

THE OPEN DOOR

The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church



The “road” to Ephesus, see Postcard inside.

**JUNE/
JULY 2024**

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,

After a few months of cold and grey weather, it looks like things might be brightening up a bit, and the view from the manse window is much sunnier with lots of birds swooping in and out, creating a pleasant distraction.

Another distraction, which has just been declared, is the sudden election. Whilst we have been expecting it this year, its announcement will of course throw a lot of things into chaos, and the news will be dominated by this for the coming six weeks.

For some of us, it might feel that an election is no big thing. Politics feels like it is something outside of our daily lives, and it doesn't matter who we vote for as it "won't make a difference anyway"!

As a minister, I feel it would be inappropriate to encourage your choice of political party, in the same way I can support each of you differently, with your different theologies and understandings of the Bible.

However, as we do often in Bible study, we can look at what Jesus has to say about politics and respond, and whilst I won't point at a particular political party, I would encourage us all to reflect on what parties are offering that reflects Jesus values.

Jesus is challenged about taxes to Caesar, and of course he turns over the temple tables when he feels that the exchange of money is contrary to the work that the temple should be doing. And of course, Jesus encourages those who are part of the political system, the tax collectors and Centurions to reflect on what they do and how it fits into the systems that seem to be marginalising those in society.

And alongside all of this, Jesus preaches a message of loving our neighbour, looking after the world around us, and making sure that the poor (for example the widow in 'The Widow's Mite') are not exploited.

So, whilst I won't suggest what politics for you to follow, I will suggest strongly that you consider your vote, and you consider which parties are offering to do those things that Jesus calls on us all to do.

Blessings

Paul

SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR JUNE/JULY 2024

Here we are in June and half way through the year already. Our Garden Café should have opened by the time you receive this. Do take the time to go and have a cup of coffee and slice of cake and sit in our Church garden. It's a beautiful haven of peace and quiet away from the busyness of the High Street.

Thanks again to our hard working gardening team for creating such a beautiful oasis for us, and to all the café volunteers.

Easter was a very special time for us. Mary Ann led us in a Tenebrae communion service on Maundy Thursday, always a special service. The Good Friday service, unfortunately this year, was inside because of the 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 must thank all those who led us in worship. We celebrated Easter Day with communion and a service led by Paul.

There will be a special Church meeting on Sunday, June 9th, immediately after morning service, with just one agenda item, the Pastoral Cycle.

Our Annual Church meeting will take place on Tuesday evening, 9th July at 7.00pm, but at 5.00pm 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 this below.

Our Saturday coffee mornings are going from strength to strength, thanks to the small band of volunteers. If you feel able to help at all with these or the daily 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.

Enjoy the coming summer months in whatever you're doing.

ELDERS ELECTION

We will be holding an elders' election at our ACM on Tuesday 9th July. We will elect elders to serve for the next three years. You are invited to nominate a Church member who you think would be suited to this ministry within the Church.

The full list of elders currently serving is:

Dave Best

Chris Brown

David Bywater

Margaret Clark

Richard Mallory

Barbara Waite

John Wiseman

Barbara completes a three year term of office and is standing down. We thank her for all she has contributed to the elders' team and wish her well. We need **THREE** new elders to return to our ideal number of nine elders. Please ask your nominee, obtain his/her consent and find two people to second your proposal. Only **ONE** form is required for each nominee. Nomination forms are available on the top of the cupboard in the ODC. Finally, please complete the form and give or send it to me by Sunday, 30th June. Thanks.

Margaret

LYMINGTON URC DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS:

The Open Door Café, hopefully every morning except Thursday, from 10 a.m.

WORSHIP:

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

JUNE

- 2nd: 10.30 a.m. Worship with communion
 led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 9th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 16th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Thelma Roberts
- 23rd: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mr Gerwyn Davies
- 30th: 10.00 a.m. Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine

JULY

- 7th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Geoffrey Gleed
- 14th: 10.30 a.m. Worship with communion
 led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 21st: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee
- 30th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mr Tim Cosby

**CLOSING DATE FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 'OPEN
DOOR':
14th JULY 2024**

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!

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Change of email address from Janet Taylor:

janetmooseyg@gmail.com

Postcard from a very long cruise

“Discovering the Ancient Empires of the Mediterranean” was the tempting title of the cruise advertised, navigating the Corinth Canal, better still! By the time we sailed, the Corinth canal was scrapped (ship too big), Algeria scrapped (visas too expensive) and two ports in Israel and one in Egypt scrapped - needless to say!

We decided to go anyway - fifteen

interesting stops, taking in many, if not all, the ancient empires. There is not a lot we don't now know about Roman architecture, the Ottoman Empire, the Knights Templar and Knights of St John, Carthaginian ruins and current excavations! But the highlight, without a doubt, was Ephesus, the birthplace of Christianity.



We disembarked early to be the first coaches to arrive on a bright, crisp morning. The view that greeted us was mind blowing - a HUGE vista, still recognisable as a town, the

“ruins” lovingly restored and exposed. To look down on to the grand houses, the “terraces”, the library (an impressive structure - see the photo) and the recently and continuously exposed mosaic floors was awe inspiring.



To know that Mary, mother of Jesus, had most likely been there and that St. Paul had walked the way we were walking was just

such a privilege. Our guide was amazing and so knowledgeable, we came away, battling against the crowds of the later visitors, knowing we had been somewhere very special, and seen it at its very best.

It was very easy to get used to being looked after, fed wonderfully, entertained and educated for a month, and we joined the “choir”, a singing group that sang the introit at all the church services on board (in harmony!) and partook in a concert in the theatre at the end. What a fabulous way to celebrate 50 years of marriage - a year in advance!

Gill and John

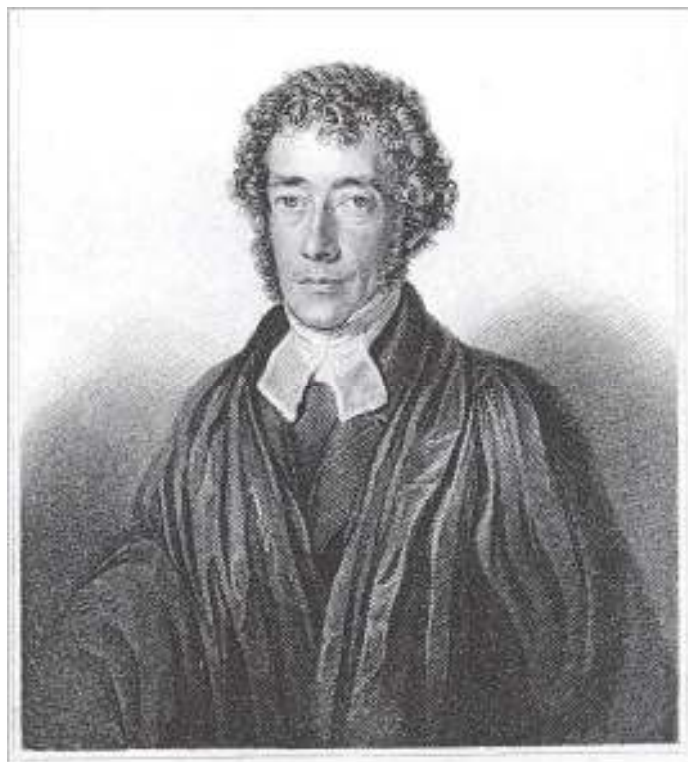
WHO STARTED THE CHURCH MAGAZINE?

No! I don't mean **this** church magazine, but who was the person behind the very first church magazine? And the answer is the Reverend Henry Blunt. Blunt was born in Chelsea on 12

August 1794. He was educated at Merchant Taylor's School and then Pembroke College, Cambridge. He was a truly brilliant student and in 1817 became a Fellow of the College. Within a year, he was ordained as a Church of England clergyman, his first appointment being as Curate of St Peter's and St Paul's Church in the village of Clare in Suffolk.

At that time, the more scholarly clergy would often have their sermons published so that their congregations – and those further afield – could read them at their leisure, especially on dark winter evenings when there would be no church services to attend. But Blunt was aware that whilst this was fine for the wealthier members of his church, the cost of books at that time put them way beyond the pockets of most. So he introduced something much more modest. He called it *The Poor Churchman's Evening Companion* which, although sounding a touch patronising to our ears, was an accurate description of what it was. It was, indeed, the first ever church magazine. Thus Blunt combined his gifts of preaching and writing to

encourage the poorer folk of his Suffolk church – those who could read for themselves – to spend their Sunday evenings more profitably.



(National Portrait Gallery)

Blunt went back to London in 1824 when he was appointed Senior Curate of the newly-built St Luke's Church, Chelsea, where the Rector was the Honourable & Reverend Gerald Wellesley, the brother of the Duke of Wellington! Blunt then became Vicar of another new church – Trinity Church, Upper Chelsea – which today is known as Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, just opposite the large Peter Jones (John Lewis)

department store. And it's in that church that you can see this tablet in tribute to Henry Blunt:

Henry Blunt: Rector: 1832-36

In memory of the Reverend Henry Blunt, MA, once the fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge, and the first Rector of this parish.

He died, in the 49th year of his age on the 20th day of July 1843
and was buried at Streatham in Surrey.

This tablet is erected by those who esteemed him very highly in
love, for his works sake.

SPERO INFESTIS METUO SECUNDIS

The Latin motto is best translated as, "I hope when things are hostile, I fear when they are favourable.' It's a good motto for a church minister!

Tony Bennett

Fellowship & Fundraising News



The weather was kind to us on Saturday 27th April as we held a forecourt sale. Our F & F Team worked extremely hard raising £214 holding a tombola and by selling second-hand bric-a-brac, used clothes and some home-made crafts. In addition, our Open-door café also raised a fantastic £190! What a great morning!

Our United Warblers cream tea, held on Friday 19th April was such a great success. Guests were treated to tea, freshly baked scones with cream and jam and entertainment from our singers. Thank you to Kate and the members of the Warblers group for another excellent event. Including a raffle, we raised £280.

Thank you to the F & F group for providing the refreshments and for organising the event! You are superstars!





Garden Café now open 10am -12pm



Visit our Garden Café (open weekdays except Thurs) 10-12pm. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of home-made cake in our peaceful garden setting.



The F & F team invite you to a

Summer BBQ

Tuesday 9th July 5-7pm

Join us for a Summer BBQ! Enjoy our church's beautiful garden and the company of friends before attending our Annual Church Meeting which starts at 7pm. It's sure to be a fabulous event!



Further details will be available nearer the time.



Fellowship Breakfast

On April 7th, we shared a delicious, cooked breakfast before the service. Well done to the men from the Merriment team for the cooking and fabulous service! The bacon and sausage baps



We can't wait for our next Sunday breakfast! Watch this space for the next date!

ROTAS FOR JUNE

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 2nd

COMMUNION ELDERS: Margaret and Dave

DUTY ELDER

2nd Richard Mallory

9th John Wiseman

16th Dave Best

23rd Margaret Clark

30th David Bywater

READING IN CHURCH

Keith Holmes

Chris Brown

Margaret Clark

Judith Baker

Wyn Davies

STEWARDS

2nd Andrea Best

9th Pat Weaver

16th Gill Wiseman

23rd Anne Gaines

30th Lizbeth Eason and Janice Sellars

SOUND SYSTEM

DW/MC

DB/GC

WD/MC

DW/MC

DB/GC

ROTAS FOR JULY

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 14th

COMMUNION ELDERS: John and Richard

DUTY ELDER

7th Barbara Waite
14th Chris Brown
21st Richard Mallory
28th John Wiseman

READING IN CHURCH

Barbara Waite
Pat Weaver
Andrea Best
David Best

STEWARDS

7th Janice Perkins
14th Liz Griffiths
21st Andrea Best
28th Pat Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM

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



The United
Reformed Church
BOOKSHOP

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)

Live-in care

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when you
need it



Our live-in caregivers provide not only **support with activities of daily living** but also companionship, which can help **combat loneliness and isolation.**

Live-in care can provide peace of mind for family members who may worry about their loved ones living alone. Knowing that a trained caregiver is there to aid and support can be comforting and reassuring.

Live-in care can be more flexible than other types of care arrangements, allowing clients to maintain their independence while still receiving the support they need.

If you don't require live-in care but do need **some extra help**, we may be able to provide high-quality domiciliary care in your home. Contact us to find out more.

Find out more by visiting
OakhavenCare.co.uk

or call us for a chat on
01590 646 440



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Maisy



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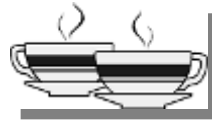


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If you wish to advertise in The Open Door magazine (6 issues per year), please contact the Lymington URC for more details. Competitive rates, both mono and colour adverts accommodated in quarter, half and full page sizes!"



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

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

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