

J U N E 2 0 0 6

Prayer for the Month,

Almighty and Eternal God,
who have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love;
hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all your ways,
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
for you are one God in three Persons,
now and in all eternity. Amen.

From one of the Trinity Sunday (11th June) collects

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

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you to all involved in Christian Aid Week. Details of the May 14-21 collection will be published in July.

Secondly, if this gets to you in time, make a note of the Concert on 1st June, and come along. I hope that there will be a fair amount of singing which you can join in with and all of it that you can enjoy. The Booth Centre, which will benefit from the effort, attempts to meet the needs of some of Manchester's street people. It is situated in an undercroft of the Cathedral.

One of the unexpected features in my diary for May was a funeral in St. Wilfrid's for a Coptic lady. I did not take it, but was involved in the background, and spoke with some of the mourners after the ceremony.

As you may know, the Copts are the ancient Christian church of Egypt, with roots going back into the first century AD. Since the seventh century they have lived under Muslim rulers, and despite sometimes severe disabilities have maintained their distinct Christian community life. They explained to me how in their corporate experience, Islam has not always been as benign as it likes to portray itself; there have been times of outright persecution, and generally they face discriminatory taxation, and some aggravating barriers in their own land: to repair a church

they need not the approval of a well meaning diocesan advisory committee, but of the President of the State himself.

One of the distinct differences between Islam and Christianity is our belief in God as “three-in-one”, or trinity. For perhaps understandable reasons Muslims understand us to mean a triad of father, mother and son, similar to many of the pagan beliefs of the ancient classical world, and of ancient Arabia. That is not so! We very definitely believe in one God, but we find that he has revealed himself in three ways in different times and circumstances.

To do full justice to the bible’s portrait of God we have to recognise Jesus not just as a prophet or a good man, but also as God himself somehow sharing fully in human life and showing the quality of God’s life in his life and action on earth. Given that God made mankind in his own image, that is not an impossible role. And through his Holy Spirit God brings his people into touch with himself, sharing his presence and his divine moral energy to help and guide us. And the divine quality of love which Father, Son and Spirit share is so real and embracing that they are not three beings with a common characteristic, but one divine being whose eternal reality expresses itself in these three “persons”, or ways of portraying and being itself, *and so reaches out to us*.

If you find that difficult, I don’t blame you, though anything less misses the full picture of God in the scriptures. When I affirm “I believe in One God” this is what I affirm.

Yours faithfully, **Greg Forster**

Magpie ...

... Last month Magpie set a grammar test for his readers; to punctuate the following:~

woman without her man is nothing

What did you make of it? Was it ..”Woman! Without her Man is nothing.”? Or was it .. “Woman, without her man, is nothing!”? What a difference a few dots and commas can make!

... Has seen the new road layout at the Palatine Rd./Church Rd. junction. How long has it taken? When will we all see the light ~ not at the end of the tunnel, but on top of the posts? Watch out for the grand opening of the Northenden Traffic Lights!

... At this very second, as Magpie types ferociously at his computer, there is an Ofsted inspection going on at St. Wilfrid's Primary School. We don't know the result yet, but are confident that it is a good school. The trouble is, in the contorted world of Ofsted, *good* means excellent, and something which is good is described as satisfactory ~ in the real world we tend to say *good*, or in some circles *wicked*, when we mean good, and *satisfactory* is a somewhat grudging acknowledgement. But, as Humpty-dumpty once said, I use a word to mean what I want it to mean (or words to that effect.) In the next edition of Concord there should be a report on the results.

Northenden Methodist Church.

Palatine Road.

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

Sunday Services.

4 th June	11.00am	Circuit Service at Lawton Moor Church.
	6.30pm	United Service. The Rev. D. Bown
11 th	11.00am	Mrs. Irene Cooper
18 th	11.00am	Holy Communion. The Rev. D. Sharples
25 th	11.00am	David Hillary

AFTERNOON TEA ... Wed. 28th June, 3 – 4 pm.

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, under the auspices of the
Brit. Assoc. of Counselling and Psychotherapy,*
The service is free, though donations towards the costs are welcome.

DIG NORTHENDEN MILL ~ AGAIN!

The public part of the dig begins on June 4th, though preparations begin on 22nd May. If you want to join in, adverts

and posters will give you the phone number to ring. There are open days at the end ~ 8th/9th July.

Da vinci coding!

Greg Forster

The hype of the year (so far) is possibly the Da Vinci Code film. I haven't seen it (its only May 16th!) , so cannot comment on it as a film ~ though I am keen enough on reality to hope that it is better in dealing with its locations accurately than the book was. And I say that, even though the book makes no pretence of being non-fiction. One of the strengths of the "Bond" genre of thrillers was that when Ian Fleming described something ~ a Biretta or an Aston Martin ~ it would be meticulous. Brown on British Police vehicles, or Westminster Abbey, is not meticulous.

So, rip-roaring fantasy to match Bond, or a damp squib, which makes its money out of a brilliant association of ideas and out of people's desire to see something slightly mischievous and wicked, and to find an excuse for not believing what they think might have some claim over them but won't admit it? Given the hype, and the budget, it will probably be the former; it probably taps into the psychology of the latter too, even if it is not a damp squib.

And what about the premise of the story ~ that the "Holy Grail" was in fact Jesus' family. Briefly; pull the other one! If you do want to get technical, there's more on our website, but if the basic story in Mark's Gospel (check it out!) is not true, no far-fetched chain of ifs and maybes will be any more accurate.

St. Wilfrid's Church,

Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)

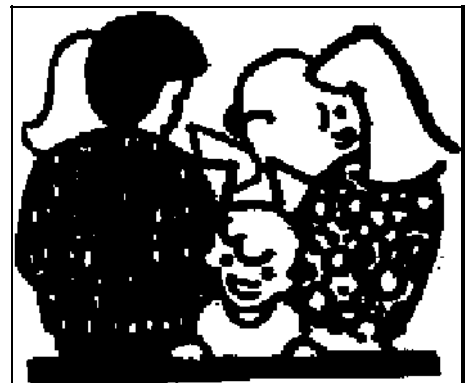
Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)

Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)

www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk

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., except when there is a Family Service.

25th 10.30am Holy Communion & Baptism
 3.00pm Confirmation & Holy Communion
2nd July 10.30am Family Communion & Parade Service.
 6.30pm Evening Worship

Please note too that the church is open each Sunday afternoon from 1.45 – approx. 5.15pm, for prayer, visiting, enquiries, &c.

F or your **D** iaries

Wed. 14th, 21st, 28th Bible Studies, as above.
Sat. 24th Summer Fair, Church Hall, 2 – 4 pm.
Mon. 26th School Governors’ Meeting **6.00pm.**
Sat. 1st July Coffee Morning 10am ...

WOMEN’S GROUP ...

As usual, you are most welcome even if you have not come before, and if you need a lift contact me on 998-2615.

Sue Forster

F rom the **R** egisters ...

I n **M**emoriam ...

Freda Mary Angell (Walney Is.) 99
Norman Pender (Rhyl) Aziza M. Hanna, (Fallowfield),

Baptised ... on Sun. 14th May ...

Michael W. E. Phillips, Daniel E. S. Phillips

Freda Angell (nee Foster), whom some readers may recall, was born in Northenden and grew up here, being baptised, confirmed, and later married in St. Wilfrid’s. She also taught in the Sunday School. In later life she moved away, ending up on Walney

Island, near Barrow in Furness. She died in late April, having narrowly missed her hundred years!

Toilets update ~ church and hall:

Greg Forster

We still await information from the city council about the disabled access grant which we hope will fund the work in the church hall. Holidays and illness have made liaison within the relevant department difficult, as well as liaison with me.

As far as the church is concerned, we have agreement in principle from the diocesan advisory committee, but they have questions about the ventilation of the “dead” space behind the cubicle walls. I must say that this is the least of my worries about the scheme, since the south porch is one of the draughtiest parts of the church, but there you go. Rot is a danger in still, damp air, so we should be grateful for their concern.

Confirmation.

Greg Forster.

There will be a Confirmation Service at St. Wilfrid's on June 25th this year, at 3.00pm. This is the regular service for this part of Manchester, which comes round to us every five or six years.

Confirmation is a chance for people, from eleven years upwards, to affirm for themselves the promises made at their baptism. There is no upper age limit; It gives a chance to think about what we believe, and to ratify (confirm!) our commitment to God through Christ. There are some things which need explaining in the preparation sessions And it is the chance for the church to welcome you ~ confirm you ~ into fuller membership so that you can share regularly in the communion and express in that way how God strengthens you in your life week by week.

Some people are already preparing to be confirmed; if you want to join them, please contact me *as soon as you can*.

Cards ~ some with prayers for the sick or bereaved, some with pictures of the church, and some (by Roni Armstrong) with elaborate designs for very special events, are available on sale in St. Wilfrid's church. Can you use them, for your own prayers or for a friend, or for special times?

wwWebsite: St.wWilfrid's has a website up and running at **www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk** . Look us up, and let us know what you think.

CUBS, BROWNIES; A Cub group uses St.Wilfrid's School on Tuesday evenings, 6.00pm; , *contact Mike Clegg, 998 – 4143.*
Brownies, Church Hall, Mondays from 6.00pm.