

CONCORD

FEBRUARY 2006

Prayer for the Month:

Almighty and loving Father, who have taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law; help us in all our relationships to show your love, and reflect your character,
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

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

Dear Friends,

From time to time at St. Wilfrid's we have special themed services, and this month, on the Sunday nearest to St. Valentine's day we invite all those recently married, or preparing for marriage, to join us. I know there are many people in differing circumstances, but that should not stop us supporting and celebrating those who wish to make this commitment of their lives together to each other ~ after all, there are so many ways in which it is undermined nowadays. So please come, if you fit this bill, or invite friends or family who do (or, perhaps, you think, ought to!) Invitation cards should be available from me.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Forster

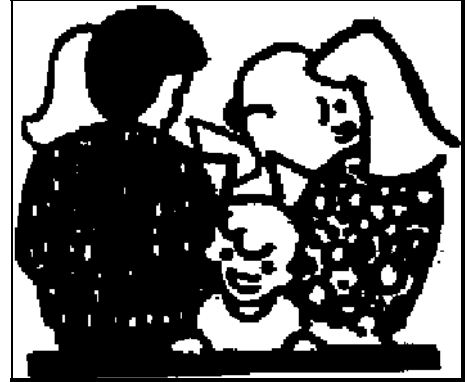
St. Wilfrid's Church,

Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

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

1st March Ash Wednesday: Communion, 8.00pm

Mar. 5th 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service

6.30pm United Evening Worship.

Please note too that the church is open each Sunday afternoon from 1.45 – dusk, for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c. The Rector is usually on hand if you want to talk or ask about anything, or to pray for health and wholeness.

CUBS; A Church supported Cub group (for girls as well as boys) has started, using St. Wilfrid's School on Tuesday evenings, 6.00 – 8.00pm. For details, contact Mike Clegg on 998 – 4143.

From the Registers ... In Memoriam ...

Betty Irvine (Cheadle) 65, Anne Butterworth (90),

Marian Humphreys (ex Royle Green Rd.) 81,

Barbara Harrison (), Dorothy Ashton (Kenworthy La.)

News of **Marjorie Mee**'s death came too late last month for a proper tribute to her to be written for Concord then. She had

been ill for a while, but seemed to be responding to treatment until a chest infection took hold, and she died suddenly, at home. She was never one for a great fuss, but behind that quietness was a deep interest and concern for people, and a support which many will miss, not least Eric her husband, Michelle, Liam, Aimee and Steve. Our sympathy to them, and to her many friends to whom her death came as a real shock. Her cheerful smile was an encouragement to many of us; her friendship an inspiration. GSF

Excuse me ...

GREG Forster .

Last month I indicated that I hoped we would be getting a new toilet suite in Church during the year. We received plans from our architect in time for the January PCC meeting, and duly resolved to apply for a “faculty” (that is, the church equivalent of planning permission) to carry out the work. It will be a couple of months before the paperwork is sorted out and we can begin ~ but it’s a start!

As I said last month, we need to raise money for this job, since it is not something for which we can claim grants, and I shall be writing to church members, and those who have had baptisms or weddings in the church recently, appealing for help. We are also very grateful for gifts and offers already received. If you wish to give for this project, please make cheques out to St.Wilfrid’s PCC, but send them to me, marked *church toilet fund* or something like that, and (in accordance with Charity Law) I will keep this “restricted” fund separate from the ordinary church accounts. If there is a surplus, I suggest it should go towards the church’s share of the *Hall* toilet improvements.

As for those improvements in the Hall, which will also include more accessible fire escape doors and ramps, and a platform lift to enable wheelchair users to get up into the main hall freely, I am in the process of getting quotations from local contractors for this work. We have planning permission for this, and it will go ahead, I hope, as soon as an acceptable quote is received and grants confirmed. The contractors have been asked to phase their work so that the hall can be kept in use even while the work is being done, and they reckon this is possible.

Churchyard ...

Just a brief note to ask those of you who placed Christmas wreaths on family graves to remove them now. The "Christmas" season ends on 2nd Feb., and by now the wreaths themselves are beginning to blacken anyway, and rot. Plastic flowers and wreaths too will be removed once they start looking dowdy.

It seems to me already (January 21st) that the grass is beginning to grow again! If you can cut your own plot, thanks! If you can't ~ we attempt to cut the whole area once a year at least.

Christmas fare ...

ANDREW LEACH

I was busy on Christmas Eve, as you would probably expect with a job like mine: 3pm in the afternoon and still 10 heads of hair to cut! The clients, however, are really friendly, very polite, and full of good wishes and cheer. Meanwhile my daughter Charlotte has been really helpful in the kitchen, making cups of tea and coffee, putting out cakes and biscuits, and generally helping tidy things up and keeping the place clean in preparation for dinner.

The main difference this Christmas is that Charlotte and I are both working for "Lifeshare" ~ a drop-in centre for the homeless and "down-and-outs". The other staff, some of whom have been contributing for many years, are all extremely friendly and helpful. There is a really good spirit amongst the staff ~ and the clients!

They are really grateful for a meal, clothes, socialising and essential items ~ e.g. toothbrush and toothpaste, &c.! One client compared it to a makeover show, with his gifts of new clothes from the hard-working team at the "clothes store" who supply everything from shoes to hats, rucksacks and towels and everything else in between.

There are some very interesting clients: Ian* who has been shot three times and lost two fingers; Umar who is gay and has been kicked out by all his family from the Oldham area and is not allowed ever to return; Paul, a lovely old bloke, who likes to have his head shaved and is generally pleased to see me again and asks for the same style as last year; Janey who just has a trim and a good laugh with a few of us, and is really pleased with

her hair; and “Big Lizzie”, as she calls herself, who is delighted that someone cuts her hair properly and gives her some style.

What a refreshing way to spend an odd half day at Christmas, with so many deserving people! You come away feeling pleased with your work. We shall return in the following week, and for years to come.

Andrew and Charlotte Leach.

PS They sent St.Wilfrid’s a thank-you letter for the generosity and all the kind donations that were collected and sent to them.

* *These names have been changed to preserve privacy.*

Details: Lifeshare Ltd., 23 New Mount St., Manchester M4 4ED
0161 953 4069, Email: < **office @ lifeshare . co . uk** >

NORTHENDEN MILL ~ AGAIN!

Just a brief note, to say that there will be a display about the 2005 mill excavation at the Airport over the next couple of months ~ in the Corridor between Terminals **1** and **3**.

I will publicise details of this year’s dig when I know them myself.

Greg Forster

Street lights update...

Greg Forster

Work began on uprating the street lighting in Ford lane and the nearby streets on 12th January, using “heritage” style fittings. It may well be finished by the time you read this. Or then again, it may not.

Magpie ...

... occasionally flits over St.Wilfrid’s School, and the other schools in the area, and catches glimpses of Government White Papers about Education, Education, Education. Yes, in triplicate, since in order to bring greater freedom to schools there is a need, it seems, for Legislation, Legislation, Legislation. Two or three years ago legislation told the schools that all admissions must be coordinated in one scheme administered by the Local Authority. Now a new law is required to give secondary schools, at least, the freedom to set their own admissions policies, so long

as those policies follow the rules laid down by the Law. Ah! by such radical progress is liberty upheld and standards raised.

... thought he had heard the last of that peacock, but one of the local newspapers has been pursuing it, and the rector, ever since it disappeared. They ran a story over the new year about its loss, bewailing its possible demise, and suggesting that anyone with information should ring the rector. Two things happened on 30th Dec. The first was a rather drab substitute, as a hen pheasant made a brief appearance in the back gardens on Ford Lane. The other was a phone call resulting from the newspaper article, from a lady in Chorlton, who saw a peacock in that village as she drove to work that morning! So there is now the *Chorlton Peacock*, it seems, but is it the Northenden bird?

Probably not: the reporter at *The Reporter* broke the news of its presence in Chorlton and again gave the Rector's phone number for reports of sightings of the bird, and since then there has been a string of phone calls to the Rectory pointing out that for the past 5–10 years there have been peacocks in Chorlton, as pets of a family there. It seems they have coped with the climate well, but some have succumbed to foxes or cars.

... and from this month's guest publication ~ HOMES AND ANTIQUES ~ Magpie has found an interesting piece about walking on water. In a supplement on English eccentricities it reports on Lawnmower racing. "*Now more than 30 years old, the British Lawnmower Racing Association has a season that starts in June and culminates in the British Grand Prix in October. There are lots of races for both ride-on and run-behind lawn mowers. In fact, the Americans have been so impressed by the concept that they've started similar races across the Atlantic.*" Oh, yeah? Tell that to the Marines!

... the 370 bus has been a cause of anxiety lately. Apparently the Transport Executive is funding a half-hourly service for the next few months at least, while the need is investigated; so if you reckon you are likely to want to use it, do use it, and demonstrate its use!

... and Northenden collects litter, but not enough litter is collected in Northenden. That does make sense: a lot of rubbish does get dropped in the village, and street cleaning is perhaps not as good as it could be. So if you see piles of rubbish you think should go, ring 954-9000 to tell the Council; and be warned! there is talk of installing CCTV cameras in the village which could be used to monitor litter-droppers as well as serious criminals. Magpie has his doubts. No doubt they would make nice perches, but is the price we pay in terms of lost privacy and civil liberty worth the gains in terms of tidiness and safety? We wonders ...

... and by the time you read this, the unsightly and dangerous old show-room of Barrow Motors should have been demolished; if it hasn't, the council are threatening legal action to have it made safe; watch this (or that) space!