

THE OPEN DOOR

The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church



The New Forest, see article inside.

**OCTOBER/
NOVEMBER 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,

At a meeting recently we celebrated finishing at 5:50pm – and before it was dark too! The reality was that with the rain and clouds the evening was already fully beginning, and someone pointed out how the clocks will change in just a few weeks.

As we approach this time of year, where the weather is less bright, and the hours of sunlight decrease it can be easy to be absorbed by the darkness that the change in our seasons offers us.

But we should always remember that this cycle of light and dark is part of the world that was created for us, it is how the world is meant to be and for us in the south of England, the pattern of the seasons offers us a chance to see and appreciate that.

Parts of Alaska and Lapland can have days without the sun setting at all, leading to increased cases of insomnia and mental health concerns. The balance with the dark, which we need for our brains to detect that it is a good time to sleep, just is not there, further highlighting how important it is for us to embrace the changes around us in the world, remembering that they impact more than ourselves too.

This light and dark is a physical reminder of the light and dark we encounter in our faith lives.

Sometimes it is the darkness we encounter when challenged by events out of our control. But without those times to reflect on we may not appreciate the light times as much as we should. The same can be said for the darkness of temptation, those moments where we want to embrace the worldly options around us instead of the Godly ones, we know we should take.

So as we head towards Autumn and Winter, lets take heart that this is part of the world that God created, and we should hold on in faith to the changes that take place and embrace them. God offers us so much, but not a hedonistic world where everything is perfect – we might be trying to head for that Kingdom, but we are not there yet!

Blessings

Paul

SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER 2024

It's now officially autumn and we have the weather to prove it! After a summer of very mixed weather, it is now decidedly cold and wet and by the time you read this our lovely Garden cafe will be closed for the season and we'll be welcoming people back into the Open Door Café. We opened the Garden Café at the beginning of May and in spite of the mixed weather, have welcomed many appreciative visitors.

At the extra-ordinary Church meeting on 11th August to discuss the future deployment of ministers in the Wessex Synod,

Church members agreed in principle to the idea of forming 'clusters' with other Churches in the area. At the time of writing, no firm proposal has been received from Synod.

A reminder that the prayer group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9.15 in the sanctuary. Do please come along for a time of quiet and prayer away from the busyness of daily lives and don't forget that the United Warblers meet on alternate Mondays at 10.00 am in the hall.

Our harvest service this year will have be on September 29th, led by Mr Tony Bennet and all items donated will be given for the work of the Basics Bank.

Our very own United Warblers, are entertaining us on Friday October 18th 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 5th 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.

Our service for Remembrance Sunday, November 10th at 10.30 will be led by Rev Paul O'Connor. There will be the usual rolling road closure in the High Street for the annual parade.

Friday 29th 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. Amongst this, the Town Band will be playing on our forecourt. As we go forward, may we continue to do what we can, however big or small, to make our Church a welcoming and friendly place to worship.

Margaret

LYMINGTON URC DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS:

The Open Door 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.

OCTOBER

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------|---|
| 6 th : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship including communion
led by Rev'd Martin Ambler |
| 13 th : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor |
| 20 th : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Mrs Maggie Larkin |
| 27 th : | 10.00 a.m. | Worship led by Mr Gerwyn Davies |

NOVEMBER

- 3rd: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 10th: 10.30 a.m. Worship for Remembrance Sunday
with communion, led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 17th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee
- 24th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mr Tony Bennet

CLOSING DATE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY 'OPEN DOOR': 18th NOVEMBER 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

A year ago last August Sylvia Mallory was due for a right hip replacement which was cancelled at the last minute as she was “not fit for purpose”.

She has received so many kind thoughts and enquiries that she wishes to say a very sincere thank-you to all for your many enquiries and prayers.

God Bless, Richard

FRESH FROM THE WORD 2025

I shall shortly be ordering copies of “Fresh from the Word 2025” for anybody who would like to read these excellent daily Bible Reading notes, which cost £13.99.

“Fresh from The Word” gives global perspectives on carefully selected passages from the Bible. The writers include theologians, biblical scholars, church leaders and activists for peace from across the world, all of whom share a passion to bring the Bible into conversation with day-to-day concerns.

Please telephone me on 01590 670785 or 0774 8762 666 if you would like to order a copy. Alternatively, you can email me on maryann.plovers@gmail.com

Mary Ann

A TALE OF TWO FORESTS

I was brought up in the Forest of Dean, the other Royal forest, between the Wye and the Severn in Gloucestershire, but now live on the Southern edge of the New Forest.

Both the Dean and the New Forest were important in building Nelson’s “wooden walls of England”, indeed if pressed I could probably quote the number of loads of oak for a given ship! In the end even our forests were insufficient and we had to import, first from the Baltic and then North America, at least

until Admiral Collingwood's pockets full of acorns finally matured.

While this means that both forests were essentially broadleaf hardwoods, there the similarity ends. The Dean was an almost continuous forest, what gaps there were, apart from the odd farm, were filled with softwood plantations intended as pit props for the many local collieries, Free Miners being to Dean what Commoners are to New, although most traces of this industry, that goes back to pre-Roman times, have long since vanished.

When I was a child we could walk from the family home in Soudley for three hours in most directions without leaving the trees. That became our normal Sunday morning exercise while the roast cooked slowly in the Aga.



The village of Soudley, surrounded by the Forest of Dean

The New Forest was set up totally differently, with much open space for the King's hunt. To find a largish patch of forest now needs a car ride to somewhere like Wilverley, but not for nothing is there a Wilverley plain. The New Forest is dotted with these large open spaces, with names like plains or lawns and the small woods that put the Hurst in Brokenhurst and Lyndhurst for example. This is not to say that there aren't larger patches of broadleaf forest here, just that the coverage is never as dense as the Dean. As a result of this there is a different wild life too. It was not so long ago that deer were first spotted in the Dean. Rumour had it that they had swum across the Severn from the Quantocks, believe it or not. The latest addition are the wild boar, set free by some misguided animal rights group and now a fast breeding potential hazard to forest dwellers and tourists alike.

In the New Forest deer seem to have always been a fixture, but now there are five species acknowledged by the National Park, Fallow, Red, Roe, Muntjac and Sika. The latter two being introduced relatively recently, the Sika from Asia via Beaulieu estate and the Muntjac via Woburn Park. There is also a rumour that there are Wallabies around. And of course the only pigs are those released into the forest for the pannage, the acorn season.

We must not forget the ubiquitous New Forest Pony. I remember coming home one night sitting opposite a drunken Irishman in the carriage and he just couldn't believe the ponies running free seen from the train! Dean Forest would be much too dense for herds of ponies, although the local smallholders

did let their sheep run freely. Once a unique breed, the New Forest pony was deemed ideal for the learner rider, but the forest stock now includes a variety of breeds including Shetlands.



A typical New Forest Scene

So there we have a quick pen picture of two forests, much in common, but much different in many ways.

Wyn Davies

Note : Photos not the authors are from free sites on the internet.



Warblers' Afternoon Tea

Friday 18th October 2.30pm



Join us from 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
**United
Reformed
Church**

August Garden Party

It was a beautiful summer's day for our Garden Party on 16th August. It was an absolute delight to see so many people sitting down together enjoying each other's company. Thanks to Pete Middleton and Tony Kent for providing excellent musical entertainment and to members of our F & F team for a superb cream tea. We raised over £400 for church funds.




Fellowship Breakfast

Sharing breakfast together before the service on Sunday 1st September was a real treat! Thank you to members of our Merriment Group for cooking and serving some delicious food and to those who came for great company. We look forward to the next breakfast!



We raised £80 which was sent to Solent Mind- a charity providing advice and support to those with mental health problems in Hampshire.

 mind Solent



ROTAS FOR OCTOBER

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 6th

COMMUNION ELDERS: John and Margaret

DUTY ELDER

6th Chris Brown
13th Richard Mallory
20th John Wiseman
27th Dave Best

READING IN CHURCH

Richard Mallory
David Bywater
Wyn Davies
Pat Weaver

STEWARDS

6th Gill Wiseman
13th Anne Simmons
20th Peter Middleton
27th Anne Gains

SOUND SYSTEM

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

ROTAS FOR NOVEMBER

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 10th

COMMUNION ELDERS: David and Dave

DUTY ELDER

3rd Margaret Clark
10th David Bywater
17th Chris Brown
24th Richard Mallory

READING IN CHURCH

Keith Holmes
Margaret Clark
Ann Simmons
Pat Weaver

STEWARDS

3rd Judith Baker
10th Lizbeth Eason and Janice Sellars
17th Liz Griffiths
24th Kate Noon

SOUND SYSTEM

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



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

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

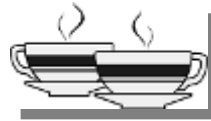


Photography & Design

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