

**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**

JUNE 2009

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE
IS SPONSORED BY
Alan & Sue Swift**

WARDENS NOTES

I have always thought that the most important reason for our existence as a church is to be a welcoming place of worship for anyone who cares to walk in through the doors. I see no reason to change this way of thinking.

Unfortunately things are not as simple as that. It is quite obvious that we need finances to maintain the services of a minister and to maintain the fabric of the building.

It becomes a little bit of a balancing act and balancing is a tricky occupation, it is easy to tip the scales in the wrong direction from time to time.

Recently I have been asking people to contribute more money to church whenever possible. This is a necessary evil but thinking about it perhaps I have gone a bit too far.

Numbers attending worship and social events are dropping slightly and this trend needs to be reversed quickly.

The treasurer will not like me saying this but I would much prefer to see a full church and an empty collection box rather than the other way round. Of course this is not really an option as we need a balance.

What I have noticed is that congregations are noticeably smaller when we have lay/visiting preachers conducting worship; this is unfair to the people who I know have worked very hard to provide a service for us all to enjoy.

I would urge all of us to look at ourselves and say "Can I go to church more often?" "Can I support the church more than I already do?" "Can I take a friend to church with me?" These are questions that we should be asking ourselves regularly. I know that there are many distractions and alternatives but I firmly believe it is essential that we all have a time of peace every week when we have the opportunity to recharge our spiritual batteries.

If we sit back and lose interest and allow numbers to dwindle then there is only one logical conclusion and we simply can not allow this to happen. We who are members of the current congregation must guarantee the future of the church. It is our collective duty.

Ken Howard

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The June meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th June at 3pm when the hostesses will be Mrs Kathleen Spiby.

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 contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

We are currently working on items for the Summer Fayre – we are always kept busy! Anyone who wishes to join us will be more than welcome so please come along..

SUMMER FAYRE - 2009

SATURDAY 13TH JUNE, 2PM
at Stalybridge Unitarian Church
Bring your friends!

HOMEBAKE

GIFTS

TOMBOLA

BOOKS

NAME THE DOLL

PLANTS

CREAM TEAS

FLOWERS FOR JUNE

Sunday 7th Table Miss Brenda Hallett in memory of Mr & Mrs W. Hallett
Font Mrs Gladys Drury

Sunday 14th Mrs Wendy Maher in memory of Mr & Mrs L. Gowling & Peter

Sunday 21st Mrs Edith Cooper in memory of David Griffiths

Sunday 28th Mr Brian Oliver in memory of the Oliver Family

STEWARDS FOR JUNE

Sunday 7th Wendy Maher

Sunday 14th Ken Howard

Sunday 21st Bill Atkin

Sunday 28th Don Andrews

FUND RAISING

Doesn't time fly – it hardly seems a couple of days ago since Rachel was last asking for our Chalice entries for May and here we are at the beginning of June already!

Our next big priority is the Summer Fayre which this year will be held on Saturday 13th June starting at 2 pm. The stalls will be much the same as they were last year, with Homebake, Gifts, Plants, Books, Tombola, Raffle, Naming the Doll and other children's games as well, of course, as the lovely cream teas. I am just hoping that the weather turns out nice for us, so people can actually sit outside in the garden to eat their cream teas or buy their plants!! We need the help of everybody this year, so if you can contribute anything to the tombola, gift and home bake stalls, it would be much appreciated or even a raffle prize if you have anything which you think would be suitable, we would like to hear from you. If you can't help in providing anything, please come along anyway and spend some money!

Our July Whist Drive will be held on Friday 3rd July, so please come along and join us for a fun night out. It starts at 7.30 and everyone is welcome, you will have to pay £2 which covers the cost of refreshments and you may even win a prize (including a raffle prize).

Following the success of our Desert Island Discs night, we have decided to hold another one on Friday 17th July, when we hope our guests will be Margaret Hallsworth and Derek Clayton. Please come along and listen to their choices and why they made those choices. A potato pie supper will be served and the cost for the evening will be £4. The evening will start at 7.30 pm. Please put your name on the notice board if you wish to come along just so we know how many to expect for catering purposes.

We hope to have a summer drive out on Friday 31st July when we will meet at church at 6.30, and weather permitting go for a mystery drive and then come back to the Wharf Tavern for a buffet supper. Please put your name on the notice in church so we know how many to cater for.

Our next fund raising meeting will take place on Monday 8th June starting at 7.15 pm which is before the main church committee meeting. Please feel free to come along, we are always looking out for people who can help in any way, including finding new ideas to help us raise funds.

Sue Howard

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- May 2nd ECU AGM at Hyde Chapel
- May 9th Arts & Crafts Exhibition at Old Chapel Dukinfield
- May 31st Whit Sunday
- June 13th Summer Fayre (2pm)
- July 5th Church Anniversary service
- September 20th NCUSSU AGM at Flowery Field
- September 27th Harvest Service
- October 3rd-11th Trip to Rome
- October 10th ECU Autumn Meeting at Stalybridge
- October 18th Ladies Service
- November 8th Remembrance Sunday
- December 20th Carol Service

Calendar June 2009

- Wed 3rd 3.30 pm Ladies Congregational Society Monthly Tea
- Thursday 4th 6.30 am Polling at church
- Friday 5th Whit Friday
- Sunday 7th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG
- Monday 8th 7.15 pm Fund Raising Meeting
- Monday 8th 8.00 pm Church Committee Meeting
- Wed 10th 7.30 pm NCUSSU Delegates meeting at Mossley
- Saturday 13th 2.30 pm Summer Fayre
- Sunday 14th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG
- Sunday 21st 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG
Conducted by Beryl Plant and Rachel Plant
- Sunday 28th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

JULY

- Sunday 5th 11.00 am 147th Church Anniversary service and
UYPG Prize giving