

# CHALICE

May 2012

50 pence



**STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH**  
**And**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**(A Free Christian Congregation)**

**Stalybridge Unitarian Church is a  
Free Christian Congregation.**

**A member of The East Cheshire Union of Unitarian and  
Free Christian Churches.**

**A member of The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free  
Christian Churches.**

**A member of The North Cheshire Unitarian Sunday  
School Union**

**A member of The Unitarian Christian Association**

# **THE CHALICE**

## **STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE**

**May 2012**

**This issue of Chalice is  
dedicated to the  
memory of Joyce  
Clayton**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I am writing this letter on April 21<sup>st</sup> - the birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and also the anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest religious thinkers of the nineteenth century - the Rev Dr James Martineau. He was born two hundred and seven years ago today, on April 21<sup>st</sup> 1805 in the city of Norwich. His ministerial career began at Eustace Street Church in Dublin and his later ministries were at Paradise Chapel, later Hope Street, Liverpool and then at Little Portland Street in London. He was Principal of Manchester New College from 1869 until 1885. He died in London on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1900, greatly respected and admired by people of all denominations. He was described as “the greatest of living thinkers” by the Prime Minister W E Gladstone. Today however, his work is largely neglected. His thinking was very profound and his writings are a struggle to read and very challenging, yet his influence has been immense, helping to shape not only our small denomination, but influencing the worship and theology of other Christian Churches too.

For Martineau, worship of God was central to the life of the Church. He wrote “I cannot conceive of a Church without the worship of a Living and Personal God. With this I think a Church must begin and not end: and short of this we can have only clubs or associations for particular objects, not any fusion into a common spiritual life.” Our denomination would do well to reflect on those words at the present time.

One of Martineau's prayers includes these words: “O God, who didst send thy word to speak in the prophets and live in thy Son; and appoint thy Church to be the witness of divine things in all the world; revive the purity and deepen the power of its testimony: and through the din of earthly interests and the storm of human passions, let it make the still small voice of thy Spirit inly felt. Nearer and nearer may thy kingdom come from age to age: meeting the face of the young as a rising dawn and brightening the song of the old, ‘Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.’”

Already let its light abash our guilty negligence, and touch with hope each secret sorrow of the earth. By the cleansing power of thy Son, make this world a fitting forecourt to that sanctuary not made with hands, where our life is hid with Christ.”

Amen to that!

Every blessing.

Andrew.



**Palm Sunday**



**YYPG Members Busy Preparing Arts and Crafts**

## **FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Well, we seem to have a lot of notices on the board, so let's give you a few more details.

I hope you all enjoyed the Desert Island Discs night. It was a pity there were not more people there, but I think those that did come enjoyed it.

Unfortunately we had to cancel our Quiz Night which should have been held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April. There were only eight people on the list and two of them were organising the quiz, so there didn't seem much point. Perhaps we will try again later in the year and see what response we get then.

Some of you may remember The Piano Player and Friends who have visited us in the past and have proved to be a very good night. They will entertain us again with their singing which is something to look forward to on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. The cost for the evening will be £5 per person. Please put your names on the board and buy a ticket. It should be an excellent night as there are already quite a few people on the list. Don't forget, if you want to come please put your name on the list as soon as possible.

Looking a bit further ahead, we will of course be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a special celebratory dinner on 25<sup>th</sup> May. I'm sure it will give many of you the opportunity to dress up appropriately for such an important event. There will be a prize for the lady wearing the prettiest home-made tiara. The charge for this special night will be £10 so I hope you will come along and join us. Again, please enter your name on the notice board if you wish to come and you will be offered a ticket to buy nearer the time.

In July, Andrew will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, so we are holding a celebration party for him on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Please come along for something to eat and drink and help Andrew celebrate his half century with family and friends.

There will be no charge for this night (apart from if you want to buy extra drinks) as Andrew has very generously volunteered to pay for all the food. We will be joined by our friends from Dob Lane chapel.

Whilst you have your diaries out, please enter the 23<sup>rd</sup> June for the Summer Fayre and the 24<sup>th</sup> November for the Christmas Fair. In recognition of some of our very talented members, we will be holding a Home-made Craft stall at the Summer Fayre. If anyone would like to make anything which you think might be of interest to others and are prepared to donate it to us, we will put it on the stall and hopefully sell it to raise much needed funds.

As I mentioned last month, we are looking at making a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum on 18<sup>th</sup> August. It looks a very interesting place, so we thought we would arrange a coach for anyone wishing to go. Please look out on the board for details. The cost of the coach will be £8.50 per person but this will obviously increase if we do not manage to fill it. The Memorial Arboretum is free to enter and for those who struggle to get around, there is a train which gives you a complete tour of the area. This will cost you £4.50 for a wrist band which will enable you to get on and off the train as often as you like for the whole day. There are also motorised wheel chairs at a cost of £5 for the day, although they have recommended these are booked in advance. If you feel you would want one, please let Ken or myself know. It is a big place of over 150 acres, so you should bear that in mind. You can take your own food and drinks as there is a picnic area, but there is a cafe there and also a restaurant, so you can decide how you want to sustain yourself over the day. We intend to leave church at 9am and come back about teatime.

Although not strictly fund raising, you will have noticed all the notices regarding the anniversary weekend. Please study them carefully and put your name on all that apply to you. It is a very important date in our history, so try and not miss it!

See you next month.

Sue Howard

## **WARDEN'S NOTES**

Once again people are writing to The Inquirer suggesting that the denomination should change its name. The suggestion going around this time is "Unitarian Universalists". This is a name with its origins in America and holds very little meaning or substance in the United Kingdom. It is a catch all get out title and the sole aim of this is to remove any recognition of Christianity from the denomination. What these people do not (or are afraid to) recognise is that the Free Christian community within the denomination remains strong and is getting stronger all the time. The Unitarian Christian Association is regularly attracting new members.

This subject will keep rearing its ugly head until either this minority gets its own selfish way or the silent majority starts to fight back. The General Assembly are guilty of allowing minority groups to infiltrate the denomination and piggy back on to the movement because they have not got the wherewithal or the gumption to form their own churches or denomination.

Many of the Free Christian congregations within the GA are perfectly able to function without the GA. These congregations are run by very experienced, dedicated and resourceful volunteers. If they were not they would not have survived as long as they have.

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches should realise sooner rather than later that they must retain the support of Free Christians if they want the denomination to survive as long as the member churches.

Ken

## **ARTS AND CRAFTS**

This will take place at Old Chapel Dukinfield on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May. The official opening will take place at 1pm and then the "live" events will take place immediately after that. Please note those of you entering cookery and flower arranging etc must have your exhibits in place by between 10am and 12 noon. Items received after 12 noon will be disqualified.

## **REV KEITH TREACHER**

We were sorry to hear that Rev Keith Treacher passed away recently. Keith was Minister at Stalybridge in the early sixties. He had a big influence on members of The Unitarian Young People's League.

## **BAPTISMS**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April; Grace and Ava Baxendale. The Minister officiated. We wish them both a long and happy life.

## **DISABLED ACCESS**

Your committee is looking at various options and is currently awaiting a quotation for the installation of a wheelchair/pedestrian lift. This will be discussed (and hopefully finalised) at the committee meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## **WHIT SUNDAY (27<sup>th</sup> May)**

It has now been confirmed that the Joint Service will take place in the Civic Hall and will take the form of a dramatisation of the story of Pentecost. Your committee will again discuss this on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

## **150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Please inform any member of the committee if you require tickets reserving for either the Organ Concert or the Dinner dance. Alternatively you should find a loose slip inside this edition of Chalice which you can complete accordingly.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

There are various notices on the board regarding social and fund raising events. Please put these dates in your diary and do your best to support these events.

## **FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE**

This will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Please fill in your request on the slips on the porch table.

## **CHURCH AGM**

This will take place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May after the morning service. Please make every effort to attend.

## SUMMER FAYRE - DEREK'S PLANT STALL

Hanging Baskets  
Floral Tubs  
Trays of Bedding Plants  
Tomatoes  
Perennials  
Houseplants



All at Give-Away Prices (Well, Almost!). Bring Your Old Containers to Be Refilled

## COFFEE MORNING

The coffee morning in May will fall on the same day as our Jubilee dinner, so as we will be very busy preparing for that the coffee morning will be cancelled. We will resume again on the last Friday in June.

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The May meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd of May at 3.00pm, when the hostess will be Kathleen Spiby.

## FLOWERS FOR MAY

6<sup>th</sup> May Vacant  
13<sup>th</sup> May Mr & Mrs P. Billingsley in memory of Mr & Mrs Tom Stokes  
20<sup>th</sup> May Mr & Mrs Derek Clayton in memory of Mrs Emily Clayton  
27<sup>th</sup> May Vacant

## STEWARDS FOR MAY

6<sup>th</sup> May Bill Atkin  
13<sup>th</sup> May Wendy Maher  
20<sup>th</sup> May Ken Howard  
27<sup>th</sup> May Don Andrews

## MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

6<sup>th</sup> May Sketchbook D. Steele  
13<sup>th</sup> May Voluntary J. Blow  
20<sup>th</sup> May A Mighty Fortress M. Dupre  
27<sup>th</sup> May From Tallis to Wesley