

**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**

NOVEMBER 2009

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE
IS SPONSORED BY
Mr & Mrs P Goacher**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

This summer has not been particularly good to us in more ways than one! Leaving the torrential rain aside, a number of people in both my congregations have had quite serious health concerns and some have needed to spend time in hospital. We are so lucky in this part of the world to have a number of excellent hospitals and specialist medical staff so that you could be treated quickly and effectively. We give thanks for them and for the treatment you received. I know that all of you received the best possible care whether you needed to be treated in hospital or were able to remain at home and I hope that you are now feeling much better and fully on the road to recovery.

In July, it was a great pleasure for me to be able to spend an afternoon with Stalybridge's senior member, Miss Frieda Harrison, who was celebrating her 105th birthday. A number of friends joined her on that afternoon and we enjoyed a good buffet provided by the home where she now lives. We all admired her many birthday cards including her second card from Her Majesty the Queen. Not many people achieve that! Frieda always maintains a lively interest in church and our activities and we send her our congratulations and very best wishes.

A few weeks ago I attended a meeting where it was suggested that churches and chapels should have "mission statements" rather like hospitals, nursing homes and other institutions and businesses have these days. I have to say that when I was in the Civil Service my experience of mission statements and other fashionable management techniques such as the use of targets was not good. I recall people spending inordinate amounts of time preparing and then monitoring these things, time which would have been much better spent actually doing the job! If all the staff that are employed to monitor mission statements and targets rolled their sleeves up and got on with some real work much more would actually be achieved. Churches and chapels are not the same as businesses or large public institutions anyway and should not be treated as if they are. Having said all that though, I found this discussion rather amusing because the Christian

Church already has a mission statement and has had one for nearly two thousand years now! It was given to us by Jesus himself. He said "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10 v 27) There really is nothing else which needs to be said!

Wishing you every blessing

Andrew

WARDEN'S NOTES

The work of the Fund Raising and Social group very often goes unnoticed. I can assure you that this small group of dedicated people work hard to try to come up with new fund raising ideas. We are always open to new ideas and would welcome anyone to join us at our meetings. You do not have to be elected to this group; anyone is free to come along.

Fund raising is an important part of our church life. I would like to remind you that the congregation has to pay for everything. We do not receive any money from a central fund as some other denominations do and we are responsible for all income and expenditure ourselves.

Our biggest fund raiser for many years has been the Bazaar. This year we have tried to update it by holding it slightly later in the year (28th November) and we have changed its name to "CHRISTMAS FAIR". We are trying to introduce slightly different attractions in the hope of persuading more people to attend. If we can persuade visitors to attend fund raising events then perhaps they will gain the confidence to join us in Sunday worship. That must be one of our hopes.

It is vital that all members of the congregation support as many fund raising events as possible. If what we are organising is not to your taste then please tell us about it. Come up with ideas. Constructive criticism is always welcome.

Ken Howard

FUND RAISING

Well, here we are again and heading straight off into the festive season.

Our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 6th November starting 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 after that will be held on Friday 4th December and that will be our Christmas Whist Drive when we have something a little special!!

To the future, our next event, apart from the Whist Drives, will be the Christmas Fair. As I explained last month, this is in place of the usual bazaar. It will be in much the same format as the bazaar but with a few extra Christmas based items. It will be held on Saturday 28th November and will start at 11 am. Father Christmas will put in a brief appearance at 12 pm, so any children that wish to meet him should come along. We shall be having a Home Bake stall, Christmas/gift stall, Bottle Tombola, ordinary Tombola, book stall and plant stall, as well as the usual raffle. There will be a Lucky Dip/Secret Santa table and a doll for you to guess the name of as well as a cake to guess the weight of. The children are making a Treasure Hunt board in their UYPG sessions and they you will also be able to decorate your own Christmas biscuits. The café will have a definite Christmas taste to it and there will be hot dogs for the children if they would prefer that to turkey sandwiches! Please make a note of the date in your diary and if anyone can help with any contributions to any of the stalls, please make yourself known.

As last year, we shall also be holding a Christmas Party on Friday 11th December starting at 6.30 pm. All children (and adults) are welcome and I believe Father Christmas will again be making an appearance. A buffet supper will be held and the usual games and fun for all. Please get in touch with me if you would like your names putting on the list or of course put your names on yourself. If you have children coming, we need to know their names and ages. We look forward to seeing you all then!

Finally, just to remind you again that we are starting to write a recipe book – if anyone has a recipe they would like or have one to share with others, please contact me and I will add it to our 'book' which will be on sale shortly to help our fundraising efforts. It will be in a format which al-

you to add new recipes. Once you have bought the original book, you will be given any 'new' recipes as they become available.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 23rd November 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 need help from you ALL.

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.

JUVENILE MEMBERSHIP

Parents who would like their children to be juvenile members of Church, should contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

She will require the full name of the child plus £1 membership. The membership certificates will be distributed during the Juvenile membership service on Sunday 20th December 2009 at 2.30pm

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The November meeting of the Women's League takes place on Wednesday 4th November, where the hostesses will be Eileen & Claire Bullock.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**SATURDAY
28TH NOVEMBER**

**STALYBRIDGE
UNITARIAN
CHURCH
FORRESTER
DRIVE**

**STALLS OPEN AT
11AM**

ENTRANCE 50P

Raffle

Gift Stall

Plants

Bake Stall

Tombola

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 8th Remembrance Sunday

November 28th Christmas Fair

December 11th Christmas Party

December 20th Carol Service & Juvenile membership service

FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

1st	Glyn and Jean Thomas in memory of Alice, Constance and Jack (The Somerfield triplets)
8th	Mr Jack Greenwood in memory of Mrs Florence & Mr & Mrs Frank Greenwood
15th	Mr Brian Oliver in memory of Mr Frank Oliver
22nd	Mr & Mrs George Horbury in memory of Mr & Mrs W Horbury
29th	Mr & Mrs Norman Bradbury

STEWARDS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday	1st	Ken Howard
Sunday	8th	Tom Whitehead
Sunday	15th	Stuart Hinchcliffe
Sunday	22nd	Wendy Maher
Sunday	29th	Bill Atkin

Calendar November 2009

Sunday 1 st	11 am	Morning Worship and UYPG
Wednesday 4 th	3 pm	Ladies monthly tea
Friday 6 th	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 8 th	11 am	Remembrance Sunday service & UYPG
Sunday 15 th	11 am	Men's service and UYPG
Sunday 22 nd	11 am	Morning Service and UYPG (Conducted by Wendy Maher & Ken Howard)
Monday 23 rd	7.15 pm	Fund raising meeting
Monday 23 rd	8 pm	Church Committee meeting
Wednesday 25 th	7.30 pm	ECU delegates meeting at Mossley
Saturday 28 th	11am	CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday 29 th	11 am	Morning Service and UYPG