

# **THE OPEN DOOR**

## **The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church**



**Temple of Athena, see postcard**

**JUNE /  
JULY 2026**

## **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 we journey through the church calendar, we move from the season of Easter into “Proper” Time – or more simply a phase we get to explore more of Jesus ministry without being so closely tied to the festivals such as Lent, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost, Advent or Christmas.

As the lectionary reflects Jesus’ life compacted into the church year, this period is one where we can really stop and look at different elements of Jesus teaching, miracles and actions, which of course allow us to respond and shape our lives as disciples.

For me this time to reflect is as important as the focus we might put on Lent or Advent, as it really means we can take some time to look at who Jesus was, and what he taught and offered us through the events described in the Gospels. Taking the time to reflect on Jesus’ life and ministry beyond what might be considered “key events” really helps us to understand more about Jesus, what He wants us to do, and importantly, as disciples, what we can do in response to that.

A good example of this, in this year’s lectionary focussed on Matthew’s gospel, is the sending of the twelve (Matt 9:35-10:23). Not only does this offer us insight into who the twelve are, but Jesus gives instructions for what the mission of the twelve should look like, which of course offers us some

guidance too. Now we have become less nomadic and more static as the Church has developed, but we can still offer those we encounter the opportunity to hear about our faith. For those who are not interested, Jesus is clear that we should move on and seek others.

This reminds us that even for the apostles, they would meet people who did not want to hear the Good News, that it wasn't for them, but there will be others who do. We shouldn't be disheartened if reaching out to others doesn't have the response we want or expect, there is always hope that we will encounter someone who will hear the Gospel from us and want to respond.

And this is an important message to take from "Proper" time. Of course the events we share at Lent, Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost, Advent or Christmas are important, but they don't share this kind of message that directly shows us what we as disciples might need to do in response to Jesus' call.

Blessings,

Paul



## **SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR JUNE/JULY.**

Here we are in June and Christmas just six months away! Our Garden Café should have opened by the time you receive this, a bit later this year due to the inclement, cold weather in early May. We should also have participated in St Barbe's Open Gardens at the late spring Bank Holiday, a bit of an honour and all thanks to our hard working gardening team for creating such a beautiful haven of peace and quiet away from the busyness of the High Street.

Don't forget that the Garden Café is open on Mondays and Wednesday – Friday from 10.00 – 12.00 noon. Do take the time to go and have a cup of coffee and slice of cake and enjoy the space.

Easter was very early this year. Chris led us in a Tenebrae communion service on Maundy Thursday, always a special service. Yet again, the Good Friday service had to be held inside because of the cold and threat of rain, but many people came along to join in worship. It was a real 'Christians Together' service with contributions from all the churches in the town. We celebrated Easter Day with communion and a service led by the Worship Group.

Our prayer group meets regularly on Wednesday morning at 9.15 in the sanctuary. It's such a blessing to be able to come and sit quietly away from daily life for a short time in the middle of a busy week.

Paul is resuming bible study, after a short break, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00 in the sanctuary. The dates for the remainder of the term are 23<sup>rd</sup> June and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Our Annual Church meeting will take place on Tuesday evening, 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.00 pm, but at 5.00 pm you are all invited to come along to a barbecue in the Church garden. David Bywater has kindly agreed once again to co-ordinate and circulate our reports. If you produced one last year, he'll be contacting you shortly to send him one for this year. We will also be holding our elders' election, details about that later.

Our Saturday coffee mornings are a resounding success, thanks to the small band of volunteers. If you feel able to help at all with these or the Garden Café, please contact somebody from the Fellowship and Fundraising team – we are always grateful for additional help, especially during the summer months when some of our 'regulars' take holiday and it is difficult to find enough cover.

Have a good summer.

Margaret

## **LYMINGTON URC DIARY**

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

**CLOSING DATE FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 'OPEN DOOR':  
20<sup>th</sup> JULY 2026**

## **COFFEE MORNINGS:**

The Garden Café, hopefully every morning except Tuesday, from 10 a.m.

## **WORSHIP:**

Note: The Prayer Group meets on Wednesday at 9.15 a.m. at Church.

## **JUNE**

- |                    |            |   |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| 7 <sup>th</sup> :  | 10.30 a.m. | Worship including communion<br>led by the Worship Group |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor                      |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine                         |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor                      |

## **JULY**

- |                    |            |   |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> :  | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by the Worship Group                          |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship including communion<br>led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor                        |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Chris Brown                                |

## RETIREMENT

Just a brief thank you for the surprise gift given to me at April Church meeting, marking my retirement from the long standing Finance and Property Committee in January this year.

Having served on the committee in various capacities for some 22 years and been part of the team seeing through many great changes in the church, not least of all the Open Door Project, I feel it's time for me to join the backbenchers, for I fear at 95, age has no consideration when trying to pursue the activities of daily life.

May I wish those that may pick up the mantle of overseeing the proper management and maintenance of the Church Finances and Property in the future, every success.



Ciao for now.

Gerry

### *A Second Postcard from Turkey*

*Once again we chose the town of Side (pronounced see-day) for our spring holiday. Unlike last time however we confined ourselves to the town and its beach.*

According to the father of Geography, Strabo, Side was founded by Greek settlers from Cyme, a prosperous Greek colony further around the Turkish coast to the North West. Apparently Side's titular deity was the goddess Athena, and up to at least the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE it had its own, so far, barely translated language.

After Alexander the Great and his successors came and went Side became a haven for Cilician pirates, no doubt bringing its attention to the Romans who arrived in 67 BCE. The 4<sup>th</sup> century CE brought about a decline, although it did serve as the seat of the Bishop of Eastern Pamphylia, before being raided and burnt to the ground in the 7<sup>th</sup> century.

From Wikipedia (yes, I know, but it's easier than going to the library these days!) the Bishopric was very influential during the formative years of the Christian faith, with bishops holding significant authority and frequently participating in the major Ecumenical Councils, before being finally suppressed by the Muslim

*majority in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It does remain in the Catholic Church as a so called Titular See; that is an ancient, functionally extinct dioceses that the Vatican preserves in name.*

*All of this brings us back to our strolls around the town. At every turn there is something of archaeological interest, either exquisitely carved pieces of marble propping up the sea wall, bits of columns or even large ruins popping up in someone's back yard.*



*Pieces of carved white marble, probably from a temple architrave.*



*Possible Roman ruins, literally in the back garden of a local restaurant.*



*Oh yes! And cats everywhere.*

*But for me the centre piece was the partially restored temple of Athena, sited overlooking the harbour.*



*Side temple of Athena as restored.*

*The restoration is in the original white marble and it gives a glimpse of what the whole building would have looked like, positively glowing in the sun, a landmark visible many miles out to sea, no doubt to the relief of many a bronze age sailor.*

*Judith and Wyn*

# MerriMENT

Another pleasant meet-up for our men's group, MerriMENT recently, with breakfast at Wetherspoons. A good time was had by all those attending, catching up on news and gossip. We missed those unable to attend but it was great to welcome a couple of new men to the group. Our next meet-up is on Wednesday 30th June 2026 for lunch at Solento Lounge, Lymington. We're looking forward to it already!!

Pete





Pop in for coffee  
& home made cakes  
weekdays (except Tues)

*Garden Cafe  
Open 10-12pm*

## **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 5-7pm**



Come and enjoy our beautiful church garden with the company of friends before attending our Annual Church Meeting at 7pm. See you there!

*The F & F Team*



## **ROTAS FOR JUNE**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** 7<sup>th</sup>

**COMMUNION ELDERS:** Margaret and John

### **DUTY ELDER**

7<sup>th</sup> Chris Brown  
14<sup>th</sup> John Wiseman  
21<sup>st</sup> Dave Best  
28<sup>th</sup> Margaret Clark

### **READING IN CHURCH**

Janet Taylor  
Pat Weaver  
John Wiseman  
Barbara Waite

### **STEWARDS**

7<sup>th</sup> Judith Baker  
14<sup>th</sup> Lizbeth Eason  
21<sup>st</sup> Janice Perkins  
28<sup>th</sup> Kate Noon

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

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

## **ROTAS FOR JULY**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** 12<sup>th</sup>

**COMMUNION ELDERS:** David and Dave

### **DUTY ELDER**

5<sup>th</sup> David Bywater  
12<sup>th</sup> Chris Brown  
19<sup>th</sup> John Wiseman  
26<sup>th</sup> Dave Best

### **READING IN CHURCH**

Wyn Davies  
Margaret Clark  
Bridget Banks  
Judith Baker

### **STEWARDS**

5<sup>th</sup> Trish Hopkins  
12<sup>th</sup> Leanne and Les Saunders  
19<sup>th</sup> Liz Griffiths  
26<sup>th</sup> Andrea Best

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

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

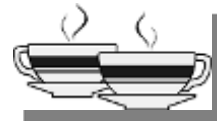
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**PLEASE NOTE:** This magazine is printed on paper from renewable sources out of our concern for the environment.

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