### 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 finally ....please 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': 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

1 <sup>st</sup> :	10.30 a.m.	Worship led by Rev'd Martin Ambler
8 <sup>th</sup> :	10.30 a.m.	Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown
15 <sup>th</sup> :	10.30 a.m.	Worship led by Rev'd David Skitt
22 <sup>nd</sup> :	10.30 a.m.	Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
29 <sup>th</sup> :	10.30 a.m.	Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine

#### **NOVEMBER**

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

12<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Remembrance Sunday

Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine

19<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown

26<sup>th</sup>: 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.

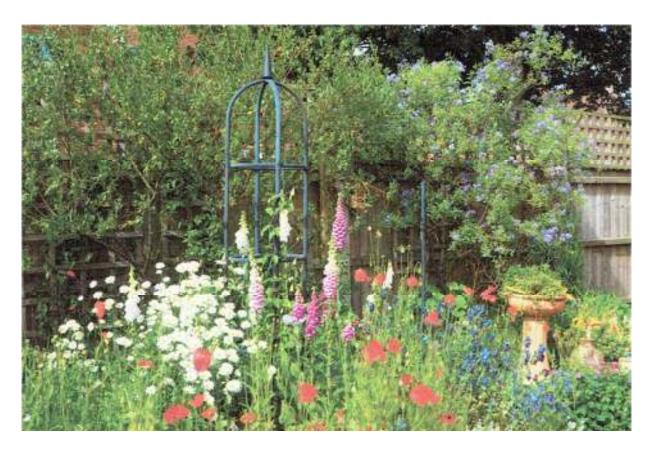
My thanks in anticipation. Ann Webber - 01590 67628

#### **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 hardworking bees who pollinate them.



Fran Cooke

#### **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Chris Brown has changed her email address. It is now <a href="mailto:Chris.NF678@gmail.com">Chris.NF678@gmail.com</a>

#### **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**

#### READING IN CHURCH

1 <sup>st</sup> Richard Mallory	Lizbeth Eason
8 <sup>th</sup> John Wiseman	Margaret Clark
15 <sup>th</sup> Dave Best	Janice Perkins
22 <sup>nd</sup> Margaret Clark	Lizbeth Eason
29 <sup>th</sup> David Bywater	Kate Noon

#### **STEWARDS**

#### **SOUND SYSTEM**

1 <sup>st</sup> Andrea and Dave Best	DB/GC
8 <sup>th</sup> Pat Weaver and Anne Simmons	WD/MC
15 <sup>th</sup> Gill Wiseman and Peter Middleton	DW/MC
22 <sup>nd</sup> Anne Gaines and Judith Baker	DB/GC
29 <sup>th</sup> Lizbeth Eason and Fran Cooke	WD/MC

#### **ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** 5<sup>th</sup>

**COMMUNION ELDERS:** David and Barbara

#### DUTY ELDER READING IN CHURCH

5<sup>th</sup> Barbara Waite Keith Holmes

12<sup>th</sup> Chris Brown Dave Best

19<sup>th</sup> Richard Mallory Richard Mallory

26<sup>th</sup> John Wiseman John Wiseman

#### **STEWARDS**

#### **SOUND SYSTEM**

5<sup>th</sup> Janice Perkins and Kate Noon DW/MC

12<sup>th</sup> Liz Griffiths and Barbara Waite DB/GC

19<sup>th</sup> Andrea and Dave Best WD/MC WD/MC

26<sup>th</sup> Pat Weaver and Anne Simmons DW/MC



Please order online using the URC Bookshop's new easy-to-use website www.urcshop.co.uk or by calling 020 7916 8629.





**Jubilee Scarf** - By popular demand from scarf wearers and those wanting fabric for other purposes, a lightweight polyester scarf measuring 2m x 80cm in the new anniversary blue and multi-coloured fish design. £7.99 +p&p.

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)

#### www.twocountiescleaning.co.uk

01425 613860



Whilst every care is taken to ensure information within the advertisements and posters on display in the magazine is accurate, Lymington URC does not accept any liability to any party for any errors or omissions. Lymington URC does not officially endorse the advertising material included on any external organisations' adverts/posters.





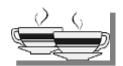




Photography & Design www.renoufdesign.co.uk 01590 678912

Wedding Photography from £200 with album and online gallery Free portrait, Engagement, Baby and product photo shoots, Bespoke web sites, business cards, invitations, brochures...









If you wish to advertise in The Open
Door
magazine (6 issues per year),
please contact the
Lymington URC for more details.
Competitive rates, both mono and
colour adverts
accommodated in quarter, half and full
page sizes!"



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

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Minister: Rev'd Paul O'Connor

e-mail: revpauloconnor@yahoo.com

Church Secretary: Margaret Clark. Tel 01590 676306

e-mail: secretaryurclym@btinternet.com

Magazine Editor: Wyn Davies. Tel 01425 616384

e-mail: WynBDavies@sky.com

Church web site: <a href="http://www.lymurc.org.uk/">http://www.lymurc.org.uk/</a>

Tel 01590 676306

e-mail: adminurclym@btinternet.com

Other web sites that list the church:

http://www.joinmychurch.com http://www.findachurch.co.uk http://www.searchchurch.co.uk

Centre Manager: Andrew Collins.

adminurclym@btinternet.com

Basics Bank web site:

http://www.basicsbank.org.uk/

Tel 01590 610008

E. admin@basicsbank.org.uk

Charity No: 115017