

THE OPEN DOOR

The Magazine of the Lymington United Reformed Church



A little church on the road to Compostela

**FEBRUARY /
MARCH 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,

As we look forward to a new year, key Christian events might seem quite far off. Easter is later this year which of course means we have a longer than usual wait for Lent, and then Pentecost and the Ascension are then pushed out even further. Of course, as a non-conformist denomination we are not tied to these dates, and it has been known for URC churches to only celebrate Easter and Christmas, the other Holy Days being ignored.

But there is something about following a pattern of worship over the year that reaches key points of focus and reflection that enable us to really take stock of our faith and reflect deeply on Jesus' ministry, our faith through Christ, and where the Holy Spirit might be taking us personally, or even corporately in our church communities.

Advent and Lent are just such periods. There is sometimes a tendency in Advent to bring Christmas a little early – which takes the place of the opportunity to reflect on waiting and what the future coming of Christ might feel like. Likewise with Lent, sometimes we know about the traditions and give things up (or take things up as is a more recent trend), but do we really enter Lent as Jesus did – forty days of reflection on our faith and where God wants us to be?

Of course, we have a few weeks now until we reach the start of Lent in March, but as we approach perhaps this is an opportunity to pray and discern where God wants us to be – and to enter into the period of Lent doing just that?

I am always available to talk through this if you wish – perhaps some time reflecting together on what this might mean would be useful?

Either way, as we move into a new year, I hope that you find the opportunity to really explore where your faith might be, and where God might take you!

Blessings

Paul

SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR FEBRUARY/ MARCH 2025

May I wish you all a belated 'Happy New Year' and hope you all had a very happy and peaceful Christmas? Both are probably a long and distant memory now! February possibly isn't a favourite month, but its short and daylight hours are starting to get longer – we can look forward to spring. The daffodils are appearing in our gardens.

We have a chance to get our breath back, as these months are much quieter after all the hustle and bustle of December. Our carol service was again a resounding success, with 70 – 80

coming along. This service was led by the Worship Group and included readings by people outside of our own Church family, some who have never done anything similar before. The service was so well received that we've already booked this year's – put it in your diary, Sunday 21st December, same time same place.

Thanks to all who signed the 'big' Christmas card and made a donation to charity for the privilege. We were able to make charitable donations of £85 to both Open Sight (Hampshire) and Prostate Cancer UK as a result of this. From the retiring collection at the carol service, we were able to send an amazing £250 to Oakhaven Hospice. Thank you so much for your generosity in these challenging times – all three charities who received money were very grateful.

A select group enjoyed our celebration New Year lunch at the beginning of January on what was one of the wettest, windiest Sundays we'd had for a while. It was a really enjoyable occasion, with a lovely meal provided by the Fellowship and Fundraising team and entertainment from Pete and Elaine.

When you next come into Church, you will notice the slightly different layout of the chairs. The curved layout of the chairs for the Christmas service had attracted much favourable comment, it was felt to be more welcoming and makes it easier for the people sitting on the left side of the Church to see the projected images. At our recent Church meeting it was agreed to trial this configuration.

Many of you will know that we had heating problems over Christmas into the New Year. It has been fixed for the time being but it is realised that we are going to need to spend a lot of money on it this coming year.

Those of you who have read Andrew's report for the Church meeting will note that there are other things that we'll need to spend out on also. At the Church meeting we were all asked to think of ways we could raise money to cover what needs doing. Hire rates have been increased, as have the amount of hirings. As Church members, we were asked to think of ways we could raise extra money, including increasing our own giving.

It was recently brought to the attention of the elders that by our use of YouTube to stream our services we may well be breaching data protection rules. For the time being, until our policy can be amended, Christian names only will be used in our prayers and no mention made of ailments, so that people cannot be identified. You will also notice a cautionary note included on the projected service.

Easter is very late this year, Easter Sunday can be any time between March 22nd and April 25th. This year it happens to be on April 20th, so more about that in our next edition of the 'Open Door'. Hopefully it will be warmer and we can enjoy our forecourt service on Good Friday. But a reminder that British summer time starts on Sunday 30th March – the clocks will go FORWARD at 1.00 am on that date.

And finally....thanks to all of you who do so much to keep our lovely Church running and welcoming. Everything, whether large or small, is appreciated.

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 APRIL/MAY 'OPEN DOOR':
17th MARCH 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!

FEBRUARY

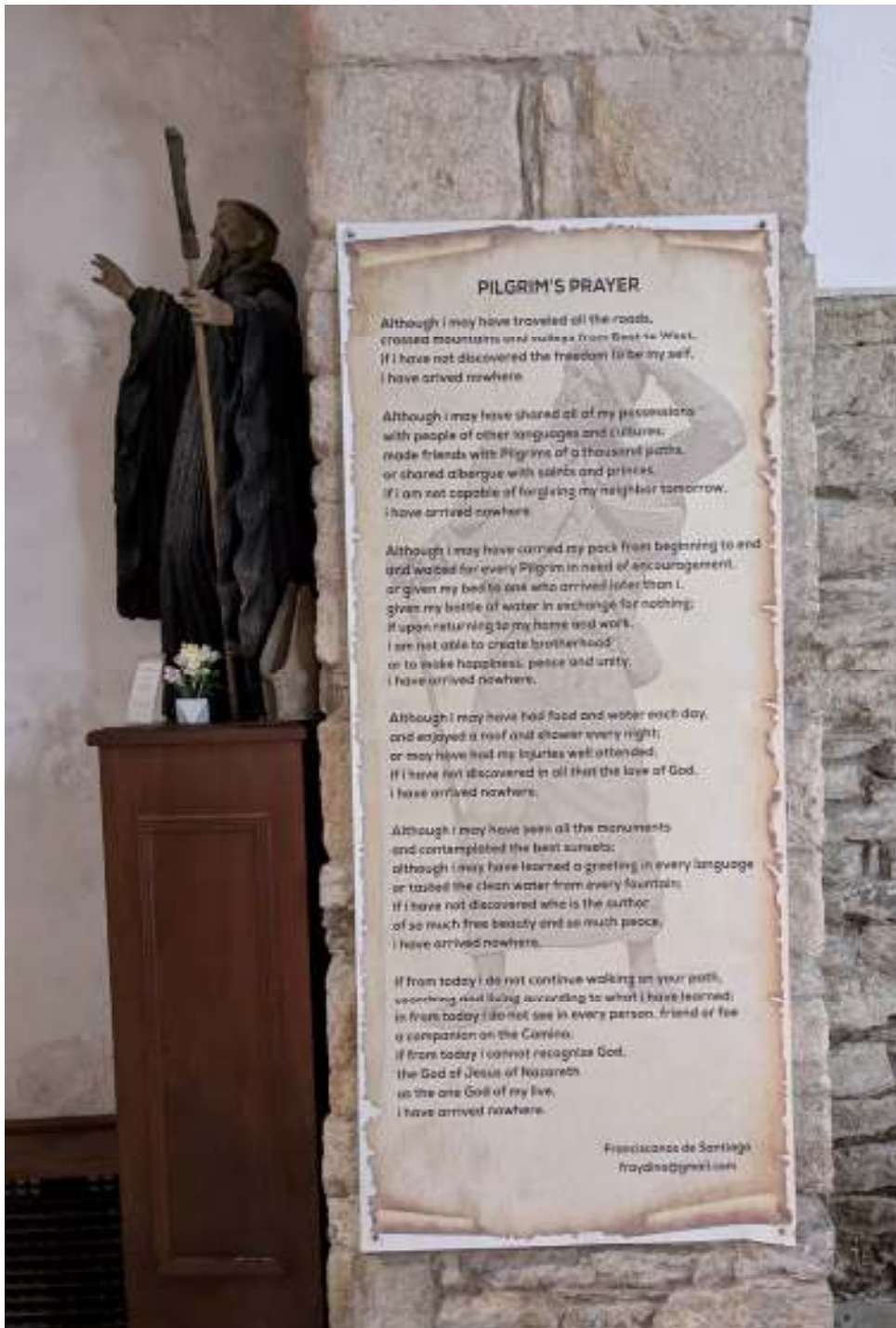
- 2nd: 10.30 a.m. Worship including communion
led by Mrs Christine Brown
- 9th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 16th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mr Gerwyn Davies
- 23rd: 10.00 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Martin Ambler

MARCH

- 2nd: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown
- 9th: 10.30 a.m. Worship including communion
led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 16th: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee
- 23rd: 10.00 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown
- 30th: 10.30 a.m. Worship for Mothering Sunday
led by Rev'd Davis Skitt

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Mary Ann saw this Pilgrim's Prayer in one of the old churches that she visited when she had her walking holiday on the Pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela.



For those of you who may find this a bit difficult to read we have a transliteration for you:

Although I may have travelled all the roads,
crossed mountains and valleys from East to West,
if I have not discovered the freedom to be myself,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have shared all of my possessions
with people of other languages and cultures;
made friends with Pilgrims of a thousand paths,
or shared albergue with saints and princes,
if I am not capable of forgiving my neighbour tomorrow,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have carried my pack from beginning to end
and waited for every Pilgrim in need of encouragement,
or given my bed to one who arrived later than I,
given my bottle of water in exchange for nothing;
if upon returning to my home and work,
I am not able to create brotherhood
or to make happiness, peace and unity,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have had food and water each day,
and enjoyed a roof and shower every night;
or may have had my injuries well attended,
if I have not discovered in all that the love of God,
I have arrived nowhere.

Although I may have seen all the monuments
and contemplated the best sunsets;
although I may have learned a greeting in every language;

or tried the clean water from every fountain;
if I have not discovered who is the author
of so much free beauty and so much peace,
I have arrived nowhere.

If from today I do not continue walking on your path,
searching for and living according to what I have learned;
if from today I do not see in every person, friend or foe
a companion on the Camino;
if from today I cannot recognize God,
the God of Jesus of Nazareth
as the one God of my life,
I have arrived nowhere.

AND FROM THE APRIL 2019 MAGAZINE

THE CROSS IN MY POCKET

*I carry a cross in my pocket
a simple reminder to me
of the fact that I am a Christian
no matter where I may be.*

*This little cross is not magic
nor is it a good luck charm
it isn't meant to protect me
from every physical harm.*

*It's not for identification
for all the world to see
it's simply an understanding
between my Saviour and me.*

*When I put my hand in my pocket
to bring out a coin or key
the cross is there to remind me
of the price he paid for me.*

*It reminds me, too, to be thankful
for my blessings day by day
and to strive to serve Him better
in all that I do and say.*

*It's also a daily reminder
of the peace and comfort I share
with all who know my Master
and give themselves to His care.*

*So, I carry a cross in my pocket
reminding no one but me
that Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
if only I'll let Him be.*

LYMINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Guidelines Governing Forecourt Parking

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 spaces 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

Fun and Fellowship



What a marvellous time we all had at our New Year Lunch on Sunday 5th January! Delicious food, provided by our F & F Team, was followed by some royal entertainment from Pete and Elaine and thought-provoking, fun quizzes from Janice.

The afternoon ended with (what is becoming a URC tradition 😊) the 'Okey Cokey' and Auld Lang Syne.



ROTAS FOR FEBRUARY

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 2nd

COMMUNION ELDERS: Margaret and David

DUTY ELDER

2nd David Bywater
9th Chris Brown
16th Richard Mallory
23rd John Wiseman

READING IN CHURCH

David Newman
David Bywater
Wyn Davies
Barbara Waite

STEWARDS

2nd Liz Griffiths
9th Barbara Waite
16th Andrea Best
23rd Brenda Nevard

SOUND SYSTEM

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

ROTAS FOR MARCH

COMMUNION SUNDAY: 9th

COMMUNION ELDERS: Richard and Dave

DUTY ELDER

2nd Dave Best
9th Margaret Clark
16th David Bywater
23rd Margaret Clark
30th Richard Mallory

READING IN CHURCH

John Wiseman
Keith Holmes
Richard Mallory
Judith Baker
Shelagh Richardson

STEWARDS

2nd Pat Weaver
9th Anne Simmonds
16th Gill Wiseman
23rd Peter Middleton
30th Anne Gaines

SOUND SYSTEM

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

DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

Warblers' Afternoon Tea: Friday 28th March



Cream Tea

This spring, our Warbler's event will be held on Friday 28th March at 2.30pm. Come support our singing group while enjoying a delicious cream tea. More information will be available nearer the time.



Second-hand books



Do you have paperbacks that you have read and no longer need at home? So many of our church members as well as others who use our premises during the week love to read and are always on the lookout for good used books- particularly paperback novels.

Our used books are also a good source of fundraising for us. We ask for 50p donation per book; we also manage to sell some of our books online. Please leave book donations in the donations box at the back of the church or speak to Dave Best if you have too many to carry and he can arrange for them to be picked up. Why not have a clear out?]





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)

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

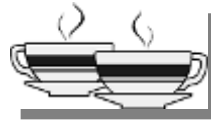


Photography & Design

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