

THE OPEN DOOR

The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church



Cologne Cathedral, see Postcard inside.

**AUGUST/
SEPTEMBER 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,

We have recently been building and establishing raised beds and are enjoying planting, growing and tending our range for vegetables and herbs. One bed is looking healthy and full of life, with glorious smells coming from the rosemary, oregano, curry plant and sage, with tall tomato plants and vibrant cabbages.

We have not really had to spend much time on this one, and since planting, a little plant food and occasional water (the rainy weather has helped out this year!) have succeeded in providing a great crop which we can now nip out and take the odd cutting of when cooking a meal and are looking forward to some yummy tomatoes in a few weeks.

Our other raised bed, however, has not been so successful. We are on runner beans round two, and a raspberry bush we planted has not made much progress. Whilst this is a little disappointing, we have not given up. We regularly research what to do to help them improve and spend more time on these plants pinching out or helping them grow upright with canes and support where we can.

So, on one hand it feels like we are putting a lot of effort

into something that is not getting the results we might expect, but on the other when we do get to sit down with a couple of raspberries or green beans, the work we have put in to grow them somehow makes them taste all the more delicious!

I think we can sometimes reflect on the things we do in our churches in the same way. Those activities that just seem to get very visible results, especially in terms of numbers perhaps, are successful – and we can be tempted to make sure we focus our energy on those projects as we know what the outcome will be.

But those activities that don't quite seem to attract enough people, or fluctuate in numbers, sometimes lead us to conclude that it isn't working or achieving what we wanted to achieve, leaving us disheartened.

In those cases, however, I think we sometimes miss the small changes we might make to people's lives – perhaps we don't appreciate where we can impact people in a positive way. And I wonder if, like the raspberries, we ever step back and feel positive that the work we put in for something that seemed challenging or difficult, has still rewarded us?

So perhaps it is also healthy for churches to step back and reflect in the same way. Those things that are like the herb bed, successful and self-sufficient could be managed in the

same way – with a little bit of focus and letting God take care of the rest.

And those activities that need more direction, like our vegetables, might, although it might take longer and more effort, produce fruit that we can share with each other, and those around us.

Blessings

Paul

SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER 2024

As I write this, we've just had two of the hottest days of the summer so far, but generally summer has been a bit of a wash out and our Garden Café has had to stay closed on several occasions. Let's hope summer makes a welcome appearance in August and September.

At our recent annual Church meeting, Barbara Waite stood down from our eldership, after completing a three year term. This left us with three vacancies to return to our ideal number of nine elders, but unfortunately there were no nominations on this occasion.

Our Centre Manager, Andrew Collins, who has been working off-site for much of the last two years, will be back working in the Church office, in the cottage, from the end of July - a very

welcome return. His working hours are Tuesday - Thursday 8.30 – 2.30 and Friday 8.30 – 1.30. Barry Dalton, our general maintenance/caretaker person, works just two mornings a week, Monday and Tuesday 8.30 – 1.30.

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 get the results they expect and require and our thoughts and prayers are with all young people as they move on to new classes, new schools or university.

We recently received a letter from the Synod Pastoral Committee, outlining plans of a proposal for discussion concerning the deployment of ministers in the South West area of the Wessex Synod. You should all have seen this letter and I ask that you read it carefully, as it affects us! There will an extra-ordinary Church meeting directly after service on Sunday, August 11th and we hope as many of you as possible will be able to attend - this will be your opportunity to have your say.

The Fellowship and Fundraising team is planning a garden party in the Church garden on Friday, August 16th, starting at 3.00 pm. Do come along and enjoy an afternoon tea in the surroundings of our lovely garden. Once again, we must thank the small, but happy band of gardeners for all their hard work in making the garden such a beautiful oasis of peace and tranquillity just off the High Street.

After the resounding success of the 'Fellowship Breakfast' back in April, there is to be another one, on Sunday, September 1st. Once again, our men will be 'in charge'! Something to look forward to.

Our harvest service is on September 29th this year. All donated goods will be given for the work of the Basics Bank.

Enjoy the coming summer months, whatever you're doing. If you're off on holiday, don't forget to take a photo for our magazine 'postcard from' slot.

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.

AUGUST

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------|--|
| 4 th : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship including communion
led by Rev'd Geoffrey Gleed |
| 11 th : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor |
| 18 th : | 10.30 a.m. | Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine |
| 25 th : | 10.00 a.m. | Worship led by Mr Sean Brown |

SEPTEMBER

- 1st: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by the worship group
- 8th: 10.30 a.m. Worship with communion
led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 15th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Thelma Roberts
- 22nd: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd David Newman
- 29th: 10.30 a.m. Worship for Harvest Festival
led by Mr Tony Bennet

**CLOSING DATE FOR OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 'OPEN
DOOR':
20th SEPTEMBER 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 Cologne

I recently spent a holiday in Cologne where my stepson Gavin lives in a village very close to The Rhine. We had a Day Cruise on the Rhine where you can see beautiful scenery. It is very hilly and there are several castles along the route (unfortunately it was raining and misty most of the time!). We caught a large Ferry from the village and had our lunch onboard.

After about 4 hours we stopped and spent an hour in a very lovely village called Unke. We also passed through the industrial area of Bonn. When I was at school I remember that Bonn was the capital of West Germany, of course since unification it is now Berlin. Apart from Bonn, there are many villages but only one bridge so there are lots of small ferries which cross the river. These are

well used by cyclists and pedestrians. We had a good look around the village and had cake with cream which seems to be compulsory in Germany!



Cologne itself is a very busy and clean city dominated by the Gothic Cathedral with its very tall towers. There is a very good transport system there. Whilst in the area we used taxis, buses, underground, trams

and trains. Cologne was of course bombed during World War 2. The first stone of the Cathedral was laid in 1248 and although it looks finished, apparently there is still work to do for the complete restoration. I liked the Cathedral as unlike other Catholic cathedrals it was not ornate and the stain glass windows were magnificent. The remains of The Three Wise Men!! are contained in a large golden casket (well supposedly the remains but this is questionable).

Gavin was an excellent guide and took me to several churches. The most interesting was the Church of The Madonna which was restored after WW2 and rebuilt inside the ruins of the original church and surrounded by a concrete wall.

We went to the original shop where Johann

Maria Farina invented Eau De Cologne and the number 4711 which is on the merchandise is actually the number of the shop and still is. We also went to a Cello Recital given by a young Italian musician. It was in a Chapel which was part of a Convent (it is now houses) but the Chapel has become an Arts Centre. We visited the oldest café in Cologne "Café Relchard" where we again enjoyed cake and cream!!

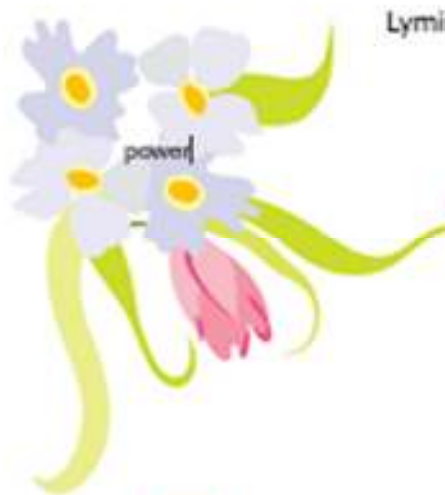
I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in the Cologne area and would recommend a visit.

Ann Simmons



The
**United
Reformed
Church**

Lymington United Reformed Church



Friday
16th August
3pm



Garden Party



with
Afternoon Tea

Live music



£10 Sign up in the hall or
call Andrea 07840824172

July BBQ



John Wiseman- what an excellent pitmaster – our chef par excellence!



Despite inclement weather, everyone who came to our BBQ before the Annual Church Meeting had a smashing time. We had good food and even better company! Thank you to all who helped in any way. Here's hoping we can repeat it next year - but maybe with a little sunshine too so we can use the garden!



Join us for a Fellowship Breakfast Sunday 1st September. Food cooked and served by the men. All welcome before the service!

The Warblers' Singing Group will be entertaining us again over a delicious cream tea- Friday 18th October 2.30pm. Details nearer the date.



Cream Tea

ROTAS FOR AUGUST

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 4th

COMMUNION ELDERS: Margaret and David

DUTY ELDER

READING IN CHURCH

4th Dave Best

Ann Simmons

11th Margaret Clark

Margaret Clark

18th David Bywater

John Wiseman

25th Chris Brown

Wyn Davies

STEWARDS

SOUND SYSTEM

4th Pat Weaver

DW/MC

11th Gill Wiseman

DB/GC

18th Anne Gaines

WD/MC

25th Lizbeth Eason and Janice Sellars

DW/MC

ROTAS FOR SEPTEMBER

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 8th

COMMUNION ELDERS: Richard and Dave

DUTY ELDER

1st Richard Mallory

8th John Wiseman

15th Dave Best

22nd Margaret Clark

29th David Bywater

READING IN CHURCH

Barbara Waite

Keith Holmes

Lizbeth Eason

Richard Mallory

Pat Weaver

STEWARDS

1st Andrea Best

8th Janice Perkins

16th Liz Griffiths

22nd Andrea Best

29th Pat Weaver

SOUND SYSTEM

DB/GC

WD/MC

DW/MC

DB/GC

WD/MC



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Reformed Church
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(Other 'Jubilee' items available)

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when you
need it



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or call us for a chat on
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Maisy



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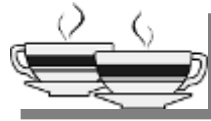


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If you wish to advertise in The Open Door magazine (6 issues per year), please contact the Lymington URC for more details. Competitive rates, both mono and colour adverts accommodated in quarter, half and full page sizes!"



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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<http://www.findachurch.co.uk>

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