

THE OPEN DOOR

The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church



Our forecourt on the 20th May!

**AUGUST/
SEPTEMBER 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,

As I write this letter, I am looking out over the manse garden from my study, seeing butterflies for perhaps what seems to be the first time this year. Heidi, my wife, is very involved in nature as she looks after the “wild” nursery at Hordle school, which is based outside and looks at the world around us all year long as part of exploring early years learning with the pre-schoolers. This year we have not noticed butterflies until very recently.

Whilst this might seem alarming, what we have learnt over the last few years is that nature is not as predictable as we might think. For example, nature can produce an abundance of acorns one year, and then very few the next. This of course affects those pigs who are released for pannage, but also the food supplies for squirrels, and thus affects these populations the following year.

And, of course, humankind has an input into this more natural ebb and flow, with our choices on the environment affecting the climate, pollution and the availability of flowers and plants that support wildlife.

This, for me reflects our relationship with God.

God, our creator has offered us the world to use as a resource, but to do so sensibly. Part of this is as simple as using up the resources that God provides, but it also reflects the fact that

perhaps we are not all of creation that God is concerned with.

The whole universe is part of God's plan, and sometimes we can be drawn into thinking that it might just be our planet, our community, or even just ourselves.

This wide-reaching plan is obviously a bit of a mystery – it has to be as it is so far reaching we could not ever consider it in its entirety, but God does reveal clues, and is always there throughout any changes that might be taking place around us.

As I joined as “interim” minister, I am aware that you have been through a lot of changes in a relatively short space of time, and this is one of the reasons my role is specifically defined as an “interim” minister.

Together with the elders, I will work to try and determine where Lymington URC might be right now, and what that might mean for the future – of course centred around prayer and discernment.

This does mean my role might not look like a “traditional” ministers role, and of course my time is limited to 25% with you, but this does not mean that I will not be working out a schedule that means that I am available at the church regularly, leading worship at least once a month from October onwards, and hopefully getting to know you all over the next few months.

I also recognise that you may not know me so well either, so I

will ask the elders to circulate my latest “profile”, which offers you an overview of myself, my family and my ministry to date.

Blessings

Paul

SECRETARY’S BITS AND PIECES FOR AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2023

After a very hot and dry June and a wet and windy July, let’s hope summer returns again soon, as many of us have not yet had our holidays. But we have been welcoming many holiday makers and visitors to our lovely Garden café and Saturday coffee mornings.

With the agreement of the Synod Pastoral Committee, we are very pleased to welcome Rev Paul O’Connor amongst us, as he joins us to offer some part time ministry. At present we are not exactly sure where this will fit in, but plans are being finalised! An exciting time as we journey forward.

At our recent annual Church meeting, David Bywater and I were both re-elected for a further three year term as elders and Dave Best was elected to serve on our leadership team.

We are very sad to record the death of Mrs Stella Jacobs. Stella had been worshipping with us for many years and was a much loved member of our congregation. Our thoughts go out to Martin and all her family as they mourn the loss of a loved one.

Many of our grandchildren are awaiting exam results. A very nerve wracking time – not only for the young people but for their families also. We hope they got the results they expected and required and our thoughts and prayers are with all young people as they move on to new classes, new schools or university.

Our Salad Sunday lunch will be on Sunday August 20th, after morning service. This will be in the hall, whatever the weather, and will be priced at £8.00.

Our harvest service is on September 24th and will be led by Mrs Maggie Larkin. All donated goods will be given for the work of the Basics Bank. It was agreed by the elders that our harvest thanksgiving service will be fixed at the last Sunday in September every year.

It hardly seems possible that we are already talking about harvest – but have a good remainder of summer, as ‘we go in the strength of the Lord’.

Margaret



LYMINGTON URC DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS:

The Garden 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 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 'OPEN
DOOR':
18th SEPT 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!

AUGUST

6th: 19.00 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Geoff Gleed

13th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine

20th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mr Andrew Hirst

27th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee

SEPTEMBER

3rd: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown

10th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Martin Ambler

17th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee

24th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Maggie Larkin

THE LAKES OF KILLARNEY, IRELAND

Verse 2

The purple heather mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning,
That brightens up the sky:

Cecil Frances Alexander 1818-1895, who wrote this hymn, visited Killarney in Southern Ireland where I was brought up. Her husband was the Anglican Primate for Ireland. The lakes of Killarney are surrounded by mountains and one of them is called The Purple Mountain. My father had a boat and as children we went out for picnics on the various islands and we regularly sang this hymn whilst in the boat. I often changed the wording of the 2nd verse to include the names of the many islands on the lakes. The sunrises and sunsets are very spectacular. So as you can imagine, whenever we sing this hymn, the words remind me of Killarney.

One of my favourite hobbies is watching and identifying bugs and bees, probably not everyone's favourite hobby? However now that Spring is on its way perhaps some of you have noticed the Dark Edged Bee-fly (*Bombylius major*) enjoying itself in your garden? It likes low growing flowers, particularly Primroses, Pulmonaria & Bugle. They fly around the garden often in small groups making a loud buzzing noise and trailing their long legs behind.

Fran Cooke



ROTAS FOR AUGUST

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 6th

COMMUNION ELDERS: David and Barbara

DUTY ELDER

6th Barbara Waite
13th Chris Brown
20th Richard Mallory
27th Barbara Waite

READING IN CHURCH

Janice Perkins
Keith Holmes
Lizbeth Eason
Pat Weaver

STEWARDS

6th Anne Gaines and Barbara Waite
13th Andrea and Dave Best
20th Pat Weaver and Anne Simmons
27th Gill Wiseman and Peter Middleton

SOUND SYSTEM

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

ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 3rd

COMMUNION ELDERS: Chris and Margaret

DUTY ELDER

3rd Margaret Clark
10th David Bywater
17th Barbara Waite
24th Chris Brown

READING IN CHURCH

Wyn Davies
Jenny Henderson
Pat Weaver
Andrea Best

STEWARDS

3rd Anne Gaines and Judith Baker
10th Lizbeth Eason and Fran Cooke
17th Janice Perkins and Kate Noon
24th Liz Griffiths and Barbara Waite

SOUND SYSTEM

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



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Reformed Church
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CONTACT DETAILS

Minister: Vacancy

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: <http://www.lymurc.org.uk/>
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

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