

THE OPEN DOOR

The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church



Our Skilful Music Group

**OCTOBER/
NOVEMBER 2023**

Our Open Door Vision Statement.....

"Our vision is to be a church with an Open Door for all people to come in and for us to reach out, responding to the needs of the community and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ."

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Over the last few evenings, I have enjoyed hearing and watching geese fly around our house, honking and moving about into different formations. All this activity prompted some discussion in the manse over whether they were feeding and practicing heading off for our winter, or if they had just arrived and finding somewhere to settle.

I will reveal the answer later, because what this question reminded me of is how we sometimes feel in our faith lives.

Sometimes it isn't that clear if we are coming or going, getting ready to move on with something new, or settling down to new way of doing things.

When we find ourselves in this situation, we can feel a bit lost, and perhaps, like me, you forget to look for God in the events that are unfolding around you.

Perhaps we can learn from the geese who are honking their way over my house every day, in recognising that the secret here can often be teamwork, rather than going it alone. Stopping and sharing with each other that we are finding the changes around us tricky can often reveal that others feel the same, or if they don't, they can support you as you adjust to what the change might be.

It turns out that they are recently arrived – from the north – to winter in the warmer south. All the noise and fuss is finding their bearings and settling into their new life for next few months here.

This is similar to how I might be feeling as I get to know you as your interim minister, that feeling of being new and finding my way around – getting my bearings as I settle in with you. But I have to remember that you are probably still feeling the other side of this, that feeling of heading into something new.

Wherever we find ourselves, we just need to remember that God will be with us, but that like the geese, the trick will be to be open with each other and keep talking (or honking) so we can understand where we all are!

Blessings

Paul

SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2023

After a summer of very mixed weather, with record breaking temperatures in June and September, and one of the wettest Julys on record, the day I'm writing this the weather has turned decidedly autumnal. We have welcomed visitors to our lovely Garden Café since the end of April, but by the time you read this, we will once again have gone back into our Open Door Café, but we have had a wonderful garden 'season' with very

few weather related closures, in spite of the wet and cold main summer season – our Garden Café has gone from strength to strength.

A reminder that the prayer group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9.15 in the hall or sanctuary. Do please come along for a time of quiet and prayer away from the busyness of daily lives.

Our harvest service this year was on September 24th, led by Mrs Maggie Larkin. All Items donated were given for the work of the Basics Bank.

Lymington URC's very own singing group, the United Warblers, is entertaining us all on Friday October 13th at 2.30. Come along and enjoy their singing and a cream tea, prepared by the fundraising team.

Our next Church meeting is on Sunday 15th October after morning service and a BYO lunch. Church meetings are a very important part of Church life, when it's your opportunity to have your say, so do please try to come along. Church meetings are open to everyone, but if a vote is taken on any important issues, only Church members can vote. If you aren't already a Church member and have been considering becoming one, please see me or any of the elders.

And on to November.... Remembrance Sunday is November 12th and our service at 10.30 will be led by Mrs Mary Ann Jardine. There will be the usual rolling road closure in the High

Street for the annual parade.

On Saturday 18th November the fundraising team is planning a quiz evening, so keep that date free!

Friday 24th November sees the 'Christmas in Lymington' event. There will be the usual stalls & attractions in the High Street with the crib blessing at St Thomas' Church at 6.00 pm & the arrival of Santa. The mayor will switch on the tree and town lights.

Things are being planned for the weeks leading up to Christmas, but you'll read more about that in the next magazine.

And finallyplease ensure the Church is left secure, if you're the last to leave. That means checking all the windows and checking that all the doors that should be locked, are locked correctly. On several occasions recently, both sides of the main hall door have been unlocked, but not both locked again. It is very easy to push them open and gain access.

Once again, thanks to everybody for all their help and support in keeping our lovely Church alive.

Margaret

LYMINGTON URC DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS:

The Church Café, hopefully every morning from 10 a.m.

WORSHIP:

Note: There will be no elders' prayer time in the vestry at 10.15 on a Sunday. The Prayer Group meets on Wednesday at 9.15 at Church.

**CLOSING DATE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY 'OPEN
DOOR':
16th NOV 2023**

Free Wi Fi connection to the internet available in the Open Door Cafe, balcony, main hall and cottage meeting room areas. Just ask for the required passwords!

OCTOBER

1st: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Martin Ambler

8th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown

15th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd David Skitt

22nd: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor

29th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine

NOVEMBER

5th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor

12th: 10.30 a.m. Remembrance Sunday
Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine

19th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown

26th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee

SECOND HAND PAPERBACK BOOKS

I'm sure you have all appreciated that the advent of covid really affected our sales of paperback books which were virtually wiped out for over a year. However at last there is 'light at the end of the tunnel' and so far this financial year we have raised £200 for Church Funds (pre covid takings were about £400 each year).

I am therefore trying to revamp our selection of books with a view to increasing sales and recycling some of the older books. If you have any paperbacks (not hardbacks please) which you feel somebody else could enjoy I should be really glad to have them to update our bookshelves. I am happy to collect them if you are not able to bring them to Church.

My thanks in anticipation.
Ann Webber - 01590 67628

GOD MADE THEM EVERYONE

Verse 3

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

If we didn't get a bit of cold wind in the winter, which we certainly get these days, we probably wouldn't look forward to the summer sun. Although I do not grow ripe fruits in our garden, I do grow as many flowers as possible to help the bees. Because we wouldn't get the ripe fruits without the hard-working bees who pollinate them.



Fran Cooke

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Chris Brown has changed her email address. It is now Chris.NF678@gmail.com

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the Elders for allowing us to hold the Celebration of the life of Judith's son Charles in our Church. It was a wonderful occasion and our thanks go to the many people who supported us on the day and for all the people who sent messages of love and comfort.

God bless,
Judith and Wyn

NEW MUSIC GROUP

I hope you like Lymington URC's newly formed Music/Worship Group! We meet on the first Saturday of the month for practice in order to help lead worship the following day. The group consists of Elaine (piano), Chris (piano and flute), Gill (Guitar), Pete (Clarinet), and Dave and Margaret helping lead the singing. Who knows where this will lead with all sorts of ideas for future events, and it feels good to utilise previously unknown talents and skills from within the congregation. Well of course, God knows, and we ask for your prayers and support in the exciting times ahead.



WESSEX SYNOD MODERATOR

Dear friends,

I am pleased to announce that the new Wessex Synod Moderator from March 2024 will be the Revd Dr Michael Hopkins.

We have been privileged to have Michael as a minister in our Synod for many years and have benefitted from his vast Assembly and Synod experience in committees and at Synod Meetings.

I am delighted he has accepted the call to be our new Synod Moderator and am looking forward to sharing this next stage of his ministry as we discern where God is leading our Church in

2024 and beyond.

I am sure that many of you will get the opportunity to work with Michael once he starts this new chapter in both his and Wessex Synod's ministry.

Kind regards.

Karen
Wessex Synod Clerk



ROTAS FOR OCTOBER

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 1st

COMMUNION ELDERS: John and Richard

DUTY ELDER

1st Richard Mallory
8th John Wiseman
15th Dave Best
22nd Margaret Clark
29th David Bywater

READING IN CHURCH

Lizbeth Eason
Margaret Clark
Janice Perkins
Lizbeth Eason
Kate Noon

STEWARDS

1st Andrea and Dave Best
8th Pat Weaver and Anne Simmons
15th Gill Wiseman and Peter Middleton
22nd Anne Gaines and Judith Baker
29th Lizbeth Eason and Fran Cooke

SOUND SYSTEM

DB/GC
WD/MC
DW/MC
DB/GC
WD/MC

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 5th

COMMUNION ELDERS: David and Barbara

DUTY ELDER

5th Barbara Waite
12th Chris Brown
19th Richard Mallory
26th John Wiseman

READING IN CHURCH

Keith Holmes
Dave Best
Richard Mallory
John Wiseman

STEWARDS

5th Janice Perkins and Kate Noon
12th Liz Griffiths and Barbara Waite
19th Andrea and Dave Best
26th Pat Weaver and Anne Simmons

SOUND SYSTEM

DW/MC
DB/GC
WD/MC
DW/MC



The United
Reformed Church
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A pair of jubilee socks, designed by Holy Socks. Each pair comes with details about the URC and a reflection on Faith, Hope and Love by Holy Socks founder Margaret Wyllie. Available in two sizes, 4-7 and 6-11. £5.95 +p&p.

(Other 'Jubilee' items available)

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PLEASE NOTE: This magazine is printed on paper from renewable sources out of our concern for the environment.

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