

A p r i l 2 0 0 7

Cover Picture; ... is not a misprint, but a reminder of special services on Good Friday, 6th April. (see below)

Prayers for the Month,

Lord Jesus Christ,
who are the resurrection and the life of all who trust in you,
give us your generous help to enjoy with gratitude the many blessings and benefits of your creation;
give us the strength and patience to cope with its problems and heartaches with faith and in hope;
and bring us at the last through darkness to the glory you have prepared for us by your cross and resurrection.

Through your mighty and redeeming love. **Amen.**

Northenden Rectory,
Ford Lane,
0161 998 – 2615

D ear F riends,

The strangeness of calling Good Friday "good" is something about which I quite often get asked. How can the unjustified execution of a great moral teacher and kind leader be "good"? Well, the answer is twofold. As I note elsewhere in this edition, the day was originally called "God's" Friday, and that it is. On this day in 30AD God in Christ did something to reconcile the world to himself; to show how costly human sin is, but to bear the burden of it himself and break the barrier that it causes between us and him. And for that reason it is also "good".

So part of the message and promise of Good Friday is that out of something which is apparently evil and unjust God can bring hope and renewal. He is no stranger to the unpleasant side of human life and character, but in facing that harshness he has broken its ultimate power, to bring hope on the other side.

So the bleakness of Good Friday is only half the story; it leads on to Easter day, with its assurance of life, light and hope. Because of Christ's return to fuller life, evil is not the last word.

Yours faithfully, GREG FORSTER

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Northenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

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

Sunday Services.

1st April 11.00am Morning Worship (Palm Sunday)
 6.30pm United Evening Service The Rev. D. Bown
Maundy Thursday, Apr. 5th. 7.30pm
 The Lord's Supper ~ holy communion
Good Friday, Apr. 6th. 10.30am
 Meditation, with Joyce Burgess.
Easter Sunday, Apr. 8th. 11.00am
 The Revd. David Bown (?)
April 15th, 22nd., 29th. 11.00am Morning Service
 Preachers to be announced.

COMMUNITY LUNCH ... ~

12.00 noon – 1.30pm
on the 2nd. and 4th Wednesdays of the month.
11th, & 25th (buffet)

Fun Bingo: Sat. 28th Apr., at 12 noon till 2.00pm

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.

The service is free, though donations towards the costs are welcome.

Maggie ...

... is back in town, and has heard that the British Legion Club has closed its doors for the moment, ... but intends to reopen in the autumn in a new guise. The plan is to replace the old building, with its large concert hall, with a new and smaller social club, more suited to 21st century entertainment, on the front by Royle Green Rd., and to build houses and flats on the site of the old building and its hidden car park.

... heard a touching story about Olive Waters, who died last month, shortly after her 100th birthday. That was quite a

celebration, apparently, with scores of visitors coming to give their good wishes, and a trip out to her favourite club in the evening. And there were balloons ~ the interesting, helium filled kind with 100 written on them! At the end of the day these were released, with a note of the address. A couple of weeks later a belated-birthday card arrived from Devon. One of the balloons had been found there by an 11 year old, on her birthday. Sadly, it came on the day of Olive's death.

... is glad to see that the Barrow Motors / Car Options site on the corner of Church Rd. is now safe and relatively tidy. The developer is being pressed to get on with the new building, but seems rather reluctant. It's a question of watch this space, I suppose!

... heard that the leader of the City council, Richard Leese, was impressed by the quality of the Northenden farmers' market proposals ~ which is nice to hear. As for whether we get the market, that rests, I think, with the farmers. We await their say-so. Where will it be? people ask. Along the widened pavement and service road of the New Parade (i.e Woolworth's). When? they say. One Saturday a month. And what about parking, if the service road is closed? they add. Special arrangements are in hand, apparently. Another space to watch.

... supposes that there can't be many people left around in Northenden who will remember Marion Willinck, or perhaps you knew her as Marion Chignell, the daughter of the Rector here between the wars. She died recently at the age of 96, and in talking to her relatives the present Rector looked at her marriage entry in the registers for May 1930. Her husband's job makes interesting reading, and casts us back to a very different world: he was Director of Engineering at Manchester Collieries.

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,

h g Christian Aid Week, 13-19 May

As usual, we should be glad of help during Christian Aid Week, 2007. If you can collect in your own street, or elsewhere in the village, let me or June Phillipson know.

Regular collectors will be approached as in previous years. If you feel able to put on a special event to raise funds yourself, let us know, and we can get publicity for you, perhaps.

The emphasis this year, it seems, is to enable poor communities to help themselves through improved or more varied crops, tree planting, &c., so I hope all readers will feel able to contribute generously.

Last year, despite a few difficulties in getting collections going right round the village, we maintained our previous level of collection at around £2,000. Thanks.

Greg Forster

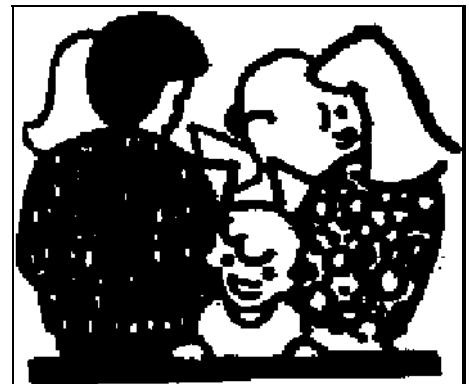
St. Wilfrid's Church,

Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk



Services:

Communion on Sundays at 8.00am, and 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.

1st April 10.30am Holy Communion (standard)

Time t.b.a. United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.

Maundy Thursday, 5th Apr. 10.00am Holy Communion
7.30pm @ Northenden Methodists' The Lord's Supper

Friday, 6th Apr. 10.30am

Readings, Hymns & Prayers for Good Friday.

7.30pm GOD FRIDAY! A Different Slant on the Story.

Easter Sunday, 8th April.

10.30am Family Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship.

15th Apr. 10.30am Holy Communion and Baptism

6.30pm Evening Worship

22nd 10.30am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

29th 10.30am Holy Communion (shortened for AGM)

6.30pm Holy Communion (1662)

Times of evening services at St. Wilfrid's were changed as an experiment from January to March. We now revert to the normal time of 6.30 for the lighter summer months.

*The church is open each Sunday from 1.45 – 5.15pm,
for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c.*

"It's all happening ..." ~ For your Diaries

April's Women's Group meeting is deferred till later in the month.

Wed. 4th April. 7.45 for 8.00pm Bible Study. Rectory.

And please note the Holy Week services ~ Thurs 5th April, School service at about 9.15am, and Maundy Thursday Evening Communion at 7.30pm at the Methodist Church.

Good Friday service at 10.30am ~ and a special "God Friday" event listed separately.

Sat. 7th 10.00am ... Coffee Morning. Church Hall.

Wed. 18th Bible Study, Rectory, 7.45 for 8.00pm

Mon. 23rd Women's Group. 7.30pm Church Hall

A Fashion Evening, with clothes for sale.

Wed. 25th Bible Study ~ as above.

Sun. 29th Annual Parochial Church Meeting, in Church

At approx. 11.30am, after a shortened morning service.

Wed. 2nd May Bible Study

Sat. 5th Coffee Morning, Church Hall, 10.00am ...

And there is no Women's Group in May;

Confirmation: we now have a date for the Confirmation in June ~ Sun. 17th at 3.00pm, provisionally at St. James' Didsbury. Some details still have to be fixed, so watch this space. Meanwhile, please let me know if you are interested in preparing for confirmation, and fuller participation in the worship of the church through communion.

WOMEN'S GROUP ... meets on
Monday 23rd April, at 7.30pm in the Church Hall,
For a Fashion Show (with items for sale)
Next Meeting, Mon. 4th June @ the Rectory ~ barbecue.

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

Edna Bennett (Late Bucklow Dr.) 88, Jean White (Ford La.) 55,
Olive Waters (also late Bucklow Dr.) 100.
Gwendoline Cooper (Royle Green Rd.) 80

Baptised on Sunday 11th Mar. 2007

Guy Richard Swift

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION. GREG FORSTER

The Electoral Rolls of C/E parishes are being renewed. You can be on ours if you live within the parish or regularly attend. It gives you voting rights in Church meetings, and if you live outside, you have rights as if you lived in the parish.

I would encourage you to sign up, so let me or Morfydd Eglan, our Electoral Roll Officer, know if you do wish to sign on. To vote at the Annual Meeting you must get your form in by 15th April, but if you are late, your name goes on after the meeting.

GOD FRIDAY

Firstly, an explanation. This is not a misprint, but the title of a special event in Church on Good Friday, at 7.30 in the evening.

That is appropriate, because the Old English name for this day was "God's Friday", which got misheard and mispronounced down the ages, so that we now call this Friday "good".

It is an invitation event. I hope readers will not only come themselves, but will also invite friends, neighbours or family to come with them. I have invitation cards for people to take to

pass on ~ but you don't have to wait for an invitation: come if you want to, even if you don't get an invitation card.

It is not intended to replace the usual Good Friday morning service, but will complement it. There will be hymns, readings and prayers, but also music and poetry, art and photography, and time for quiet meditation and personal response. The event should last about an hour.

I hope you will be able to join me.

Greg Forster

ANNUAL MEETING ~ ST WILFRID'S CHURCH.

This will take place on Sunday 29th April, after the Morning Service, which will be shortened to allow for the meeting to follow. It should start at 11.30am or thereabouts, and finish in an hour or less. Technically it is two meetings: a "vestry" to elect churchwardens, and an "annual parochial church meeting" to elect church councillors, appoint sidesmen and to hear reports of the church's activities over the past year, on the state of our finances, and on our premises.

All residents in the parish are entitled to vote for churchwardens; for other elections it is members of our Electoral Roll who vote. I hope all members will be able to attend and take part. There is quite a lot to report on.

I would hope to use the sermon in the preceding communion service to give a kind of "chairman's report" on the church.

T r i n i t y C / E H i g h S c h o o l .

Just a brief summary of a report from our Church high school here in Manchester. Recent inspections of the school have rated it good or outstanding in its ethos and delivery of schooling. It has achieved better than its own targets, or the national average at GCSE. It is oversubscribed, and found places for 255 children in this year's intake. More details in a report and brochure, to be found in church. Well done! GSF

F r e e d o m o f C o n s c i e n c e ? G S F

In the last two editions of Concord I have written about the issue of freedom of conscience, as it relates to Christian beliefs about providing services for Gay couples. This particularly affects Catholic adoption agencies, but also, potentially, individual businesses, or church halls, as the Government is introducing new regulations on 1st April. A "compromise" has been offered, in which Catholics have a few months' grace in which to "get used

to" new ideas which deny 2000 years' teaching. This simply shows how little Government understands conscience and belief. After all, half the Labour Party has had forty years to get used to Trident, but has not managed it! It would seem that they are prepared, in the pursuit of freedom of conscience for one sector of the community, to ride roughshod not only over the Christian conscience, but also the parliamentary conscience. In the debate in mid-March in the Commons preceding the introduction of these regulations enough time was allowed for only four back-bench MPs to speak, although others would have wished to. The Lords are debating this issue the day after Concord goes to the printers. We shall see how their Lordships, and in particular the bishops, handle this, and whether the Government care.

E a s t e r more than Christmas, is at the heart of Christian faith and life. If Christ was not raised, St.Paul admitted very candidly, then our faith is hollow ~ but he wrote that in the confidence, based on personal experience and the evidence of witnesses, that Christ was raised, and it changed his whole outlook on life ~ as it should ours. ~ from fear to hope and love.