



# **THE OPEN DOOR**

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

Museum of the Moon exhibition at Exeter Cathedral

# **APRIL/ MAY 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 journey through Lent, and head towards a late Easter this year, I have been reflecting deeply on the discussions and insights of the Lent course which a few of you have joined me on.

Not only have I appreciated the different viewpoints that you bring to those discussions, I have also personally enjoyed revisiting the Gospels individually, and find new things out about the authorship, context, details as well as journeying with Christ through each book's take on such important events for us as Christians.

This new and fresh view of something so familiar to me is also reflected in the events at Easter. The opportunity for new life, celebrated through the events of the empty tomb and disciple's encounters with the Risen Christ show us what God is possible of doing; not just for those disciples and followers in the Gospels, but for us as disciples today.

We can so often forget what is possible when we hand everything over to God, and what is apparent in all the Gospels we so far explored in the course, the disciples also forgot this, and they had Jesus showing them first hand what God could do when your trust was placed in our

creator, when following the teaching the Jesus offered, and allowing the Holy Spirit to influence our lives.

As we head towards the tragedy of the Passion in Holy Week, with for us the celebration of the Risen Christ on Easter Day in the back of our minds, perhaps we can relate to those disciples a little more than we did before – reminding ourselves that trusting in God is at the heart of Jesus' message – as much as loving our neighbour as ourselves perhaps?

So however you celebrate Easter this year, I hope it is one that is full of joy, but with an understanding that from that celebration, we can learn a lot about ourselves – and God!

Blessings

Paul

## **SECRETARY'S BITS AND PIECES FOR APRIL/MAY 2025.**

It's April already and I can hardly believe we're now a quarter of the way through 2025. Was it really four months ago we were planning our Christmas events and carol service?

Our next Church meeting is after service on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (please note change of date from 13<sup>th</sup>) This is a very important meeting as we will be deciding if we wish to call Rev Paul O'Connor to be our minister, once his interim ministry ends. Only Church members will be able to vote and must be present at the meeting to do so.

We are now well into the season of Lent as we begin our preparations for Easter, the oldest and most important Christian Festival, celebrating the death and coming to life again of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lent course, hosted by Paul continues on Tuesdays at 11.00 in Cottage Room 1. The Palm Sunday service on April 13<sup>th</sup>, will also be led by Paul. On Maundy Thursday, at 6.30 pm we will come for our Tenebrae communion service, led by Mrs Mary Ann Jardine. This is an incredibly moving service as we reflect quietly on the Last Supper and Jesus' arrest, sharing bread and wine by candlelight.

We shall gather, as usual, on Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00 am, when the Christians Together in Lymington and Pennington join together to worship and to remember Jesus' death on the cross. This service will be on our forecourt, weather permitting. If wet, the service will be in the sanctuary. Rain or shine, coffee/tea and hot cross buns will be served in the hall afterwards. A chance for all the people from the churches in the town to meet together and enjoy a time of fellowship.

On Easter Sunday, we meet again at 10.30 am for our

celebration of Easter Day, including a special Easter communion, led by Mrs Mary Ann Jardine.

The fund raising team is busy planning events for us for the summer and is hoping to make full use of our lovely garden – keep ears and eyes open, you won't want to miss anything. Hopefully, our lovely Garden Café will be up and running by the end of May.

I can hear groans from our Saturday coffee teams, but please note that there will be NO forecourt parking from Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May until mid – September because of the normal summer sales.

And finally..... a plea from our editor, Wyn, for news /articles/ photographs or anything of interest to go into our magazine! And a plea from our Centre Manager, Andrew, to please check with him the availability of rooms before organising any meetings/events! Thank you.

As we sing...may we go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

Margaret



# **LYMINGTON URC DIARY**

## **COFFEE MORNINGS:**

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

## **WORSHIP:**

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

**CLOSING DATE FOR JUNE/JULY 'OPEN DOOR':  
16<sup>th</sup> MAY 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!

## **APRIL**

- 6<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship including communion  
led by Rev'd Mary Thomas
- 13<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship for Palm Sunday  
led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 17<sup>th</sup>: 6.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service –  
led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 18<sup>th</sup>: 11.00 a.m. Good Friday Service  
on Church Forecourt – inside if raining
- 20<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship including Easter Sunday  
Communion led by Mary Ann Jardine
- 27<sup>th</sup>: 10.00 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Linda Lee

## **MAY**

- 4<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Mrs Christine Brown
- 11<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship including communion  
led by Rev'd Paul O'Connor
- 18<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd Martin Ambler
- 25<sup>th</sup>: 10.30 a.m. Worship led by Rev'd David Newman



## **HYMN MEMORIES -**

During Sunday Worship recently I read the hymns listed on the screen prior to the service and on seeing that the first hymn was 'Blessed Assurance', I was reminded of when I was 7 or 8 years old and watching 'Songs of Praise' each Sunday with my mother. Each week she got out our hymnbooks, and we joined with her in singing the hymns. That is how I gained my love of so many hymns.

The second and third hymns in the same service that Sunday, also brought back memories of my younger years. When we sung the hymn, 'Lord Jesus Christ', immediately I was reminded of being at the Royal Albert Hall Girls' Brigade Rally at the age of 17 years and receiving my Queens Award from the Duchess of Gloucester. It was a very special occasion for my family and friends also, as I nervously marched across the arena. Afterwards the hymn 'Lord Jesus Christ' was sung enthusiastically by all those filling the hall that day.

So, I wonder, do any of you have a hymn which reminds you of a particular time in your life? If so, why not send in a few lines to our Newsletter and we can all share those happy memories.

Christine Brown

## MUSEUM OF THE MOON

While visiting Exeter Cathedral recently we discovered this amazing representation of the moon suspended in the nave. It is called Museum of the Moon and is an artwork by Luke Jerram created in 2016.

Copies have travelled around the country and all over the world and there are some on permanent exhibition in museums in other countries. It is a helium balloon, 7 metres (23 ft) in diameter. The surface is decorated with printed imagery of the moon's surface from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter at a scale of 1 cm to 5 km. It is lit internally to create a glowing floating orb.

Although the surface is smooth it gives the impression of the lunar landscape's texture. It was amazing to see our light-giving neighbour up close floating above us in the spacious nave. The exhibition was due to end but no doubt it will be popping up somewhere else soon.

Pat Weaver

## **LYMINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH – HOUSE RULES**

- Please switch off / silent all mobile 'phones and other devices.
- Toilets (including accessible facilities) are available at the rear of the church in the main lobby and at the back of the main hall.
- The entire church premises, including external areas, is a no smoking & no vaping site.
- Please keep all gangways and exits clear.

## **LYMINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH – FIRE INSTRUCTIONS**

In the event of a fire alarm or other evacuation:

- DO NOT panic and DO NOT run!
- The stewards will help you to leave the building in a safe and calm manner by the nearest safe exit.
- DO NOT stop to collect personal belongings.
- Go to the nominated assembly point.
- DO NOT leave the church site until a steward / fire warden has taken your name and knows you have left the site.
- DO NOT, under any circumstances, re-enter the building.

## **FIRE DRILL 9TH MARCH 2025**

First a thank you to all who co-operated in the Fire Drill on Sunday 9th March.

There have been discussions for some time in both Elders meeting and Finance & Property meetings regarding the point that on one could remember there ever having been a Fire Drill.

Many if not all of us will remember having Fire Drills both at school and places of employment over the years. Fire drills are done to both allow users to be familiar with procedures and to confirm that the actions taken will work with ideally little or no problems.

All persons in our buildings on 9th March left and were on the forecourt within 5 minuets of the alarm sounding. With some of the congregation having mobility problems this time is not unreasonable.

The outcome of our Fire Drill will be discussed at our next Finance & Property meeting with notes from this referred to Elders for comment.

Please do not expect to wait for 13 years (the time since our Open Door Project rebuild ) for our next Fire Drill.

For those who do not have the opportunity to read the House rules and Fire Notes which have recently been displayed at the start of services I've asked for a copy to be included in this

copy of the Open Door magazine. It is asked that you please read at least once.

David Bywater

Elder



*The*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

## **ROTAS FOR APRIL**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY: 6<sup>th</sup>**

**COMMUNION ELDERS:** John and Margaret

### **DUTY ELDER**

6<sup>th</sup> John Wiseman  
13<sup>th</sup> Dave Best  
20<sup>th</sup> Margaret Clark  
27<sup>th</sup> David Bywater

### **READING IN CHURCH**

Pat Weaver  
Chris Brown  
Ken Evans  
Peter Richardson

### **STEWARDS**

6<sup>th</sup> Judith Baker  
13<sup>th</sup> Lizbeth Eason and Janice Sellars  
20<sup>th</sup> Janice Perkins  
27<sup>th</sup> Kate Noon

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

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

## **ROTAS FOR MAY**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY: 11<sup>th</sup>**

**COMMUNION ELDERS:** Dave and David

### **DUTY ELDER**

4<sup>th</sup> Chris Brown  
11<sup>th</sup> Richard Mallory  
18<sup>th</sup> John Wiseman  
25<sup>th</sup> Dave Best

### **READING IN CHURCH**

Keith Holmes  
Richard Mallory  
Margaret Clark  
Wyn Davies

### **STEWARDS**

4<sup>th</sup> Liz Griffiths  
11<sup>th</sup> Andrea Best  
18<sup>th</sup> Brenda Nevard  
25<sup>th</sup> Pat Weaver

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

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

# Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported our March fundraising and fellowship events. Both our Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper and our Warblers' Afternoon Tea were a great success and enjoyed by all who came. We raised a marvellous £111 at the Quiz and £252.40 at the Afternoon Tea.



We continue to collect and sell second-hand books, particularly paperback novels. If you're thinking of having a spring 'clear-out', bring your unwanted books to church (donation box in the ODC) or speak to Dave Best who can arrange collection.

We are looking forward to opening our Garden Cafe once the weather starts to get warmer. We are not yet sure of the date but hope to be open at the beginning of May. Thank you to those who continue to support our cafe either by baking, helping serve or by visiting as customers!



On Easter Saturday (19<sup>th</sup> April) Weather permitting, we hope to hold the first of several Table sales on the church forecourt selling good-quality bric-a-brac etc. Come along and support us!

## Finally, a date for your diary!

Join us for a Garden BBQ before our Annual Church Meeting on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Further details will be given nearer the time.







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)*

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**PLEASE NOTE:** This magazine is printed on paper from renewable sources out of our concern for the environment.

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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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