

**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**

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THE CHALICE

**STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH
MAGAZINE**

MAY 2009

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
Mrs M Bennett
in loving memory of
William (Bill) and Cindy Hallatt**

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

During my recent visit to Rome I took some time off from planning the itinerary for the next group visit and travelled by train through the Lazio countryside to Tivoli, a town about 20 miles northeast of Rome. It has been a popular summer resort for the people of Rome since ancient times when the Emperor Hadrian had a villa there. The town's cobbled streets are lined with medieval houses and despite heavy bomb damage in 1944 it is still a very pleasing little town. I particularly wanted to visit the Villa d'Este which I last visited about twenty five years ago, the first time I went to Italy. The villa occupies the site of an old Benedictine convent which in the 16th century was developed into a splendid residence by Cardinal Ippolito d'Este. Its chief claim to fame is its terraced gardens and fountains which although sadly neglected over the years still give a vivid impression of the great luxury enjoyed by the villa's residents in its heyday. Hundreds of fountains cover the terraced slopes of the garden and one particularly magnificent example, the Fontana dell'Organo was a water powered organ in which the force of the water pumped the air through the pipes. Sadly it has long been silent.

I had the gardens almost to myself that day, there were very few others who had made the journey so early in the season and it was a very tranquil and peaceful place to spend an afternoon. The following day I was back in Rome amongst all the hustle and bustle of the city. What a contrast! Not an unpleasant contrast though, I enjoyed being in the city just as much as I had enjoyed the countryside. We are all familiar with such contrasts, life is made up of busy times and quiet times, and they are of equal value to us. Without the quiet times we would not have the energy to face the busy times and without the busy times we would not be able to really appreciate the quiet times. It isn't always easy to see that, especially if we are feeling particularly busy at the time, but it is important that we learn to appreciate all of life's experiences because everything that happens in our lives has some value for us. Sometimes that value may seem rather obscure but there is always something to be learned from whatever life presents us with.

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.

WARDENS NOTES

We are coming up to quite a busy time of year in the life of our church.

The 3rd May is our Annual General Meeting which will be held after the morning service. It is important that as many people as possible attend, the church belongs to the congregation and we need more people to be involved in the work of the church.

The Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be held on Saturday 9th May at Old Chapel Dukinfield. Please come along to support our competitors.

Whit Sunday will be held on Sunday 31st May. We are to meet at church at 1.30 pm. This year we will be leading the United Procession so we need a really good turnout. If anyone feels strong enough to help with banner carrying please let me know.

Ken

CHALICE LETTER

May I through the pages of the Chalice offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to my friends at church for the messages of goodwill, thoughts and prayers, while I have been ill over the past few weeks.

Your cards, phone calls and visits (both in hospital and at home) have been a great comfort to me. I am feeling much better now and the doctors say I am recovering well, so I hope to be able to thank you all personally in due course.

In the meantime, thanks again and every good wish to you all

Jack, 5th March '09

WHIT SUNDAY

At 1-30 pm on 31st of May we will be joining the other churches of Stalybridge for our Whit Sunday procession. This year it is our great honour to lead the procession. We can't promise sunshine but there will be tea and a bun. As always we will have a brass band and your donations would be gratefully received

Thank You

FUNERALS

- April 14th Vera Greenhough aged 85 years. Service at Denton Cemetery Chapel followed by interment in the cemetery grounds, the Minister officiating.
- April 15th David Ian Cooper (Dave) aged 37 years. Service and committal at Dukinfield Crematorium, the Minister officiating.
- April 17th Kathleen Anne Whittaker (Kate) aged 63 years. Service in church followed by committal at Dukinfield Crematorium. The Minister officiating.

CONDOLENCES

We are sorry to report the death of Mrs Mary Dagnah. Mary passed away peacefully in Tameside Hospital on Tuesday 28th May. We will miss Mary in all sorts of ways but personally I will miss her wonderful sense of humour.

Our thoughts are with Janet and family at this sad time.

Ken

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 working on our Arts and Crafts programme at the moment as well as trying to help out with requirements for our fund raising events. Anyone who wishes to join us will be more than welcome so please come along..

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The May meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th May at 3 pm when the hostesses will be Mrs Eileen & Miss Clare Bullock

FLOWERS FOR MAY

Sunday	3rd	Table Vacant Font Mrs Marjorie Sands Dorothy & Joan
Sunday	10th	Table Mr & Mrs Peter Billingsly in memory of Mr & Mrs Tom Stokes Font Mrs M Sands & Mr & Mrs Curd in memory of Mr & Mrs Barker
Sunday	17th	Table Mr & Mrs Derek Clayton in memory of Mrs Emily Clayton Font Mrs M. Sands & Mrs SA Knight in memory of Mr Neville Sands
Sunday	24th	Table Vacant Font Mrs. Sands & Mrs SA Knight in memory of Mr & Mrs R. Fotherby & Nigel

STEWARDS FOR MAY

Sunday	3rd	Ken Howard
Sunday	10th	Bill Atkin
Sunday	17th	Don Andrews
Sunday	24th	Tom Whitehead
Sunday	31st	Stuart Hinchcliffe

FUND RAISING

Here we are again having had a good spell of decent weather which always makes people feel happier. So while you are all feeling cheerful, here are some events which we have organised which we hope you will all attend to help us raise some much-needed funds.

Our May Whist Drive will be/was held on 1st May and our June one will be held on Friday 29th May, as the first few weeks in June seem to be rather busy. 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).

Our next event will be the Greek Night, when we will be serving you Greek food and you will learn a bit about Greece with some music and perhaps a quiz as well as the food. The cost for the evening will be £7 but you will also be able to buy wine/fruit juice to drink and a raffle will be held. If you want to come along and haven't yet put your name down, please give me a ring so we make sure we have enough food for you.

Well our Desert Island Discs night seemed to go well and it was very interesting hearing Beryl's and Andrew's choices and why they had made them. We enjoyed it so much, we thought we would hold another night of it which will be 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.

Most importantly at this time of the year, we have to think about our 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. Please put the date in your diary and start thinking about what you can contribute to help make it a success. We need items for the tombola, gift and home bake stall, but if you can't help in providing anything for that, please come along and spend some money!

We hope to have a summer drive out on 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 look out for the notice in church so we know how many to cater for.

Our next fund raising meeting date has not yet been decided, but will be arranged to precede the new church committee meeting after the AGM on 3rd May.

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 (2 pm)
- 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
- November 8th Remembrance Sunday
- November 15th Ladies Service
- December 20th Carol Service

Calendar May 2009

Friday 1 st	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Saturday 2 nd	2.30 pm	ECU AGM at Hyde Chapel Gee Cross
Sunday 3 rd	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sunday 3 rd	12.15 pm	Church Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 6 th	3.00 pm	Ladies Society Monthly Tea
Friday 8 th	7.30 pm	Greek Night
Saturday 9 th	2.30 pm	Arts and Crafts at Old Chapel Dukinfield
Sunday 10 th	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG – service conducted by Ken Howard
Sunday 17 th	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG-service conducted by Rev Jean McNeile
Sunday 24 th	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Friday 29 th	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 31 st	1.30 pm	WHIT SUNDAY (no morning service)