

THE OPEN DOOR

The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church



The Rakaia River, New Zealand, see Postcard inside.

**APRIL/
MAY 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,

As I write this message to you, I am looking out of the manse window at the gloom and the rain. It feels like it hasn't stopped raining since 2023!

With the current economic climate and the fighting going on across the world, it feels pretty gloomy right now, something I think we reflected on in our Lent Course this year as we explored the Exile and the context that Jesus found himself in 2000 years ago.

Of course, as we reflect on the last few days of Holy Week, we can see how that climate and context led to the events on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and into Easter Sunday. A whole range of emotions and events, the tragic and devastating into surprise and wonder.

I imagine that the feeling of gloom we might be sharing right now is similar to that of the disciples as they experienced the news that Jesus shared of His betrayal, and then the reality of the arrest and the events that followed. But of course, whilst in that gloom they would have had no idea of the surprise and wonder they would have felt on the discovery that the tomb was empty, and Christ had risen.

Perhaps as we reflect on the events of the last few days and move forward towards hopefully sunnier and less rainy times,

we can latch on to that hope and positivity that the resurrection offers us.

It is easy to stay “in the gloom” – of course we cannot see the future, but how many times in the past have you felt lost, worried or confused, only to look back later and see where God was working to bring you into the light and positivity that only God offers.

So, as we look back over Easter, and move forwards into the rest of 2024, I hope that you can feel some of that wonder and excitement that comes when we remember to keep our focus on God.

Every Blessing

Rev. Paul

SECRETARY’S BITS AND PIECES FOR APRIL/MAY 2024

It’s April already and we’re now a quarter of the way through 2024 – where has the year gone! The gardens are looking colourful, with both daffodils and tulips brightening them. Easter was much earlier this year and by the time you read this, it will have probably happened, but as I write, it hasn’t. All the arrangements for our special services are in place and I hope you managed to attend at least one, if not all, of them.

Our next Church meeting is after the service and a bring your own lunch on Sunday 21st April. Do please try to come along – this is the opportunity to have your say. A reminder that our ACM this year will be on Tuesday 9th July at 7.00 pm.

As we go into spring, keep an eye open for the events that our fundraising and fellowship team is organising – fellowship breakfast before morning service on April 7th, United Warblers concert and cream tea on Friday 19th April and a forecourt table sale on Saturday 27th April. Hopefully, we'll be able to once again open our Garden Café sometime in early May.

I can hear groans from our Saturday coffee teams, but please note that there will be NO forecourt parking from Saturday 4th May because of the normal summer sales.

On Sunday 5th May, we'll be welcoming our newly inducted Moderator, Rev Dr Michael Hopkins, to lead worship. Let's hope many of us will be able to attend and give him the Lymington welcome!

Lymington Open Gardens will be happening again this year, on Sunday, May 26th. Our own beautiful Church garden will be a part of this event, so come along and support our gardeners. Let's hope we get a long, warm summer, to enable us to make full use of this amazing facility.

A big 'thank you' to all who do so much in so many ways to make our Church a place of worship, outreach and friendship. May God's blessing surround us each day, as we trust Him and walk in His way. May His presence within guard and keep us from sin, may we go in peace, go in joy and go in love.

Margaret

LYMINGTON URC DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS:

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

WORSHIP:

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

APRIL

- 7th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 14th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 21st: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mr Tim Cosby
- 28th: 10.00 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Maggie Larkin

MAY

- 5th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Dr Michael Hopkins
- 12th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 19th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mr Tony Bennett
- 26th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee

CLOSING DATE FOR JUNE/JULY 'OPEN DOOR': 16th MAY 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

THE WOODPECKER

If you ever watched a man with a road drill breaking up the road, you will have noticed that the point of the drill was banging at the road surface very fast, gradually chipping away at the tarmac. If the man using the drill was to rest his head on the top of the drill whilst he was using it, he would not last very long, for his brain could not stand the vibration.

Did you know that the woodpecker uses its bill like a road drill? It hammers away at trees at the rate of 8 or 10 beats a second! It can make holes in the hardest wood - even in concrete, yet it does all this without damaging its brain. How is this possible?

The woodpecker survives this head-bashing because its head is designed in a very special way. Just as motor cars have shock-absorbers between the wheels and the car body, so that the car itself does not get shaken to pieces over rough roads, the woodpecker, too, has its own shock-absorber.

In most birds, the bones of the bill are joined to the bones of



the cranium - the part of the skull that surrounds the brain - but in the woodpecker, the cranium and bill are separated by a sponge-like tissue that takes the shock each time it strikes its bill against a tree. The woodpecker's shock-absorber is so good that scientists say it is far better than any that man has invented, and they may be able to learn how to make better shock-absorbers by

studying the way the woodpecker's head and bill are designed.

Actually, the woodpecker has another specially designed feature which gives added protection to its brain. It has special muscles which pull its brain case away from its bill every time it strikes a blow!

The woodpecker's design presents a great problem to those who believe in Evolution, for how could the woodpecker possibly have evolved its special shock-absorbers? If it had started out without them, then all the woodpeckers that were alive would have beaten out their brains long ago - and there would be no woodpeckers left in the world now! And if there had ever been a time when woodpeckers did NOT drill holes in trees, they would not have needed the shock-absorbers anyway!

The woodpecker must have had its special design right from the start, and this means it must have been created; it could NOT have come by Evolution. God designed woodpeckers to drill holes in trees. He knew that they would need their heads specially designed if they were to survive this continual head-bashing, so He provided them with these wonderful shock-absorbers. God made them like that in the very beginning. So next time you hear a woodpecker drumming away at a tree trunk, imagine it is drumming out 'God made me this way'

By Geoff Chapman, via Richard Mallory and the late Fran Cooke

A Postcard from New Zealand (and Australia)

Where to start? The last few weeks have flown by, and I have had so many and varied experiences during my recent antipodean visit. It all came about thanks to my sister Dee and her husband Gerald, who generously invited me to stay at their sheep station near the Southern Alps, which also gave me the opportunity to visit some friends who I had not seen for several years.

After the long flight from UK, my first visit was to

friends in Napier on the East Coast of the North Island. Napier is a very attractive city, which was destroyed in a devastating earthquake in the 1930's but was rebuilt in the Art Deco style. My friends showed me round the city but also showed me the destruction caused locally by Cyclone Gabriel the previous year. New Zealand is one of the most beautiful countries in the world, but unfortunately it is also subject to natural disasters.



After a very special couple of days, I flew south to Christchurch where I was met by my nephew William and driven west towards the aptly

named Windwhistle, where my sister and her family live. My view the following morning was the magnificent sight of Mount Hutt glowing red in the sunrise. The next few weeks seemed to flash by all too quickly as I was able to experience a bit of the farming activity. Gerald drives an all-terrain Polaris vehicle with 3 or 4 farm dogs in the back for rounding up the sheep for sheering, which I later watched take place inside the farm buildings. I tried to help sweep up the fleeces and stow them in a giant bag but am not sure that I was much good!



On the first Sunday, my sister drove to Hororata,

the nearest village about 20 kilometres away, to worship in a delightful little wooden building as the old traditional stone Church had been destroyed in 2010 in an earthquake that preceded the even more destructive Christchurch earthquake the following year. After the Service we joined several friends for lunch at the quirky but excellent Hororata Café.



Other

experiences included a short flight in Gerald's small plane, which he keeps in a shed and only flies when the conditions are appropriate. Then a friend took us for a jet boat ride up the Rakaia river and we all ended up sharing supper at his

batch by the river. We also had an expedition to Akaroa on the coast where we took a boat trip to see the tiny Hector's Dolphins, Little Blue Penguins and Seals in calm conditions and sparkling sunshine.



Another friend drove me to Christchurch, where it was good to see how the city is recovering from the 2011 earthquake. Altogether it was a wonderful time and it was especially good to spend so much time with my sister Dee.



*Then, in complete contrast, on the way home I spent a couple of days in Sydney, visiting an old college friend Liz. We went for a boat trip round the famous harbour but the highlight was when Liz took me to see *The Magic Flute* at the Sydney Opera House; a truly magical experience.*

So, after a long and tiring journey, it is good to be home again with so many experiences to look back on from my visit "Down Under!"

Mary Ann

PALM SUNDAY

I was fortunate to be able to watch the live streamed Service on 24th March 2024. I don't know about any of you who attended the service or watched it on YouTube, I found that it was truly an inspired service. It was obvious that there had been much thought and prayer put in. It was obvious that all that Pete spoke about was inspired by the Holy Spirit, as we're the prayers written by Dave Best.

The congregational singing sounded amazing. Why? Because everyone sat together as opposed to being spread out. Could this be something that many of our churches with smaller congregations could learn from in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank Pat Weaver who wrote a beautiful meditation about Palm Sunday which certainly gave us much to think about. (See below).

Thank you to the members of our Worship Group who had the courage to lead our worship, and speak from the heart, as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Praise the Lord!

Chris Brown

Passion

Jerusalem lies on the hill, centre of faith and hope.
We are walking with the crowd to the great festival
Of release. We are happy, joyful, singing.
We have found our teacher, healer, wonder-worker.
He is riding with us, Jesus, mounted on a colt,
As the prophet said.
We sing praise to God and wave fresh greenery
In joy. We lay our cloaks on the road:
His foot will not dash against a stone.

But another day is coming, another crowd:
Grumbling and disgruntled, led by another authority,
Singing to another tune, shouting for blood,
Saving another life.
Where will we be standing? Have we fallen silent?
Is this the love He spoke of? He told us He was the Way,
The Truth, the Life. But we are tongue-tied.
Can we live His way of living, his sacrifice?
Do we speak his only truth, not following faction or fashion?
Can we love the suffering world and still find peace and joy?

The risen Jesus walks with us this day and every day.
He can release us from despair with His patience and His love.
We can show our King's sacrifice and make it our own,
Rising forever, encountering only His love.

Pat Weaver
March 2024

Warblers' Afternoon Tea

Friday 19th April 2.30pm

Join us from 2.30pm for a cream tea with entertainment provided by The Warblers' Singing group. It's sure to be a fun afternoon with good company. Please sign your name up on the list in the hall or let one of the F & F Team know you are coming.





The Fellowship and Fundraising Team have been busy coming up with ideas for the coming months. Put these dates in your diary!



Sunday 7th April: Fellowship Breakfast. 9-10am

Prepared and served by the men from our MerriMENT group, everyone is invited to share breakfast before the morning service. Details to follow.

Friday 19th April: Warblers' Afternoon Tea: 2.30pm

This much-loved event returns for the first time this year. See previous page.

Saturday 27th April: Table Sale



Weather permitting, we will be holding a Table Sale on the fore-court selling good quality bric- a- brac etc.

Tuesday 9th July: Garden BBQ. 5-7pm

Come and enjoy our Summer Garden BBQ! Enjoy our beautiful garden and the company of friends before attending our Annual Church Meeting at 7pm.



Thank you for continuing to support our events. We hope you enjoy them!

Love from

The F & F Team

Fellowship Breakfast

Join us before the service on
Sunday 7th April 9-10am



You are invited to share in breakfast before the morning service. Tea/ coffee with sausage or bacon rolls will be served by men from our MerriMENT group. See Dave or Pete for more details. Everyone is welcome!

Table Top Sale

Saturday 27th April

Weather permitting, we will be holding a Table Sale on the church forecourt selling good-quality bric-a-brac etc. Come along and support us!



ROTAS FOR APRIL

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 7th

COMMUNION ELDERS: John and Richard

DUTY ELDER

7th Margaret Clark
14th Richard Mallory
21st John Wiseman
28th Dave Best

READING IN CHURCH

Andrea Best
Shelagh Richardson
Wyn Davies
Judith Baker

STEWARDS

7th Pat Weaver
14th Anne Simmons
21st Gill Wiseman
28th Peter Middleton

SOUND SYSTEM

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

ROTAS FOR MAY

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 12th

COMMUNION ELDERS: Barbara and David

DUTY ELDER

5th Margaret Clark

12th David Bywater

19th Barbara Waite

26th Dave Best

READING IN CHURCH

Peter Richardson

Pat Weaver

David Best

Kate Noon

STEWARDS

5th Anne Gaines

12th Judith Baker

19th Lizbeth Eason and Janice Sellars

26th Janice Perkins

SOUND SYSTEM

WD/MC

DW/MC

DB/GC

WD/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)

Live-in care

there for you
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



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.

Maisy



Happy Friendly Local Cleaner

Happy to help whether cleaning or caring,
daytimes including evenings and at weekends

References always available
Please phone to book a cleaning appointment

Mobile 07361 616301

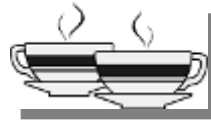


Photography & Design

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!"



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

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: <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

Charity No: 115017