

CONCORD ~ July 2010

Prayer for the Month ...

Merciful God, we thank you for your readiness to forgive and welcome us into your community of forgiven sinners.

We pray that you will nurture in our hearts a spirit of forgiveness, to shape our relationships with each other and the wider community around us;

And we pray that you will so influence the thoughts and policies of communities and their leaders across these islands and across the world, that forgiveness and understanding will shape the dealings of people and nations.

Through Jesus Christ our reconciling Saviour. Amen.

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane,
0161 998 2615

Dear Friends,

Firstly, an apology if your copy of Concord last month was tatty. The local pages got put in back to front and we had to reassemble them. Our apologies!

If you are near Rackhouse School on Saturday July 10th, drop in ~ or make a special trip. It is the Northen Moor Carnival; a day of fun for young and old alike. Watch out for details. This community got a lot of stick when the Duchess of York tried to give it a TV makeover. It has proved her wrong.

I am writing this on the day when the Saville report, on "Bloody Sunday", is published. My sole contribution to the peace process in the North of Ireland was when a piece I had written about Forgiveness for a British magazine was picked up and used by an Irish publication. Forgiveness is not about denying the past, but about saying, *It hurt like hell, but I am not going to let it go on hurting me, or twisting me; that sin will not have power over me.* If we are also able to receive an apology, or see a change of heart from the people who hurt us, so much the better, but if we wait for that we are still in their power. Jesus famously taught *Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into Troubles.* He worked against a background of troubles. Luke 13 v 1ff. speaks of a time when Pilate sent in the troops. Jesus' response? "Unless you repent ~ change your (vengeful) attitudes ~ you'll go the same way." Blunt, but a way of peace in troubled times, then, as now.

Northenden Methodist Church

Palatine Rd.

Minister, the Revd. David Bown
5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M22 4JF
tel. 0161 998-2158

Sunday Services;

July 4th 11.00am The Revd. David Bown.
6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's

11th 11.00am Mr. J. Harrison

18th 11.00am Miss J. Burgess

25th 11.00am The Revd. Malcolm Purdy

Aug. 1st 11.00am The Revd. David Sanders
6.30pm United Service, The Revd. D. Bown.

Community Lunch

... on Wednesday July 14th, 12 noon to 1.30pm

Fun Bingo ~ Sat. July 31st noon till 2pm
(but date still to be confirmed.)

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,

Christian Aid Week. (May 2010)

Once again, a big thank you to everyone who helped with this and contributed to this. I think I have all the "rounds" in now, and can report that we raised £1,832 this year, with a purchasing power for many things in the Third World greater than it would have in the UK. That is a bit down on recent years, but still a worthwhile sum. To that can be added a fair amount ~ I can't give an exact sum ~ from those donations which were "gift-aided". The charity can add 25% to whatever the donation was

because the tax man gives them the tax that has been paid on the gift. Again, many thanks to you all. GSF

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 (except 11th & 18th July) there will be a communion service at 8.00am.

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

Except over the summer holidays 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 most Sundays (except if there is a Family Service in church).

July 4 th	10.30am	Family Communion & Parade Service
	6.30pm	United Evening Worship at St. Wilfrid's
11 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
18 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
25 th	10.30am	Morning Prayer
	6.30pm	Holy Communion (1662)
Aug. 1 st	10.30am	Family Service
	6.30pm	United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.

Drop in ...

On Sundays from 2pm till 5pm the church is open,
For private prayer, for enquiries, or just to look around.
*The next full scale "open days" will be in 11th & 12th September
when the tower too will be accessible for Heritage Weekend*

Dates for your Diary ~ it's all happening!

Sat. 3rd July ~ remember the Farmers' Market, 10am - 4pm.

There will be no bible studies during July.

Thu. 15th 9.15am (-ish) School end-of-year worship in church.
P.C.C. meeting to be arranged.

Sat. 31st

10.00am – 11.30am

Coffee Morning (& books).

Church Hall.

The Children's Society ...

... has a charity shop at 356 Palatine Rd.
Normal opening hours are 9.00am – 5.00pm.,
with a range of Good-as-New goods,
especially books.

There is also a wide selection of new, end-of-run, wallpapers.
Volunteers are needed in the shop; contact Debbie on 945-7384

Bread and Wine ~ What's in a Name ?

In June St. Wilfrid's played host to the "Deanery Eucharist". Some years ago I announced a similar event (in another church, I think) and was met, at the end of the service, by the then Church warden asking "What's a Eucharist?" Perhaps more tellingly she then asked, "What's a Deanery?" It all goes to show how easy it is to publicise something extensively without letting people know what is actually happening.

Well, the Deanery is the partnership of all the Anglican churches in an area ~ in our case it goes by the name of Withington, but includes Wythenshawe, Didsbury, Baguley and Burnage as well as Northenden and Northen Moor. These parishes try to support each other, and compare notes on issues affecting the church and the community. (And we featured in "Crux" last month. I hope you read that bit.)

And what we were doing at the deanery Eucharist was sharing a Communion service. But actually that is replacing one piece of churchy jargon with another, so let's unpack all the names we use for the Lord's Supper.

Eucharist is simply a Thank-you. In our worship we are saying a great big thank you to God for all that he has done for us and given us, especially through Christ's death and resurrection.

Communion ("holy" or otherwise) is another word which trips off the tongue and we don't always think what it means. Let's use the language of sport, or business. It is a team building exercise; a bonding session. The Greek word behind it in the New Testament means sharing, or a business partnership. Not that the New Testament called it by that word. If anything they spoke of an Agape, which is the word for Christian Love ~ a "love feast" or "care party", perhaps, bonding with each other and with Christ.

The Lord's Supper is another term, which reminds us again how it is on Jesus that we focus in this service, though we should remember that it is on his death on the Cross, not the Passover meal the night before, that we should be focusing. "As often as you eat this bread and drink this wine you remember the Lord's death, until he comes," wrote St. Paul.

For some people what we are talking about is the Mass. This is a puzzle to me, not because it is a Catholic term, but because it comes from the last phrase, in Latin, in the old Roman service. Translated the phrase means, "Get out, you are commissioned." It is odd to take a title from the last word in something, but the idea is sound: "don't hang around in a holy huddle, get on with the business of being Christians, active in the wider community."

All of these terms can be used in a rather partisan way, quite apart from being so churchy that their meanings are not always clear. Tongue in cheek I called the service on 17th June a "Bread and Wine Party". So far as I know that is not used by any party or denomination (and I'm not trying to start one.) Like a cheese and wine party, we do not expect to get much to eat, but we do expect to meet up with friends, make new friends, and enjoy ourselves in a lively and relatively informal atmosphere, and remember or celebrate something which matters to us. Cheers!

Magpie ...

... has been looking into next year's church calendar, following a tip-off from the Cathedral. Easter next year is on 24th April, about as late as it can get. The reasons for this wide variation in the date were discussed in Concord a few years ago, when the date was in late March. No doubt we shall be getting complaints from the holiday industry that their trade is disrupted if Easter comes too late. Will it produce two bank holidays on successive Mondays? What are the rules for deciding on the date of the May Day bank holiday?

... but most intriguing is St. George's day, which is postponed. What's the betting that there will be howls of rage from Daily Mail readers worldwide at this atrocity? It should be 23rd April, of course, but as far as the church is concerned it cannot take precedence over Easter. (St. Mark is also subject to this treatment, but will anyone notice him?) Come to think of it, if churches are flying their flags for Easter, will anyone who

worries about this sort of thing realise that it is not for our pet saint? But they needn't worry. Help is at hand! It is a postponement, not an abolition. There are complex rules for transferring saints' days, and the Cathedral (who ought to know them if anyone does) is celebrating its patron saint on 8th May. Phew! After all, England expects ...

... and talking of Flags, Magpie has noticed an outbreak of them. It's all about a game of football, isn't it? Flags to the right of them, flags to the left of them, on car roofs and house windows, and ironically, in the gutter where they have blown because they weren't fastened to a car firmly enough. But what do they say? We support our footballers, of course. But they are 8,000 miles away. What good will a flag or two do them here? Perhaps everyone is an ardent believer in Chaos Theory. If the flapping of a butterfly's wing in Africa can set off a hurricane in the Caribbean, maybe a flapping flag in England can wipe the butter off a goalie's fingers in South Africa ~ it's worth a try!

Or is everyone into Tibetan Buddhism without knowing it? Are they prayer flags? Will the volume of red and white linen flapping in the English breeze reach the ears of some higher power, and intercede for the cause. It is easy to put your tongue in your beak about this, but seriously, is there some kind of closet mysticism about this long range support for the Team? Are the football supporters of the nation really deeply religious without knowing it? By the time Concord hits your doormats we may know whether it works or not!

... Concord's rival publication, *The Times*, startled the world (or at least Magpie) with the revelation, early in June, that clergy are being told to be less stuffy about weddings, and even to let children stand on the seats. *Oh, no*, thought Magpie, *not another new initiative!* But no. This was nothing new at all, as readers of *Crux* and *Concord* will know. *The Times* is behind the times. They have just heard of the Weddings Project which *our* readers knew about six months ago. And yes. Weddings should be fun, so long as the serious legal business and the life-changing promises do not get trivialised or messed up. Let the children stand on the pews, or even shout *Mama* when the minister asks any objector to *speak now or for ever hold your peace*. But let the photographer behave with courtesy and decorum, and not crawl down the choir pews like a noisy SAS trooper.

... After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, 'That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

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... Magpie has tried to see a copy of the City Council's Northenden Village Plan, but he lacks the website navigation skills to gain access to it ~ assuming it *is* on the Council's website

somewhere. The South Manchester Reporter seems to have seen a copy. It relates to the area along Palatine Rd. between the two motorway bridges, and up Church Rd., and back to the Riverside Park. It promises great things in terms of tidying up and dealing with derelict places. Here's the Council press release, in part;

The Northenden Village Local Plan aims to build on Northenden's strengths and tackle the challenges it faces. We want to encourage investment so sure that the Village can develop and achieve its potential. By working with a range of partners, including private-sector organisations, local community and voluntary groups and other public agencies, we want to make sure that the Village continues to be a place that residents feel proud of and want to live in, businesses want to invest in, and people want to visit. This plan will help us and our partners meet those aims by making improvements to the area over the next 10 to 15 years.

So far so good, but now read on: *The vision:*

Northenden Village is to become a village based on the best traditions of South Manchester - lively, attractive and welcoming to residents, businesses and visitors - and able to offer a range of high-quality services and facilities throughout the day and night.

We are now working with partners and stakeholders on the final plan which should be agreed during 2010.

... watch this space said Magpie, and rather to his surprise there is something to watch in the space he mentioned last month, the old Barrow's garage site on the corner of Church Rd., where contractors Harbur Construction began drilling foundations, or something, in mid June. We shall see what develops ~ an Icon or an eye-sore?

... Magpie is rather fond of asking Richard Dawkins to eat his heart out. He was recently sent a list of the best selling books in Religion and Spirituality on Amazon. Dawkins was only sixth. (Would he be flattered to be classed as a spiritual writer?) At least he did better than Diarmaid McCulloch's History of Christianity which was the first Christian text, at eighth. (Perhaps the price had something to do with it; McCulloch weighed in at £20.50, against Dawkins at £4.50) But who were the better sellers? Nothing to delight Dawkins, I fear. Once people give up Christian truths they believe in anything ~ angels (not Christian ones), psychic experience, spirits, or self-improvement courses. Should Dawkins join forces with the church to combat delusion?