

CHALICE

April 2012

50 pence



STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH
And
SUNDAY SCHOOL
(A Free Christian Congregation)

**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

April 2012

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
Mr E. Caton in memory of
Mr & Mrs Elson Caton &
Mr & Mrs H. Bullock Senior**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Hopefully, by the time you read this I will be back amongst you but nevertheless I would like to begin by thanking you all for your cards and good wishes whilst I was recovering from my operation. It really makes a difference at such times to know that there are people who care and who are thinking about you. That is one of the joys of belonging to a congregation, a group of people who support each other whatever life throws at them.

I was recently reading a report which made the very valid point that institutionalised religion is in decline in this country as part of a general process of secularisation and that organised liberal religion is declining faster than its less liberal variants. On the other hand, there is a growth in the number of people who claim to be “spiritual” but not “religious”; that is people who have a faith but for the most part keep it to themselves.

Those of us who are members of a worshipping community may be in a small minority these days but we know that by belonging to a congregation we possess a pearl of great price which cannot be found in an inward looking spirituality. Religion isn't about “me”, it is about “us”.

Every blessing,

Andrew

SUMMER FAIR 2012

This summer we are going to have a stall where all the items will be handmade. So, all you talented people out there would you be willing to make an item to donate to the stall. It does not matter how small it is, the main thing is that you made it. Hopefully we will have enough goods to fill a table and visitors wont be able to resist our handmade crafts.

Wendy

SPECIAL SERVICES 2012

All services at 11am and conducted by the Minister unless otherwise stated.

April 1 st	Palm Sunday
April 5 th	Maundy Thursday Communion at 7pm
April 8 th	Easter Sunday
April 22 nd	Send a Child to Hucklow 50 th Anniversary
May 27 th	Whit Sunday (final details to be announced)
June 3 rd	Thanksgiving Service for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
July 15 th	150th Anniversary Service at 2.30 pm
August 26 th	350th Anniversary of the Great Ejection
September 30 th	Harvest Thanksgiving
November 11 th	Remembrance Day
December 23 rd	Carol Service at 4 pm
December 25 th	Christmas Day Service at 10.30 am



Outgoing UCA Moderator Rev Jeff Gould hands over the Bible of office to the new Moderator Rev Bob Pounder. UCA AGM at Stalybridge 17th March.

Photograph by Ian M. Bradbury



YYPG members and teachers during the Mothering Sunday Service

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Well here we are again at the beginning of another month – doesn't time just fly!

I hope you all enjoyed the St David's Day Dinner which was held on the 2nd March. We managed to make just over £170, so thanks to all of you who came and supported us.

As I mentioned last month, we are now selling tickets for all events involving catering to prevent us cooking for people who don't turn up and thus eating into our profits on the night. I would be grateful if you would go along with this for the foreseeable future. It won't cost you any more, just that you will be paying for it in advance.

Our next coffee morning will be held on Friday 27th April at church from 10 to 12 noon. It is a good chance to have a chat with people you may not have chance to talk to on a Sunday or join some of our friends who drop in quite regularly for a drink and snack. Everybody is welcome, including children, so please call in and bring your friends and neighbours with you.

If you are interested in quizzes, we shall be holding a quiz night on Friday 20th April. There will be a charge of £6 per person when supper will be served. Please try and organise yourselves into teams of approximately 4/5 people on each team. If you want to be put into a team, and can't find four other people, please just put your name on the board, and we will put you into a team on the night. This would be a good opportunity for you to bring your friends and neighbours along.

Some of you may remember The Piano Player and Friends who have visited us in the past and have proved to be a very good night. They will entertain us again with their singing which is something to look forward to on Friday 4th May. The cost for the evening will be £5 per person. Please put your names on the board and buy a ticket.

Looking a bit further ahead, we will of course be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a special celebratory dinner on 25th May. I'm sure it will give many of you the opportunity to dress up appropriately for such an important event. There will be a prize for the lady wearing the prettiest home-made tiara. The charge for this special night will be £10 so I hope you will come along and join us. Again, please enter your name on the notice board if you wish to come and you will be offered a ticket to buy nearer the time.

In July, Andrew will be celebrating his 50th birthday, so we are holding a celebration party for him on Friday 6th July. Please come along for something to eat and drink and help Andrew celebrate his half century with family and friends.

Whilst you have your diaries out, please enter the 23rd June for the Summer Fayre and the 24th November for the Christmas Fair. In recognition of some of our very talented members, we will be holding a Home-made Craft stall at the Summer Fayre. If anyone would like to make anything which you think might be of interest to others and are prepared to donate it to us, we will put it on the stall and hopefully sell it to raise much needed funds.

We are looking at making a visit to the National Arboretum Memorial on 18th August. It looks a very interesting place, so we thought we would arrange a coach for anyone wishing to go. Please look out on the board for details and when we have an idea of how many want to come, we can give ideas of prices.

As our next church committee meeting is not to be held until the end of April (to enable the Treasurer and Secretary to prepare their reports for the AGM in May, our next fund raising meeting will be held on Sunday 22nd April after the morning service. Anyone who feels they can help in any way would be more than welcome, just come along.

Thank you

Sue Howard

WARDEN'S NOTES

As I write I am aware that we are approaching the most important time in The Christian Year, Holy Week.

Jesus made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

Five short days later he was being murdered on The Cross.

These days we are used to seeing so called famous people being put on a pedestal only to be shot down as and when it suits the media.

But Jesus was not like a footballer, a politician or a singer, for one thing he could string sentences together, and, unlike politicians, he was not renowned for telling lies. He could tell stories like no other.

Stories that still inspire us 2000 years later. His message is as valuable now as it was radical then.

I often wonder what Jesus would think if he came back to live among us today. If he were to arrive in Stalybridge would he come in a Mercedes Benz, a Popemobile or on a bicycle?

I like to think that He would manage to rustle up a donkey from somewhere. That would prove once and for all what a truly special person he really is.

Ken

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Due to a change in the system please note that all entries for this year's Arts and Crafts must be delivered to church on Sunday 8th April between 12 noon and 1 pm.

DOROTHY SYKES

We were sorry to hear that Mrs Dorothy Sykes passed away recently. Her husband Fred played football and cricket for Hob Hill for many years. We offer our sympathies to Fred and the family.

DISABLED ACCESS

Your committee is looking at various options and is currently awaiting a quotation for the installation of a wheelchair/pedestrian lift. You will be kept informed of developments.

CHURCH AGM

This will take place on Sunday 13th May after the morning service

NAMING CEREMONY

On Sunday 25th March. Willow Flora Knowles. Rev Bob Pounder officiated. We wish Willow Flora a long and happy life.

WHIT SUNDAY (27th May)

It is still not certain whether the Joint Service will take place indoors or outdoors. Some ministers are still to meet to take a final decision. I regret to inform you that I do not agree either with these changes or the delay in finalising arrangements. I have therefore resigned as Whit Sunday Organiser and I am no longer involved in the arrangements. You will be informed of the details as soon as we know.

150th ANNIVERSARY

Please inform any member of the committee if you require tickets reserving for either the Organ Concert or the Dinner dance. Alternatively you should find a loose slip inside this edition of Chalice which you can complete accordingly.

Rev A R Parker

I regret to inform you that Andrew is not recovering as quickly as hoped. On top of that he has also caught this current flu bug (or whatever it is). It is hoped that Andrew will be recovered in time to conduct the Maundy Thursday Communion.

SOCIAL EVENTS

There are various notices on the board regarding social and fund raising events. Please put these dates in your diary and do your best to support these events.

FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE

This will take place on Sunday 6th May. Please fill in your request on the slips on the porch table.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Our thanks to Janet Ford for conducting this service. Special thanks must go to the UYPG members and teachers for their wonderful contributions to this service

POUND A MONTH CLUB

Our new year begins on 1st April so anyone wishing to renew their membership or join for the first time, please contact Beryl Bradbury. Cheques to be made payable to Stalybridge Unitarian Church.

COFFEE MORNING

Coffee morning will be held on Friday 27^h April at Church from 10 am to 12 noon. Everybody is welcome, including children, so please call in and bring your friends and neighbours with you.

FLOWERS FOR APRIL

1 st April	Mrs K. Turner & Mrs S .Howarth in memory of Mr & Mrs George Roberts
8 th April	Mr & Mrs Alan Swift in memory of Mr Edward Robin son & Mr Frank Swift
15 th April	Mrs Liz Griffin in memory of Mr & Mrs Frank Rhodes & Mr Michael Rhodes
22 nd April	Mrs Beryl Bradbury in memory of Mr Norman Bradbury
29 th April	Vacant

Correction: The flowers for the 25th March were in memory of James Scullion and not Thomas Scullion as printed in last months Chalice. The flowers were given by Jean Thomas for her father .

STEWARDS FOR MARCH

1 st April	Bill Atkin
8 th April	Wendy Maher
15 th April	Ken Howard
22 nd April	Don Andrews
29 th April	Tom Whitehead

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

1 st April	Melodia Inter Pedale
8 th April	Allegro
15 th April	Minuet and Trio
22 nd April	Offertoire
29 th April	March in F