

# **THE OPEN DOOR**

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



**The New Forest in Winter.**

**DECEMBER/  
JANUARY 2025**

## **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,

How quickly has this year happened? I don't know about you, but for me it feels like I only just packed away the decorations – and yes, they were down and in the loft before Epiphany!

Of course, the response many would offer here is that it is because the Christmas decorations and gifts have been available in the shops for weeks already, and this is true, there were Christmas gifts (and tubs of chocolates) on the shelves before even the fireworks for Guy Fawkes Night were available.

A usual response is that this is getting earlier and earlier each year, and whilst this is true, I am not sure if this is actually all that bad. Whilst the commercial element is not really the Christian message of Christmas, the presence of the word "Christmas" is more and more available to people who won't hear or see this word in an ever-growing secular world. And we might be tempted to distance ourselves from it all, and quietly mention in our churches what we really think Christmas should be about – but what does that achieve?

As I have travelled around the world, it is clear that all faith celebrations receive the same attention in their spiritual context, whether it was Eid in Malaysia, Diwali in India, or even Christmas in Japan! Each of these festivals is offered

culturally, but at their heart is a faith celebration that encourages all to think about what is being celebrated and why.

Perhaps as Christians we can recognise that the dialogue has already started – Christmas is everywhere – and the temptation to shut down the conversation by reminding people that they are getting it wrong is sometimes far too easy to be drawn into. Another way to look at it is that actually, people are having a HUGE celebration that is rooted in a festival that is really important to us, the birth of our saviour, Jesus, who came as a light in the darkness, and a gentle reminder that we celebrate it because of what this means to us might encourage them to see this the same way?

Blessings

Paul

## **SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025**

Well, here we are again, at the end of another year. Where has the past year gone? By the time you read this, the Christmas tree, that the Rotary Club kindly provides us with each year, will have been erected, the Nativity scene in place in the Church foyer and the Christmas tree that stands on the dais will have been decorated.

Lymington Town Band invites us to celebrate the festive season with a Christmas Concert in our Church on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 2.00 pm. Our own 'Carols by Candlelight' service is in Church on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

The carol service, led by the Worship Group, starts at 4.00 pm but coffee/tea and mince pies will be served in the hall from 3.00, prior to the service.

Our service to celebrate Christ's birth, on Christmas morning, will be led by Mrs Chris Brown, starting at 10.00am. We are very grateful to her for giving up part of her Christmas celebrations to lead us in worship on this very important day.

The thorny issue of parking on the Church forecourt reared its head once again back in our April Church meeting. After some discussion between the Finance and Property committee and the Elders a set of guidelines have been drawn up, that you'll find elsewhere in this magazine. Unfortunately, there is not enough parking to please all of the people all of the time, but we just ask that you are considerate for the needs and safety of others.

The first social event of 2025 takes place on Sunday January 5th after service. This will be a lunch – Andrea will be sending out details about this as soon as it has been finalised, but please put the date in your new diaries!

The next Church meeting is on January 12<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed at last Church meeting that the three Sunday Church meetings in the year, January, April and October, would, in future, be held on the second Sundays of these months. This makes sense as Paul preaches on these days and it will save him a journey to Lymington on an additional Sunday. We are aware that these are the Sundays that the Salvation Army uses our premises, so

in future our Church meetings will commence almost immediately after the service, with no lunch.

The week of prayer for Christian Unity 2025 is from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Christians Together in Lyminster and Pennington is arranging a special event for this. We'll let you know as soon as we have the final details.

I'm sure I'm not the only one who can't believe that we are at the end of another year. Thank you for all you do to keep our Church the warm and welcoming place it is and for all your support during 2024. A very happy & blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year to you all.

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.

**CLOSING DATE FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH 'OPEN DOOR':  
17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025**

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!

## **DECEMBER**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship including communion  
led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 8<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 15<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown  
4.00 p.m. Candlelit Carol Service
- 25<sup>th</sup>: 10.00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship  
led by Mrs Christine Brown
- 29<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee

## **JANUARY**

- 5<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown
- 12<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship including communion  
led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 19<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 26<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee

## LLANDUDNO

This is a photo of the lovely Llandudno Methodist church where some of us were able to enjoy a wonderful evening from the Llandudno Male Voice Choir together with a guest lady soloist.



I wonder if you know the reason there was a goat at the front of the church and whether you can guess what it was made from. We estimate it was almost life size!

Having previously enjoyed a similar concert on an earlier visit we knew there would be some audience participation. Cymm Rhonda was a wonderful experience with about 150 in the audience. John had us well prepared learning the words of the



Welsh National anthem was fun (but tricky)! You really don't want us singing it for you....

A highlight for me was the choir producing a huge Ukrainian flag and singing "You'll never walk alone" in solidarity with Ukraine. Very moving.

All in all a great week of fun and friendship.

Shelagh and Peter

PS. The goat was made from LEGO for a recent exhibition in the church. The goats roam freely on the Orme and even visit 'our' garden from time to time.

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

I have been extremely grateful for all the prayers that have been offered and the messages of goodwill that have been passed on to me via Judith following my cancer treatment. I am pleased that treatment is now complete, though the side effects may last some time yet.

I regret that Judith has been absent from you for many of her duties, but have been truly blessed to have her support during this challenging period.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy 2025?

Jane Banwell ( Judith Baker's sister)

# **LYMINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**

## **Guidelines Governing Forecourt Parking**

***NB: these guidelines have been set down in recognition of the Church's Health and Safety obligations, its Fire policy and to ensure a clear access for emergency services.***

### **1. Parking Spaces**

The Church Forecourt has five designated car parking spaces, three on the east side adjacent to the wall of Elliot's, and two on the west side parallel to the Old Manse fence, as marked (See Over)

Two of the five are permanently allocated, one for the Minister and the other for a Disabled Driver i.e. a Blue-badge holder that is to be displayed at all times.

An additional Parking space is also allocated for one Mobility vehicle adjacent to the front north wall of the church adjacent to the east side car parking spaces.

Due to the limited number of spaces, parking is restricted to Church Members, associates, volunteers and premises hirers actively engaged on Church duties or hire events.

The minister allocated parking space shall remain vacant at all times unless prior approval has been obtained from the Centre Manager or the Church Secretary.

### **2. Weekdays (Monday to Friday)**

Lymington URC Parking Permits for specific day(s) will be issued by the Centre Manager to Church group leaders for a set number of people whilst engaged in the Open Door Cafe or gardening duties plus hire groups.

Cars should not be left for personal shopping purposes.

### **3. Saturday Parking**

During the Months of October to April parking is available specifically for the Saturday Coffee morning team and others on church duties. Restrictions on the Minister's parking space and the Disabled Drivers space should be observed (as para 1 above).

**Saturday Forecourt Car Boot Sales** (8.00am and 2.00pm); from the first Saturday in May until the last Saturday in September, forecourt parking is not available during that period.

### **4. Sunday Service Parking**

The five parking spaces are allocated on Sundays for the Minister/Preacher and the Organist, the remaining 3 space are reserved for Blue Badge disabled drivers only. Those on other Church duties are expected to park on the road or in the local carparks

Drivers dropping off a non-driving disabled person (who may have a blue badge) are asked [to park on the road or in the local carparks](#). (Currently Sunday parking on the High Street is free of charge).

### **5. General Conditions**

On days of Weddings, Funerals or special church events, parking is by prior arrangement via the Church Secretary.

The general public are not permitted to park in the forecourt at any time unless on specific church enquiry matters or business.

Car must not be parked in front of the Church main entrance glass doors at any time.

The practice of Chevron Parking is not permitted at any time.

Single seated mobility vehicles and bicycles may be parked at the rear of the church hall clear of the fire escape. Vehicles of

any description must not be parked or left in the church east side walkaway at any time.

All users of the forecourt carpark shall avoid damage to the grass areas, kerb stones, the gates and other cars when manoeuvring their vehicles on entering or leaving the carpark.

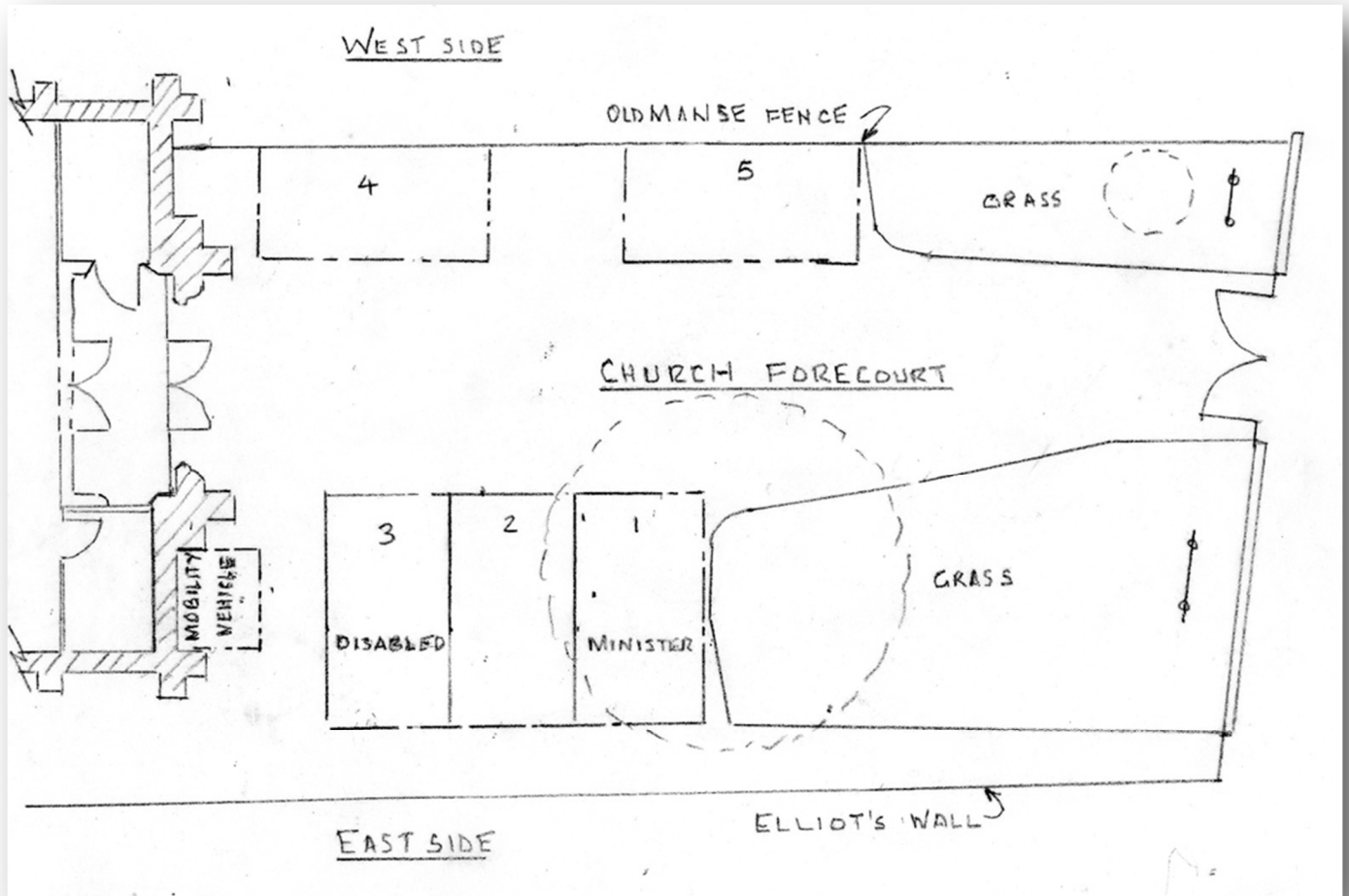
Cars parked on the church premises are left entirely at the owner's risk.

The church will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to vehicles or loss, or damage caused by a driver to another vehicle whatsoever.

The last car driver to leave the forecourt carpark on any day shall close the church gates.

Lymington URC Church Elders

Nov 2024



# MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Well done to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning last month. We had a great morning enjoying some very tasty cakes! A fantastic £270 was raised and sent to the charity. We hope to repeat the event next year! Thank you.

*Pete & Dave*





**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

# **New Year Lunch**

*Celebrate the New Year with a*

## ***Buffet Lunch***

*to include a selection of cold meats, quiche, salad and a delicious dessert*

*Join us after the Morning Service*

*Look out for the sign up sheet in the hall or speak to one of our F & F Team*



## **Warblers' Afternoon Tea**

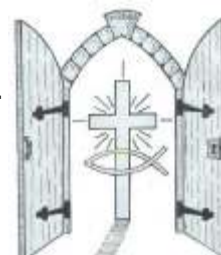
Thank you to The United Warblers Singing group for providing fantastic entertainment at our Afternoon Tea in October. Everyone had a superb afternoon listening to the music and enjoying a cream tea. We raised £330 towards church funds too.





## Weekday Open Door Cafe

Since September, we've continued to run our Open Door Cafe on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Thanks to our small, dedicated team of volunteers and cake makers many visitors have enjoyed our hospitality. We offer a warm welcome to all and are grateful for our regular customers.



### We are recommitting to Fairtrade!



Fairtrade is an international movement with a vision of a world in which all producers enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods and fulfil their potential. It works with farmers and workers across 68 countries, so they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses, and protect our shared environment.

So much has been achieved since the first Fairtrade products arrived in the UK in 1994 but there is still more to do and the values of justice in trade need to be in the front of our minds as much as ever. With this in mind, we are recommitting to supporting a fairer trading system that values people and planet and have pledged to undertake some simple actions. Our weekday café uses Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar and we have now added Fairtrade fruit and herbal teas to our range too.

Dave Best

## **ROTAS FOR DECEMBER**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY: 1<sup>st</sup>**

**COMMUNION ELDERS:** John and Margaret

### **DUTY ELDER**

1<sup>st</sup> John Wiseman  
8<sup>th</sup> Dave Best  
15<sup>th</sup> Margaret Clark  
22<sup>nd</sup> David Bywater  
29<sup>th</sup> Chris Brown

### **READING IN CHURCH**

John Wiseman  
Wyn Davies  
Margaret Clark  
Richard Mallory  
David Newman

### **STEWARDS**

1<sup>st</sup>: Liz Griffiths  
8<sup>th</sup> Barbara Waite  
15<sup>th</sup> Andrea Best  
22<sup>nd</sup> Brenda Nevard  
29<sup>th</sup> Anne Simmonds

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

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



## **ROTAS FOR JANUARY**

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

**COMMUNION ELDERS:** David and Dave

### **DUTY ELDER**

5<sup>th</sup> Richard Mallory

12<sup>th</sup> John Wiseman

19<sup>th</sup> Dave Best

26<sup>th</sup> Margaret Clark

### **READING IN CHURCH**

Andrea Best

Lizbeth Eason

Chris Brown

Dave Best

### **STEWARDS**

5<sup>th</sup> Judith Baker

12<sup>th</sup> Lizbeth Eason and Janice Sellars

19<sup>th</sup> Liz Griffiths

26<sup>th</sup> Kate Noon

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

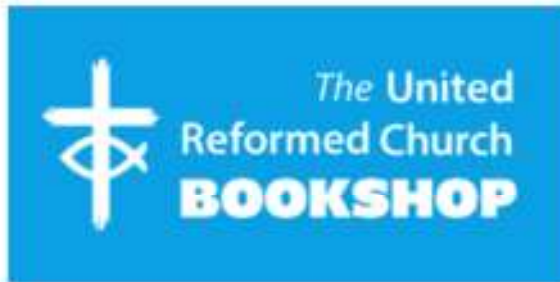
DB/GC

WD/MC

DW/MC

DB/GC





Please order online using the URC Bookshop's new easy-to-use website [www.urcshop.co.uk](http://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)*

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**



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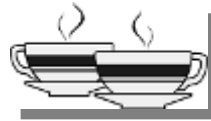


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If you wish to advertise in The Open Door magazine (6 issues per year), please contact the Lymington URC for more details. Competitive rates, both mono and colour adverts accommodated in quarter, half and full page sizes!"



**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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e-mail: [adminurclym@btinternet.com](mailto:adminurclym@btinternet.com)

Other web sites that list the church:

<http://www.joinmychurch.com>

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

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

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[adminurclym@btinternet.com](mailto:adminurclym@btinternet.com)

Basics Bank web site:  
<http://www.basicsbank.org.uk/>  
Tel 01590 610008  
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