

Stalybridge Unitarian Church is a
Free Christian Congregation.

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

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THE CHALICE

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH
MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2008

THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
MRS BARBARA WELTMAN
in memory of
BETTY HALL & MURIEL DAWSON

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

Every year I always buy the same make of pocket diary because it is one of the few that still notes religious festivals and special days throughout the year. Looking through the month of October I came across one note that I was unfamiliar with so I thought I'd better find out about it! For October 13th it says *Translation of King Edward, Confessor*.

Edward the Confessor was a man of great prayer - rather like a crowned monk. He was hailed throughout his life as a gentle, loyal and devoted king. A confessor is a saint who suffers for his faith but is one step short of martyrdom. Edward suffered for his faith by resisting the temptations of the world. He lived off the income of his own lands and reached out to the poor.

Edward was born in Islip, near Oxford, probably in 1005. He was the son of King Ethelred the Unready and his Norman queen, Emma. The family spent several years in exile in Normandy after the Danish invasion of 1013. England was ruled by the Danish King Canute until his death in 1035 when Edward tried to capture the crown himself but failed. Later, Edward vowed that he would make a pilgrimage to St Peter's in Rome if he managed to return safely to his kingdom.

In 1042, his dream became reality when he succeeded Canute's son on the throne. But Edward found it impossible to leave his subjects to make the pilgrimage to Rome. The Pope released him from his vow on the condition he founded a monastery and dedicated it to St Peter. In accordance with the Pope's wishes, Edward built a new cathedral in Norman style to replace the Saxon church at Westminster. The cathedral became known as Westminster Abbey.

Edward the Confessor was an enigmatic figure who was believed to have the power to heal. He began the royal custom of touching ill people to cure them. The tradition continued for nearly 700 years until the reign of Queen Anne. Edward had no children and the throne passed to his brother-in-law, Harold, who was quickly overthrown by William the Conqueror.

Many legends sprang up about Edward the Confessor both during his lifetime and after his death. One that has stood the test of time happened towards the end of his life. Legend has it that Edward was riding to a ceremony at a chapel dedicated to St John the Evangelist in Essex when a beggar asked for alms. Edward had no money with him so he took off his ring and handed it to the poor man instead.

A few years later two English pilgrims were travelling through the Holy Land and became stranded. They were helped by an old man who told them he was St John the Evangelist. He was carrying the ring Edward had given to the beggar some years previously. He asked the pilgrims to return it to the king telling him that in six months he would meet St John in heaven. Edward the Confessor died on January 5 1066. He was made a saint in 1161 and his body was translated to a shrine at Westminster Abbey on October 13th 1163 – hence the note in my diary!

In the centuries that followed many sick people came to kneel at the shrine and ask to be healed. Today Edward the Confessor is the only major English saint whose body is still in its shrine.

Wishing you every blessing

Andrew

WARDEN'S NOTES

Compared to some churches we are doing quite well. We have a solid attendance at worship. We could of course do better, we must always be trying to persuade new worshippers to join us.

It is essential that any new worshippers are made to feel welcome, to this end I am in the process of producing a "Welcome Pack". This will include an order of service, contacts, and some general information on the church. This will give new people a good idea about what we are about and be able to follow the worship more easily. I hope to produce these as soon as possible.

Nothing beats personal contact though. If you see new people in church please introduce yourselves to them, offer to sit with them, make sure that the Minister and/or the Warden is aware of them. In short do everything to make them feel welcome and at home.

We **MUST** attract new members, we cannot allow ourselves to stagnate, we must do everything in our power to help the congregation to grow.

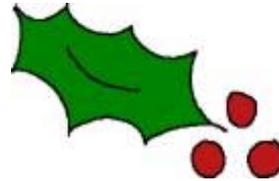
On 8th November we will be holding our Annual Bazaar starting at 11 am. This year it will be opened by Mrs Margaret Hallsworth.

The Bazaar is our single biggest Fund Raising event of the year and given the general financial situation it is important that we raise as much money as possible.

This is a good opportunity to bring friends and neighbours along with you and to introduce them to the church on a social occasion.

The Remembrance Day service will at 11 am. Please be in church as early as possible to take part in the two minutes silence.

Ken



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Arrangements are under way and the menus should be with us shortly for the lunch to be held this year on Wednesday December 10th. If you wish to join us please either put your name on the notice board at church or give me a ring (330 7072) so that we can make arrangements for transport.

DIARY DRAW

I have quite a few dates still vacant and the winning date will be drawn at the Autumn Fair on November 8th. Please contact me if you want a try i hope to have the diary with me at all times until that date.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

**If you want to be happy, then start right away,
Doing a kindness for someone each day.
Scatter some sunshine, forget about self,
And put all your worries away on the shelf.**

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP

Here we are again heading towards our Annual Bazaar, which as you all know, will be held on Saturday 8th November starting at 11 am. It is nearly upon us now, so please come along and spend, spend, spend!! Any contributions you can make as well, of course, will be much appreciated, to the tombola stalls and the home bake stall.. All the usual stalls will be there as well as a couple of new ideas, so please make sure you come along and support your church. You will be able to get a light lunch as well whilst you are there, so there's no reason to stay away.

Please don't forget Margaret Hallsworth's diary which is being circulated. You have to put your name on your chosen date for £1. Once the diary is full, (probably at the Bazaar on 8th November) a date will be drawn out of a hat and the lucky winner will receive a cash prize ready to spend at Christmas. Please contact Margaret if you would like to take part.

Following the success of last year's effort, we shall be holding a Christmas party again this year for both children and adults alike. We are hoping Father Christmas will be able to make it again. It will be held on Friday 5th December starting at 7.30 pm. Please enter your name on the list on the notice board if you wish to attend so that we have an idea of how many to cater for. Anyone who has any ideas of games we can play or can provide any sort of entertainment would be much appreciated: step forward any of you who have held a secret desire to dress up and entertain!

Just to remind you that the Fashion Night which was held earlier this year is to be repeated. It was a great night and one certainly not to be missed when Stephanie had a show of plenty of clothes all of which were available for purchase afterwards. Several other stalls were there as well, so there is sure to be something for everyone. It will take place on Friday 21st November starting at 7.30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50. Please come along and get yourself kitted out for Christmas and have an enjoyable night as well.

Our next Whist Drive, the Christmas one, will be held on Friday 12th December starting, as usual, at 7.30 pm at church. All are welcome, so come along and bring your friends for a fun night out.

Finally, our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 3rd November starting at 7.15 pm just before the main church committee meeting.. Anyone is welcome, so if you have any ideas or think you could provide some much needed support, please come along.

Sue Howard

LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

The November meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th at 3pm, when the hostess's will be Mrs Margaret Andrews
All ladies from the church are of course very welcome.

Margaret Hallsworth

£1 A MONTH CLUB



The winner in September was Margaret Andrews. Congratulations!

If you wish to renew your membership or indeed join for the first time, please contact me on 0161 344 0942, 45 Church St, Dukinfield SK16 4PR. All cheques must be payable to Stalybridge Unitarian Church.

Beryl Bradbury

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.

The children are being kept very busy at the moment. We have been preparing for the bazaar with the children's games and, believe it or not, getting prepared for Christmas. So, children, please come along as we need all the help we can get.

LADIES SERVICE

The Women's special service will be held on November 23rd at 11am and we are privileged to have Mrs Joyce Ashworth, the GA President to take the service. After the service there will be a Home Bake Stall in aid of the League Project which this year is "Sight Savers".

WEDDING

October 26th Adrian Cockitt and Kim Marie Hikin of Forester Drive, Stalybridge. The Minister officiating.

FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER



- Sunday 2nd Mrs Jean Thomas in memory of Alice, Constance, & Jack the Somerfield triplets
- Sunday 9th Mr Jack Greenwood in memory of Mr & Mrs Frank Greenwood & Mrs Florence Greenwood
- Sunday 16th Mr Brian Oliver in memory of Mr Frank Oliver
- Sunday 23rd Women's League in memory of Past members and Friends
- Sunday 30th Mr & Mrs George Horbury in memory of Mr & Mrs W. Horbury

STEWARDS FOR NOVEMBER

- Sunday 2nd Tom Whitehead
- Sunday 9th Wendy Maher
- Sunday 16th Ken Howard
- Sunday 23rd Bill Atkin
- Sunday 30th Don Andrews

BAKE STALL
TOMBOLA

BAZAAR

Saturday 8th November

Stalybridge Unitarian Church
Forrester Drive

Stalls open at 11am
Entrance 50p

All the usual stalls and some new additions
Tell your friends!

RAFFLE **GIFT STALL**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 3rd Nov:	7.15pm 8pm	Fundraising & social group meeting Committee meeting
Sun 9th Nov:	11am	Remembrance Sunday
Sat 8th Nov:	11am	Bazaar
Wed 12 th Nov	7.30 pm	ECU Council Meeting at Mossley
Sat 15 th Nov		UCA Lance Garrard lecture at Essex Church London
Sun 23rd Nov:	11 am	Ladies Service
Fri 5th Dec:	7.30pm	Christmas Party
Sun 21st Dec	2.30 pm	Family Carol and Juvenile Membership Service
Sun 21st Dec	6.30 pm	Candlelit Carol Service

NOVEMBER

Sunday 2 nd November	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Monday 3 rd November	7.15 pm	Fund Raising Meeting
	8.00 pm	Church Committee Meeting
Saturday 8 th November	11.00 am	Bazaar
Sunday 9 th November	11.00 am	Remembrance Day Service and UYPG
Sunday 16 th November	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG Conducted by Ken Howard
Friday 21 st November	7.30 pm	Fashion Show at Church
Sunday 23 rd November	11.00 am	Ladies Service conducted by Joyce Ashworth (GA President) and UYPG
Sunday 30 th November	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG