

2 0 ~ J u n e ~ 1 0

Prayer for the Month.

Most generous God, we humbly pray to you both for this realm in general and especially for the high court of Parliament assembling at this time under our most religious and gracious Queen Elizabeth.

We pray that you will direct and prosper their consultations to the advancement of your glory, to the good of your church, to the well-being of all our nations, and to the safety, honour and welfare of our sovereign and her dominions;

We pray that all things may be ordered and settled by their endeavours on the best and surest foundations so that peace and happiness, integrity and justice, true faith and moral conduct, may be established among us for all generations.

And we ask these and all other necessary things for them, for us, and for your whole church, in the name and mediation of Jesus Christ our most blessed Lord and Saviour.

Amen

A prayer for the High Court of Parliament ~

based on a prayer in the Book of Common Prayer

Northenden Rectory, Ford Lane,
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Dear Friends,

You will know the double edged Chinese blessing: may you live in interesting times. We seem to be living in interesting political and perhaps economic times at present, with a coalition government, no money in the kitty, and talk of changes to the voting system. First a word about coalitions. You will also know the other cliché, attributed to P. T. Barnum, I believe, about not being able to please all of the people all of the time. Well, it is in the nature of a coalition that you cannot please all of your own people all of the time; you have to be content with pleasing some people some of the time, and different people at different times. You have to play with the hand you are dealt. We should not criticise it for compromising.

I am unhappy that some of the cautious rationalisation proposed by the Liberal Democrats in connection with Asylum

Seekers ~ sanctuary seekers ~ will not be implemented. They matched points made in a Church of England General Synod resolution about 16 months ago, which grew out of grass-roots parish experience of how genuine sanctuary seekers get treated in our inhumane system. I will have to live with that (and continue niggling about it, perhaps) until next time, but the alternative might have been a currency dropping through the floor, or elections every six months till the Olympics.

Our local MP, Paul Goggins, held his seat with a reduced majority. He loses his other job, of course, as a minister in the Northern Ireland Office. I want to express appreciation to him for that work especially, which he has carried out without too much publicity, but which has been vital for the Province. In a sense he lost a core part of that job before the election, since he was responsible for justice and the police until the local politicians took over in April. For this and much else he deserves our gratitude, whichever way we voted.

I am torn as to what to say about the local council election. Richard Cowell has worked hard and with obvious concern not just for Northenden, but also for Environmental issues in the City as a whole. I am grateful for his interest and encouragement, for instance, in connection with the ideas we have for a hydro-generator on the weir, and am sorry to see him voted out. But I have also valued the support of Mary DiMauro in that and other ideas in and around the Parish, and so wish her well for her future role as councillor here.

Thanks too about Christian Aid ~ for more, see below. You will find the other usual items too. So now read on.

Yours faithfully,

Greg Forster

Thursday 3rd June, 7.30pm
in St. Wilfrid's Church ...
a Concert of modern and traditional
Folk Music

with Kieron Hartley and Folk

refreshments, admission £3.00 (at door)

Proceeds to the Booth Centre, Manchester Cathedral's work with
the street people of the city.

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,

N orthenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

Minister: the Revd. David Bown,

5 Kenworthy Lane, Northenden, M 22 4 JF

0161 998 – 2158

Sunday Services.

June 6th 11.00am Holy Communion
Mrs Margaret Hunt

6.30pm United Service; The Revd. David Bown.

June 13th Methodist Homes for the Aged ~
11.00am Mr. Nic Harding

June 20th 11.00am Circuit Service to be held at Northenden

June 27th 11.00am Northenden Worship Team.

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

Community Lunch ...

... Wednesday 9th June, from 12.00 – 1.30pm

Fun Bingo will be on Sat. 26th of June, from Noon till 2.00pm ~
(date to be confirmed).

N orthenden F armers' Markets ...

There is a market on 5th June, as usual, 10am to 4pm.
Meat, cheese, fish, vegetables, pies, sweets, coffee and cake ...
roll up!

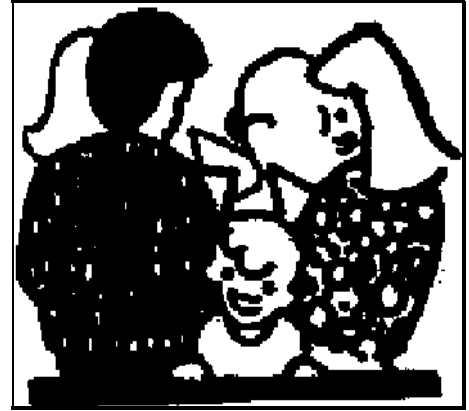
Food that is good for you and good for the village.

Don't forget to tell your friends!

St. Wilfrid's Church,

Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)



[www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk](http://www.stwilfridsnorthenden.org.uk)

Services, & c.:

There is a "**Sunday Club**" for 7 – 11+ year olds meeting 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 (in both cases) on Family Service Sundays.

Communion on Sundays at 8.00am
and on Thursdays at 10.00am

June 6th	10.30am	Family Communion & Parade Service
	6.30pm	United Service at Northenden Methodist Church
13 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
20 th	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
27 th	10.30am	Holy Communion **
	6.30pm	Holy Communion.
July 4 th	##	10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service
		6.30pm United Service at St. Wilfrid's

** *On 27th many of us will be attending Margaret Young's ordination as deacon at Manchester Cathedral, but there will also be a service here ~ possibly "said" rather than with hymns.*

The last chapter ...

@ St. Wilfrid's Hall

Chapters will cease as a separate effort from Sat. 29th May.

Books (and no doubt tea cakes) will continue to be available for a while at Coffee Mornings, on the last Saturday of each month

It's All Happening ..., for your diaries ...

Wed.	2 nd	June 8.00pm	Bible Study, Rectory.	<i>Trinity</i>
Thu.	3 rd	7.30pm	Folk Music Concert in Church.	
Sat.	5 th		NB Farmers' Market.	

Wed. 9th, 16th Bible Studies, 8.00pm, Rectory.
 Thu. 17th 7.30pm United Communion Service
 At St. Wilfrid's, for all churches in Withington Deanery.
 Sat. 19th, Sun 20th **Open Days** ~ see panel for times and details
 Wed. 23rd, 30th Bible Studies, as above.
 Thu. 24th P.C.C. Meeting 7.30pm Church Hall (or in church).
Sat. 26th Summer Fair 11.00am – 12.45pm Church Hall.
Also St. Wilfrid's School Summer Fair, 11.00am – 1.00pm approx.
 Mon. 28th 7.00pm, Rectory Garden. **Women's Group** Barbeque
 Sat. 3rd **July** NB the Farmers' Market, 10am – 4pm.
 ## Sun. 4th "Pot Luck" lunch in Rectory Garden ~ bring
 spouse, children, lunch to share, &c. ~ after Family Service.

Drop in ... 2.00pm – 5.00pm.

*St. Wilfrid's church is open each Sunday
 for prayer and peace, visiting and just looking round, enquiries
 about baptisms, weddings, ancestor hunting, ... &c.*

NB. OPEN DAYS, 19th 20th June.

**On Saturday 19th June from 10.30am to 5.00pm,
 and on Sunday 20th, from 12.00 to 5.00pm
 the Church will be open, with displays, the chance to climb
 the tower and ring the bells (and no doubt sample our
 excellent refreshments!)**

Tell your friends, and bring your families.

FROM THE REGISTERS;

Baptised ... in the parish church on 16th May.

Shayne Michael Forrest, Casey Jayne Kay,
 Leo Mark Derbyshire.

Married on Sat. 1st May ...

Helen Stanley to Lee Hayward

And on Fri. 7th May ...

Pauline Farnworth to Peter Latham.

In Memoriam ...

Edith Williams (Greenpark Rd.)

Organist: We have advertised on the websites of the diocese and local organists, and have had a few requests for details, but no more as yet. Details are on our website, or from the Rector.

Magpie ...

... recently heard Bishop Tom Butler tell a story about W.C.Fields. As he lay dying he surprised everyone by asking to see a priest. When the minister arrived he found the entertainer leafing through a bible. "What are you looking for?" he asked. "Loopholes" came the reply. The bishop did not give the minister's response. I hope it was something like "There are no loopholes, but there's a great deal about forgiveness."

... A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

... has not forgotten about the possibility of putting an electric generator into the weir, down by the Riverside Park. The scheme is on hold just at the moment. The large volumes of water which sometimes flow past the spot pose engineering challenges, and the consultants who are looking at the scheme have concentrated on simpler projects higher up on the Goyt. But watch this proverbial space.

... Other spaces to watch are the Church and Tatton Arms inns, both up for sale, and "Barrows" corner, at which work began (and seemingly then ceased) in the week when planning permission would otherwise have lapsed. The black boards are marginally tidier than weed-strewn concrete and rubbish, I suppose.

... seen as a book title: *Cheshire Walks for Motorists*.

C H R I S T I A N A I D

As usual, the deadline for Concord has arrived before we have final figures for Christian Aid Week collections. I have just put £417 in the bank, in round bagged amounts, with £200+ of odd coins locked away; I am still waiting for collectors to bring in their results, and expect another £700+ through collectors from St.Hilda's and the Methodists. Thank you all for your efforts and generosity. I will announce the final total when I have it.

One of the encouraging things this year is the number of donations which have been Gift-Aided. This adds a further 25% to the gift, thanks to the tax that Christian Aid can reclaim. This means about £40 extra to what I have banked already.

F A I R R E P R E S E N T A T I O N

I quoted one General Synod resolution earlier. Let me quote another, dating from 1976. It called for a fairer way of electing parliamentary representatives ~ fairer than a "first past the post" system, in which in a close (say) five candidate race someone could win with only 20.1% of the vote. At this election it was calculated that one party could have got well under 25% of the total vote, but obtained nearly half the seats, and another receive over 30% of votes, and get less than a sixth of the seats.

That last point can be addressed by sorting out the size of constituencies, but the injustice remains. In its own voting the church works with multi-member constituencies ~ dioceses ~ and asks voters to list candidates in order of preference. Then, by a fairly easy calculation, second and further choices get included until all seats are filled by people with the widest level of support. How that would work with an electorate of millions I do not know, but people who know more about it than me reckon it is possible.

The drawback is that you then lose the close link between members and constituencies, which are small enough for them to know and work in. The strength is that individual characters, perhaps who do not belong to a specific party, or representatives of smaller parties such as the Greens, can get elected. That should be a possibility built into any system, otherwise we are dependent on party lists of party apparatchiks.

To use another favourite cliché, watch this space. If you want to follow it up more, I can recommend Bishop Colin Buchanan's *The Christian Conscience and Justice in Representation*. (Grove, Cambridge) [sales @ grovebooks . co.uk]

The Children's Society ... have a 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

Indebted !

Palestine in Jesus' time was no stranger to debt. He told a fable of the minister who owed his Emperor 10,000 talents. The talent was a huge sum, and someone has reckoned 10K of them was the total annual revenue of the richest province in the Roman empire. We're talking billions. He couldn't cough up, and pleaded for mercy. The emperor was going to write it off, until the man went out and collared a colleague for a debt of 100 dinars ~ a few

grand. Despite appeals he would not write it off, but the Emperor heard, and renewed his demands.

Jesus wasn't talking macro-economics, really, but forgiveness. We owe so much to God; we should show God-like forgiveness to each other. Or was he? Here's a challenge for the world's economists; to devise a scheme for writing down the debts of the poor and still keep the system going!