

**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**

JULY/AUGUST 2010

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED
in memory of
Mary Dagnagh; a sincere
lady and friend**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

The wind and the sun were arguing over which one of them was the stronger. As they argued they saw a traveller making his way across the plain below them. "I'll tell you what!" exclaimed the wind, "whichever one of us succeeds in stripping the cloak off that traveller let him be acknowledged as the stronger." The sun accepted the challenge. "And since the idea was mine," continued the wind, "I'll have first go."

So saying, the wind swept down upon the traveller and blew gust after gust at him, whipping fiercely at the cloak; but only succeeded in persuading the traveller to wrap his cloak more firmly around himself. The wind built up the pressure, and hurled itself across the plain, whistling and howling as it attempted to tear away the offending garment. The harder it blew, the tighter became the traveller's grip. In the end, utterly exhausted, the wind blew itself out, and gave up.

"Watch this!" smiled the sun. "It's quite easy really." Turning towards the traveller it released a few warm gentle rays, and then, very gradually turned up the heat. The traveller responded immediately. First of all he loosened his cloak to cool himself, and then, gently perspiring, took it off altogether.

A nice little story, and one which reminds us that in our dealings with others we are always more successful if what we say and do is tempered with love and sensitivity. Ensuring that we always do that is also one small way for us to reflect the love of Jesus in our lives.

Every blessing,

Andrew.

Music during the service

July

- 4th March from " Alceste " - Gluck.
11th Tune based on Amazing Grace
18th Prelude - F Chopin.
25th Until the day breaks - Gounod.

August

- 1st Hymn tune based on At the name of Jesus.
8th March (From Egmond) - Beethoven.
15th Sarabande Holberg suite - E Greig.
22th Legend - Guy H Eldridge.
29th Alternative tune to the Lord's Prayer.

Recipe for a successful garden

*First - five rows of peas -
Preparedness, promptness
perseverance, politeness and prayer....*

*Next three rows of squash -
Squash gossip, squash criticism
squash indifference....*

*Then four rows of lettuce -
Let us be faithful
let us be unselfish
let us be loyal
let us be truthful....*

*Lastly no garden is complete without turnips -
Turn up for church
turn up with a smile
turn up with new ideas
turn up with determination.....*

Thanks to Anne Holden for sending this

FUND RAISING

First of all, thanks to all of you who helped make the Summer Fayre a huge success. Everyone who contributed in any way, made donations of any sort or who came and spent their money helped us achieve our aim which was to raise money for church. We managed to make a total of £778, which was made up as follows: Home bake:£136.79; Gift stall: £70.90; Book stall:£45.35; Plants:£144.10; Jewelry:£10.00; Raffle: £110.00; Tombola:£72.00; Children's games:£43.50; Café:£95.90; Lucky Dip:£13.00; Sunshine bags:£9.46 and donations of £27.00. So thanks, one and all.

So as you know how you are all helping in raising funds, we have decided to give you some feed back. The Piano Player and Friends Evening raised £164.00 on the night and the monthly coffee morning (held on the last Friday in every month from 10am to 12pm) raised £14. Our Whist Drives normally raise between £12 and £20 depending on how many turn up, but every little helps because as you all know the church needs every penny we can make as running costs keep rising and income in these difficult economic times is decreasing. So basically, we need **YOUR** help as often as possible. Having said all that, I will now let you know what is happening over the next few months in the hope that you can continue your support.

Firstly, our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 2nd July starting, as usual, at 7.30 pm at church. Please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening out when you may even win a prize! The cost is £2 which includes a raffle and refreshments. Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be an expert!! The one following that will be held on Friday, August 6th.

Our next Desert Island Discs night will be held on Friday 16th July starting at 7.30pm. A notice is on the board for you to put your name on so we know how much potato pie to make. Our 'ship wrecked' guests this time will be Clare Bullock and Rachel Plant.

We will be having an evening drive out on Friday 13th August leaving church at 6.30pm. We will be driving over to Holmfirth and having a fish and chip supper at Compos Chippy at a cost of approximately £4.50. Please enter your name on the list on the notice board, so we

know who needs a lift and who can provide one. The weather wasn't too kind to us last year, but I'm sure we will be luckier this year and in good weather it is a lovely drive out.

If you remember last year, Joyce and Derek kindly hosted an afternoon tea bring and buy at their home in Glossop. They have kindly offered to do it again this year and it will be held on Saturday 7th August starting at 2 pm. Details of how to get there will be posted on the notice board. It was lovely sitting out in the sunshine last year, so for those of you who missed it, please come along this time to enjoy a good afternoon out.

We hope to arrange a trip to Gorton Monastery on Sunday 5th September, this will depend on how many people are interested. Please check the notice board for more details.

Going forward a little, we are hoping to hold a Rome evening entitled "Rome 2010 The Movie" when an extended film will be shown of Andrew's latest Rome trip and this will be held on 17th September. Please make a note in your diary and further details will be announced later.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 12th July 2010 at 7.15 pm which is just before the main church committee meeting. Please feel free to join us if you feel you could help in any way. We always need help with new fund raising ideas and it might be YOU who can provide them.

Sue Howard

UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

All young people, whether they attend regularly or are just visiting, are more than welcome to join us at our UYPG meetings which take place during morning service (after the 2nd hymn) every Sunday. If you have any queries, please ring Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872

WARDEN'S NOTES

As I write these notes it seems that summer has finally arrived (and not before time). For all of you going on holiday during the summer I hope you have a good time and return refreshed. If you are not going away let's hope the weather stays fine for you.

Finances are a constant worry for small organisations and our church is no exception to this rule. Members and friends of our congregation are renowned for their generosity; recently we received an anonymous donation of £500 and another donation of £500 from The Hob Hill Men's Guild. I am sure I speak for you all as I offer our grateful thanks to those involved.

The Emergency Budget announcements made today will cause us some problems particularly from 2011 when VAT increases to 20%. This will have an obvious effect on almost all our purchases, particularly gas and electricity supplies.

Whatever happens we must not become disheartened; we are a strong talented group of people who are more than capable of handling difficulties with good grace and with a positive attitude.

The 150th Anniversary Sub-Committee has held its first meeting and formulated a plan for a weekend of celebrations to take place on 13th, 14th and 15th July 2012. This plan will now be put before the Church Committee for approval after which the congregation will be informed. We will all need to work very hard to make sure this important milestone in our history is a success.

I hope you all have a great summer.

Ken

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

In July we will meet on Wednesday 7th at 3pm when the hostesses will be Mrs Julie Mather and Mrs Margaret Andrews. There will be no meeting in August.