

**Cover Picture;** An invitation to church ~ on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. especially!

Prayers for the Month,

Almighty Father, we thank you for our partnership in the household of faith with all those who have been baptised in your name and so belong in your church;

Keep us faithful to the commitment inherent in our baptism, renew in us the awareness of your loving presence, and so make us ready for that day when your whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Based on a prayer from the Baptism Service, ASB.

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

Dear Friends,

Can I highlight three events in the period covered by this issue of Concord. All are opportunities to visit the church, to invite friends or family, and join in prayer if not share in worship. The first is the St. Wilfrid's open days over the second weekend in September. If you are a bit uncertain what you will find, here is a chance to scout around, and ask questions over a cup of tea.

On 24<sup>th</sup> Sep. there is a national event (at least, the publicity is coming from Taunton this year) under the heading "back to church Sunday". I know many people feel that they have never *left* the church, so don't need to come *back*, even if they have not been that often recently. Here again is an opportunity to revisit, and invite friends and neighbours to revisit, your ~ their ~ church. At St. Wilfrid's the service will be slightly streamlined, and explained. As the slogan says, "*Wish you were here!*"

On Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> there is a more traditional opportunity to share in worship and thanksgiving as we have Harvest Festival services. At St. Wilfrid's this will be a family ("all age") service. I will have more to say about this next month, but I do believe that we should develop an attitude of thankfulness towards God for all his generosity to us which we show in worship and praise. We live in a world which *is* full of resources for all – if we treat it ~ and them ~

properly. There is something missing in our lives if we omit the expression of gratitude to God.

*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.

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>      11.00am Morning Service  
                         6.30pm United Service @ St. Wilfrid's

As we go to press I do not have further details: the morning service is at 11.00am, and the next evening service on Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

COMMUNITY LUNCH ... on the second Wed... (to be confirmed).  
12.00 noon to 1.30pm at the "Eatery". Victoria Rd.

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,

Magpie ...

... overheard the Rector when he was rooting around in the tea cupboard in St. Wilfrid's one Sunday afternoon. (It's what he does when he's bored, and no-one is visiting at the time.) There were apparently six packets, tins, or other containers of tea, only one unopened; there were seven containers of sugar (admittedly one of brown), again only one was unopened; and most remarkable of all, there were five jars of coffee, all open (one was

de-caff). Coffee is not normally served! A miracle, perhaps, of multiplication? All that was missing were 9 of the 12 baskets.

## 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.

## St. Wilfrid's Church,

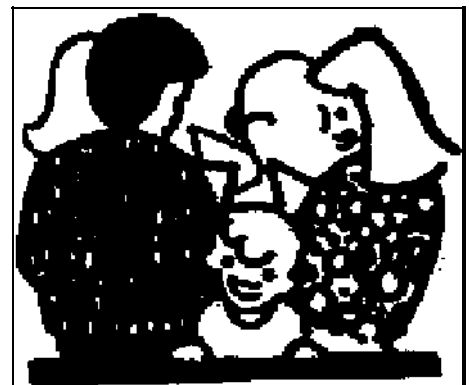
*Ford Lane. (Off Church Rd.)*

**Rector: Greg Forster (998-2615)**

**Organist: Arthur Mellor (928-0472)**

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

**Sunday School reopens on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept., and Sunday Club on 17<sup>th</sup>.**

3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept.	10.30am	Family Communion
	6.30pm	United Evening Service @ St. Wilfrid's
10 <sup>th</sup> .	10.30am	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion & Baptism
	6.30pm	Evening Worship
24 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Holy Communion ~ guest service.

6.30pm Holy Communion (1662)

1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 10.30am Family Service & Parade (not communion)

***Harvest Festival.***

6.30pm United Service at Northenden Methodist Ch.

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

For your Diaries

Sat. 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. Coffee Morning, Church Hall, 10.00am ...

Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> & Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Sept. Open Week End

*“Heritage Open Days” ~ see panel ~*

Mon. 11<sup>th</sup> Deanery Synod Meeting 7.30pm

Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Bible Study, Rectory, 8.00pm  
(also 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> & Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>)

Thu. 14<sup>th</sup> P.C.C. Church Hall, 7.30pm

School Harvest Service to be arranged (Possibly 28<sup>th</sup> @ 9.15am)

Sun. Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. *Harvest Lunch (after church) 12.00 noon. Ch.Hall.*

Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. Coffee Morning.

WOMEN'S GROUP ...

Please note, there will ***not*** be a meeting in September.  
The October meeting will be on Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> ~ a week later than  
usual. *Sue Forster*

From the Registers ...

In Memoriam ...

Arnold Andrews (Bradgate Close) 81,

Teresa Chew (Bagnall Court) 72, Zahia Sahyoun (Stoke) 81.

Married in the Parish Church on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August ...

Nicola Jane Hilton to John Joseph Doyle,  
and Jeanette Alison Hoare to Adam Turner.

Baptised on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August:

Austin John O'Brien, Mia Martha Anderson,  
Freya Molly Timperley

... and on Sun. 16<sup>th</sup> July (*correcting last month's entry*)  
*Olivia and Amelia Quinn, Maisy Campbell, & Christy Walsh.*

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?

**Toilets update ~ church and hall:** *Greg Forster*

Work on the Hall has been commissioned, and should start fairly soon, we hope.

We have permission to proceed with the work on the church toilets. The children's area will be transferred to the Tower

**“Open Days” at St. Wilfrid's Church, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

The next full church opening is part of the national  
“**Heritage Open Day**” scheme (leaflets available in church).  
on Sat. 9<sup>th</sup> (working round a wedding): **10.30am – 1pm, 3 – 5pm**  
& Sun. 10<sup>th</sup>, **12.00 noon** (after worship) **to 5.15pm**

On these days there will be displays of past and present activity in Northenden and in the church, and the opportunity to climb the tower, hunt the ancestors, refreshments, &c.

*The building is open (without the extras) every Sunday afternoon.*

**wwWebsite:** St.wwWilfrid's has a wwwebsite up and running at **www . stwilfridsnorthenden . org . uk** . Look us up.

***Wish you were here ...!***

People are sometimes uncertain what they will find if they come back to church after some years. If they remember boredom, will it be just the same as then? I hope not ~ but come and see! Sunday club, for the older young children is no conventional Sunday school, for instance; “Taste and see” might be a better slogan! Bible studies may sound a bit daunting,

though I cannot think of a better heading. They are chatty and informal, with questions and comment all round. Informative, I hope, and a chance to talk about how we live as Christians today.

## Confirmation notes. ~ J esus! Greg Forster

How much do you know about the basics of our faith? I gave the people who were confirmed at the end of June some notes: here is a shortened version of one set. It is a brief resume of who Jesus was, and is. If you watched Rageh Omaar's excellent if at times overdramatic TV series on Jesus in August you will recognise some of the points he made so forcefully ~ but there is more too. In the bible studies at St. Wilfrid's this month we shall be looking at the ministry of Jesus through one of the Gospels.

**The** distinctive thing about Christianity is Jesus! Other world faiths have great teachers or prophets; Christians believe that in Jesus Christ God was himself doing something directly to reconcile the world to himself. (II Cor.5;19) It was action, not just teaching, and somehow God was acting in person, not just sending a message by someone else. So we talk about Jesus as the Son of God, or even as "God the Son."

He was a definite historical figure, born around 6 BC (the monk who worked out AD and BC got his sums wrong!) and "crucified under Pontius Pilate" in April 30 AD. However you understand him, you cannot deny his existence.

For all his incredible and unique closeness to God, the bible is clear in stating that he was one of us. "In every way like his brethren..." (Hebr.2;17, 4;15) That closeness is described as being "Son of God", which is also a literal description of the source of his life. (Luke 1;35, see 3;22) How that can be is beyond human understanding, except to say that the God who is the creator of our life, *and in whose image we are made*, is surely able to participate in his creation. (We moderns see this as a biological problem! The ancient world saw it as a moral one: how can a holy God get mixed up in such an unholy mess as human life. The answer to both lies in that phrase, we are made in his image. There is already a family likeness, and God is big enough to bridge the gap between human and divine.)

Other New Testament phrases try to put this truth into words ~ Word of God, “the Word became flesh”, Christ/Messiah (meaning God’s anointed, chosen priest-king) ~ and Old Testament images are also used to describe him; Lamb of God, Servant of God, Good Shepherd, and so on. Each image picks up something of his life and work; some of them were used of God himself in the Old Testament.

- He was conscious of his closeness to God as he grew up (Luke 2;49) and as he began his life’s work (Luke 3;21,22)
- He was tempted to abuse that closeness and do his work in violent or underhand ways, but he rejected those temptations, preferring to work gently to seek and to save those who are lost. (Luke 4;1-13, Mark 10;45)
- He made an impression with his teaching; he had a vision of God’s justice, and proclaimed it with a direct authority. (Luke 4;18, 6;20-31)
- He called people to follow him and share his work, and was not put off if they did not seem to live up to that calling. (Luke 5;1-11)
- He had authority over illness, and healed people. (e.g. Luke 5;12-14)
- He did *not* float through life with no human need to ‘recharge his batteries’ through prayer to God his Father. (Luke 5;16-17) He felt the strain of his work. (Lk.8;46, Mk.4;38)
- He took on himself the divine authority to forgive sin. (Luke 5;17-26)
- He claimed that his teaching was the foundation for life. (Luke 6;46-49)
- His followers recognised him as the Messiah/Christ, but he preferred the title “Son of Man”, which is an Old Testament picture of someone who represents God’s suffering people and is vindicated through his suffering (Luke 9;18-23, see Daniel 7;13-14,17-18) ~ and much more besides!
- His course of ministry took him to Jerusalem, for the Passover. He identified his own work with Moses’ rescue of ancient Israel (Luke 22;19f) ~ only more so! The next

day he was executed after a short trial, but events around his death pointed to its greater significance. (Luke 23;32-49)

- Three days (in their way of counting) later he appeared, more alive than ever, to his followers (Luke ch.24). After 40 days of intermittent teaching he was seen to return to God's presence in heaven ~ but his story continues...
- The ongoing *Christian* community sensed his presence, sometimes in very dramatic ways (Acts 2;33,34) They were convinced that his life and teaching are the standard by which the world is judged. (Acts 17;31)

*The next Confirmation in this area is in October; 29th I think. GSF*