

**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
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THE CHALICE

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH MAGAZINE

April 2011

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED**

**by members who wish to
remain anonymous**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As we were moving the tables and chairs following our very successful St David's Day dinner at Stalybridge last month I was reminded of something that my college Principal, Dr Waller once said to me when I was in Oxford. "The Ministry" he said "is all about moving furniture." At the time I took the comment at face value, as an off the cuff, humorous observation on the Ministry and many times over the last thirteen years as I have been moving chairs and tables I have remembered his words and slowly I have realised that there is much more to them than I first thought.

When I was an office supervisor in the Civil Service one of the things I would do regularly was to examine the layout of the office to see if the furniture could be arranged more efficiently to help people save time or effort. The old saying "A change is as good as a rest" has much truth in it even when relating to the arrangement of desks and cupboards in an office! It does us good to do things differently sometimes or to look at things from a different angle. Not all furniture is easy to move however. Heavy desks and cupboards need some shifting and sometimes can only be moved with considerable effort.

We all have heavy items of furniture in our lives as well. Sometimes people will talk of the "baggage" they or other people are carrying. Problems from the past, difficulties in relationships, worries, fears, sadness, regrets - all these things and many others are like heavy items of furniture which we struggle to rearrange so that we can live our lives without bumping into them all the time. Part of Ministry is about helping people to do this.

So I have now realised that Dr Waller was not making an off the cuff, humorous comment when he said that the Ministry is all about moving furniture. He was actually telling me something very profound and of vital importance. The Ministry IS all about moving furniture.

Every blessing.

Andrew.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting will be in church on Wednesday 27th April at **6.30pm**. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of prayer and reflection.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th April at 3.00pm when the hostess will be Mrs Beryl Bradbury.

The Home bake stall last month was a great success and proceeds from this, along with the one previously held last October means that we are able to send a donation of £100 to the League Charity. Thanks to all who supported us.

FLOWERS FOR APRIL

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|------|--|
| 3rd | Mrs K. Turner & Mrs S .Howarth in memory of Mr & Mrs George Roberts |
| 10th | Mr & Mrs Alan Swift in memory of Mr Edward Robinson & Mr Frank Swift |
| 17th | Mrs Liz Griffin in memory of Mr & Mrs Frank Rhodes & Mr Michael Rhodes |
| 24th | Mrs Beryl Bradbury in memory of Mr Norman Bradbury |

FUND RAISING & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The time just seems to be flying away at the moment leading up to what we all, I am sure, will be a beautiful spring followed by a decent summer. Thanks to all of you who came to the St David's Day Dinner and, of course those who helped in any way – we managed to make a profit of just over £200 with the raffle and drink sales being taken into account, which is a big boost to our fund raising efforts.

We start off April with our whist drive which will be held on Friday 1st starting at 7.30pm at church. Please come along for an entertaining evening out, and you may even win a prize. The cost is £2 which includes refreshments and a raffle prize.

There are a few holidays in April with Easter falling a little later this year. Just after that on 29th April, we shall be having a holiday to celebrate the wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton. We shall be holding a Royal wedding reception on that evening by way of a buffet. Please come along, dressed as if you were going to the real one and you may win a prize for the best hat! Please enter your name on the list on the notice board if you wish to attend, or give me a ring and I will put your name up for you. Everyone is welcome. The cost for the evening will be £6 per person.

Our Summer Fair this year will be held on Saturday 18th June, so please put the date in your diaries and start to think about how you could support us on this special day. All usual donations would be much appreciated, and the usual stalls will be held with maybe a few extras. So, home bake, tombola, plants and gifts are all very welcome, so please pass any donations to a committee member.

A quick reminder about the coffee morning held on the last Friday of the month. It is from 10.00 to 12.00 and all are welcome. It does give people an opportunity to meet others and have a drink and something to eat. Sometimes it is a bit of a rush after church service on a Sunday to talk to everyone you want to, so a Friday morning is a bit more relaxed with more time. Please come and join us.

We hope to hold another Craft Fair later in the year following the success of the last one. If anyone knows anyone 'crafty' and you think they might like to share their skills with others, please get in touch so we can invite them on the night. We also hope to hold a musical evening later in the year, so look out for further details.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th April at 7.15 pm to which everyone is invited. If you feel you could help with fund raising in any way, either with ideas or in a more practical way, please come along and join us – you will be more than welcome!

Sue Howard

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

April

- 3rd Mothers Day - Young people singing
- 10th Traditional Welsh Tune - All Through The Night
- 17th April Love - Sammy Fain
- 24th Alternative Tune to Now thank We All Our God

STEWARDS FOR APRIL

- | | |
|------|--------------------|
| 3rd | Ken Howard |
| 10th | Don Andrews |
| 17th | Tom Whitehead |
| 24th | Stuart Hinchcliffe |

WARDEN'S NOTES

We are coming to the end of another year in the life of our beloved church and our Annual General Meeting will be held on 8th May. On your behalf I would like to thank the Minister, my fellow officers and the committee for all their hard work during the past year. Without a committed group of volunteers it would be impossible to run an organisation like this.

I think we are all aware how tight finances are at the moment so I will not labour this point. Your committee is still looking at the very real possibility of providing disabled access to the church. It has also been revealed that we need to spend about £10000 in keeping the organ up to scratch. We are about to launch an organ restoration appeal to various organisations and charities and you will be kept informed of the situation. Our first donation of £200 was received from the Ward Funds of Councillor Dorothy Cartwright; our thanks have been conveyed to Councillor Cartwright.

It is important that all worshippers feel a part of the organisation of our church. If anyone would like to serve on the committee who has not done so before please have a word with me and I can explain what is involved. We are always open to fresh ideas.

It is a pleasure to see the numbers of worshippers on the increase, it is always special to greet new worshippers and we hope to see more and more.

Our church still has an important role to play in the spiritual well-being of the people of Stalybridge and it is up to us to ensure that it continues to provide this service for many years to come.

Ken

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday 8th May after the morning service. The nomination sheet for your officers and committee is on the notice board. Please ensure you obtain the permission of your nominee before putting his or her name on the list.

Ken

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Entries for this years Arts and Crafts Exhibition will be received at church on Thursday 7th April from 7pm to 8pm.

The exhibition will take place on Saturday 14th May at Old Chapel Dukinfield. Please note that all articles to be judged on the day (Cookery, flower arranging etc) **must be in place before 12 noon.** This is one hour earlier than usual to give the judges and the organisers more time. It is important to note that entries received after the 12 noon deadline will not be allowed to enter the competition.

Ken

£1 A MONTH CLUB



Februarys winner was Mrs Eileen Bullock, number 41.

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

Calendar April 2011

Friday 1 st	7.30pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 3 rd	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Service and UYPG (Noah's Christening during the service)
Monday 4 th	7.15pm	Women's Institute
Wednesday 6 th	3pm	Ladies Congregational Society Monthly Tea
Thursday 7 th	7 – 8pm	Stalybridge Arts and Crafts Entries received
Friday 8 th	7pm	Arts and Crafts entries from other Sunday Schools
Sunday 10 th	11.00am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sunday 17 th	11.00am	Palm Sunday service and UYPG
Friday 22 nd		Good Friday
Sunday 24 th	11.00am	Easter Day service and UYPG
Wednesday 27 th	6.30pm	4 th Wednesday Prayer Group
Wednesday 27 th	7.15pm 8.00pm	Fund Raising meeting Church Committee Meeting
Friday 29 th	7.30pm	Royal Wedding Reception Buffet