighbourhood Forum on Thurs. 29<sup>th</sup> August. 25 people were there ~ residents, elected members and business owners from the proposed area. Apologies

had been received from fifteen others indicating a desire to be members of the proposed forum.

The Revd. Greg Forster (acting as chairman) explained that it was not a meeting of Northenden Civic Society; it was to accept (or reject) the proposal to establish a new body, an "interim" Forum for the area as the basis on which the Council might Constitute a Forum proper on the basis of previous discussions. Membership was free, and open to anyone living or working in the area, or representing it as MP or Councillor. Grants to fund it would be available.

Those signed on as members voted unanimously to establish the Forum, for the area surrounded by the Mersey, the Parkway and the M56. A few people present indicated that they did not wish to be considered founder members of the Forum ~ and instantly ruled any comments, or votes they cast at the meeting, invalid! Such are the rules the Council has made us write into the constitution. Apologies if it sounds complicated!

Officers and a committee for the Forum were elected, on an interim basis ~ Conor Jerram is to be interim Chair, Graham Pheby secretary, and Elizabeth Haslam membership secretary ~ until an inaugural General Meeting once the Council ratify the Forum.

We hope that a fuller Forum newsletter will be published once funds are tapped into, and again prior to the inaugural General Meeting, and circulated to the whole designated area. **G.S.F.**



*Greg Forster*

As many of you will know, at St. Wilfrid's we make donations each month to missionary or charitable work at home and overseas. This harvest season it seems appropriate to give to an agricultural mission ~ *Send a Cow* ~ and also to tell you a little bit about it. It is of particular interest to Sue and me because it was founded by someone whom Sue knew at college. It began by doing what its name says, though it now works with other animals and farming skills, and uses A.I.D. rather than transporting actual cows to parts of East Africa. Farming families, in a village setting, are trained to combine traditional and modern techniques to use the animal that they are given to the best advantage. A condition of the scheme is that the first calf – or whatever – from the animal is then passed on to another family once it is weaned. But it is not

only about calves and milk; cattle produce manure, which improves the soil, and so this leads to better cropping, surplus produce which can be traded and the income used, among other things, to pay for schooling and so better future prospects for the family too. A virtuous circle! So our gifts help to improve the situation for individuals, families and communities as they help themselves. There are leaflets about it at the back of church.

### **A Sower went out to sow his seed ... Luke 8 v 4 – 15.**

So begins one of Jesus' best known parables, in Luke chap. 8. By calling it a "parable" we perhaps remove some of its cutting edge. It is locked behind religion, in a compartment of its own. So call it a fable, or even a witty short story with a punch line. That's what most of Jesus "parables" were, and the punch line, as here, is often "You think about this!"

So Jesus tells a story, based on his observation of creation and of Palestinian farming. Some seed did not come to maturity, and his hearers would know how any farmer worth his salt would be trying to minimise this loss ~ setting children to scare away the birds, perhaps, and trying not to cast too much seed near the trackway. The aim was the harvest, of course, and maybe the significance of the apparently matter of fact punch line is that few sown seeds would ever produce a hundred seeds on the ear. Farmers, hearing the exaggeration, would be saying "where did he get that seed? What kind of a seed is this?" They are being teased into finding out more about *this* seed that Jesus is talking about. "Where can I get some of that?"

And of course, the hidden message of the fable is not about farming, but about faith and the kingdom of God. Those who ask receive an explanation, which you can all read in verses 11 to 15 but probably know already. So the problems of farming become a warning about problems in living out the life of the kingdom, and an encouragement to stick with it and live fruitful lives. But even in the explanation, I think, there is further teasing; now you know what it means, which class of seed do you fall into? What are you going to do about it? Don't rest on your laurels.

### **A Changing Future for the Church and its ministry**

It was a joke when I trained for the ministry that the motto of the Church of England was "as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be." If that was ever a good motto it cannot be a

good description of today's church. Change is around us, and in particular there are changes in ordained and lay ministry in the church. Some of that is an awareness that as it was in the beginning is not how it is now; some is a realisation that what is now cannot be maintained.

If you read the letters of the New Testament it becomes clear that the writers expected many, if not all of the church members to be taking some part in the worship and the care of the church ~ not just joining (even heartily) in the singing, but speaking out with their understanding of God's grace; encouraging and reassuring each other; offering practical support. Paul warns that this should not be done in a showing off way, and should consciously be for mutual benefit and done constructively, not critically. This is a model for ministry which has been neglected for most of the Church of England's history (or even the whole church's). For various reasons too much stress has been put on the ministry of ordained clergy, and on forms of worship which became their sole prerogative. This is changing, and needs to change more. Some people coined the phrase "every member ministry". Good, so long as it is ministry to the whole parish.

And what we are used to cannot be maintained. God is calling fewer men and women to ordained ministry (though the invitation is always there) and many are now retiring. Naturally this has its implications in and around Northenden ~ and there are fewer clergy in this Deanery (Wythenshawe, Didsbury, &c.) than when I first came to this parish. When I came, Northenden was a small to average sized parish. It is now definitely on the small side, perhaps half the average, despite new housing built or promised. What I want to discuss with the PCC on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>., and with the whole congregation on Sun. 10<sup>th</sup> is how we face these implications together.

But some preliminary thoughts. Firstly that what I have said in the first part of this piece is the answer to the problem in the second. We each have a role in the church, and that is more than joining in the singing, and by sharing what we each can do we avoid overloading anyone. The other is that we should avoid the danger of blaming and criticising each other because things are changing and not to our liking. That is a recipe for failure, not for progress. **GSF**