

**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**

**DECEMBER 2010—JANUARY 2011**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS  
SPONSORED BY  
Mr & Mrs Ian Bradbury  
In memory of  
Frank Green**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

During November we took some time in our services to think about a number of saints, some well known some not so well known, whose feast days fall around this time of year. The focus of our services now turns towards Advent but there is one more saint we should not overlook. The last day of November is St Andrew's Day. We hardly know anything about St Andrew who was always in the shadow of his brother, Simon Peter. According to the writer of John's gospel, it was Andrew who told his brother about Jesus but from that moment Andrew rather melted into the background, for Jesus took one look at Simon and said: "You are Simon, son of John; you shall be called Cephas." (That is, Peter, the rock.) But there weren't any special names for Andrew. We don't hear a lot more about Andrew. He seems to be eclipsed by his brother, who's always in the limelight. So I find it encouraging that although Andrew wasn't up front, is hardly mentioned again in the Bible, and doesn't appear to have stood out at all, nonetheless he became a leader in the early Church and eventually his memory was so revered that he became the patron saint of Scotland, of Russia and of fishermen.

Legend has it that Saint Regulus had charge of the relics of St Andrew, and was warned by an angel in a dream to take the relics to a place which would be indicated. St Regulus set out in a North Westerly direction, we're told: "towards the ends of the earth". The angel stopped him by a sign at the place we now know as St. Andrews, where St Regulus built a church to shelter the remains. Today it is perhaps better known for its golf course or as the place where Prince William and Miss Middleton were at university together.

Saint Andrew may be a rather obscure figure who was always in the shadow of his brother but nevertheless he was actually someone very special. So if you're ever tempted to think you couldn't possibly do something, or that someone else would do it much better, or your position is always in the shadows as second-in-command, because that's where you're best, then remember St Andrew. God uses the quiet people, working in the background just as much, if not more than the extroverts among us to accomplish his will on earth.

Wishing you every blessing—Andrew.

## **Fourth Wednesday Prayer Group**

The Fourth Wednesday Group will meet on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and then again on January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm.  
Church will be open from 7.00 pm for personal prayer and meditation.

## **Christmas Memorial Service**

This year, the Christmas memorial service will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. If you wish a departed loved one to be remembered in the service please put their details on one of the forms which will be available in church and hand it to the Minister. It is important that he has the details from you by Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December at the latest.

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Our meeting in December will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> at 3.00 pm The meal will be a joint effort with each member bringing food for the table. On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December the Ladies and friends hold their Christmas meal at the Joshua Bradley, Gee Cross at 12.30 pm I hope to collect the final balance for the cost of the meal (£6.00 per head) on the previous Sunday after Church.

Margaret Hallsworth

## **JUVENILE MEMBERSHIP**

As usual the Juvenile Membership Certificates will be handed out during the carol service. The membership is open to all people under 16 and it only costs £1. Please see Clare Bullock if you would like your children/grandchildren to be included.

Ken



## **FUND RAISING & SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

First of all, thanks to all of you who came to the Craft Evening, and especially to those who came forward willing to show us their skills – it was most enjoyable and we managed to make a profit of £130 towards our fund raising efforts as well. Thanks also to those who kindly donated a raffle prize.

Well, here we are once again coming up towards Christmas and the festive season. By the time you read this we would have had our Christmas Fair, so I will report on what was hopefully a good day in the next edition of Chalice. Our first event after that will be our Christmas Whist Drive which will be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December starting as usual at 7.30 pm. Please come along and enjoy a good night out with a chance of winning a prize and enjoying some nice Christmassy refreshments. We shall not be holding a whist drive at the beginning of January due to the proximity of the new year celebrations, but will hold one on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February as usual. Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a great player!!

Our Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December when we hope to have a visit by Father Christmas. There is a list on the board for everyone to put their names up. If you have not put your name on yet but wish to come along please either put it on as soon as you next visit church, or give me a ring so we know how many we are catering for. It will start at 4 pm and go on for a couple of hours with games, music and refreshments. Everyone is welcome

We are still holding our coffee mornings on the last Friday in the month, but this will not happen in December as it is so near Christmas, but please come along for the last Friday in January as usual and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Now to give you a little advance notice of a St David's Day Dinner which we hope to hold on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011. Further details will be given at a later date, but perhaps you could enter the date in your new diaries to make sure you are available when the time comes.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December starting at 7.15 pm, so anyone who feels they could help in any way would be more than welcome to join us.

May I just finish by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyous New Year.

Sue Howard

### **STEWARDS FOR DECEMBER**

5th	Ken Howard
12th	Tom Whitehead
19th	Stuart Hinchcliffe
26th	Bill Atkin

### **STEWARDS FOR JANUARY**

1st	Wendy Maher
9th	Don Andrews
16th	Ken Howard
23rd	Tom Whitehead
30th	Stuart Hinchcliffe



## **WARDEN'S NOTES**

Most people I know look forward to Christmas with eager anticipation. We look forward to meeting with old friends and family at this important time of the year.

Christmas has always been special for me; I look forward to singing our traditional "Hob Hill" carols, to celebrating the birth of Jesus, to chatting with people we don't see at church very often (to be blunt, not often enough), and generally having a good time.

The excitement generated by young people at this time of year is infectious and this year will be Ben's first Christmas; another reason to celebrate. I have been given strict instructions regarding Christmas presents; I have been told that my grandchildren are not yet old enough for a Scalextric or a "proper" electric train set!!! (Spoilsports).

Yes it certainly is a good time but sadly, not for everybody. Some people have no friends or family close by and will be spending Christmas alone. Much will be said about the most popular Christmas toy but let us not forget that the majority of people in the world will receive absolutely nothing. These people must not simply be forgotten about or ignored. Perhaps we can not help them materially but they must be in our thoughts and prayers.

We must not forget that we are very fortunate. Most of us have a family to love and support us. We have a church which will do whatever possible to help us through all sorts of difficulties. We have a church deeply rooted in the Unitarian Free Christian faith. We have a lot to be thankful for.

Sue and I would like to wish everybody a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2011.

Ken

## **FIRST AID KIT**

Andrew Hadfield has kindly provided us with up to date First Aid Boxes and we would like to thank Andrew for this generous donation. These are kept in the marked First aid cupboard in the kitchen. There is also an accident book which must be completed if an accident occurs.

## **OLD CHAPEL PANTOMIME**

Old Chapel will be putting on "SINBAD THE SAILOR" from 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February. This is great entertainment for all the family. Tickets will be available shortly and can be purchased from Jenny Halsall on 0161 3397450.

## **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**

This year our Christmas Carol and Juvenile Membership Service will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. **PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SERVICE ON THIS DAY.**

**It is important that as many people as possible attend this important service. It is vital to enjoy an uplifting Christmas Service to celebrate the birth of Jesus with fellow Unitarian Free Christians and to show support to our own younger members.**

Ken Howard.





Part of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 2012 we would like to make a disc of old photographs. If any of you have ANY photos related to church or Sunday School we would like to borrow them.

Any other relevant memorabilia is also required to make up a suitable display

**EVERYTHING WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU**

Please put everything you have in a suitable container clearly marked with your name and hand them to me. It would be helpful if the photographs were dated (just the year is enough).

**FUNDING**—There is now a large collection jar at the back of church. We would be grateful for any donations no matter how big or small to help with the funding for this important anniversary.

Thanks  
Ken Howard

1. George V (1932), 2. Oliver Cromwell, 3. 6th January,  
4. Christmas Past, Christmas Present, Christmas Yet to  
Come & Jacob Marley, 5. Advocate, 6. Silent Night, 7.  
24th December, 8. Melchior, 9. The calendar, 10. 364

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

## **FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER**

5th	Mr & Mrs Tom Whitehead in memory of Mr & Mrs Tom Whitehead Senior
12th	Susan & David Roberts in memory of Mr & Mrs Frank Roberts
19th	Janet Pearson in memory of Mary Dagnah
26th	Women's League in memory of Past Members & Friends

## **FLOWERS FOR JANUARY**

2nd	Mrs Margaret Bennett (Hallatt) To remember all UYPL friends
9th	Mr & Mrs E. Caton in memory of Mr & Mrs Elson Caton
16th	Geoff Kirkham in memory of sister Jean Kirkham
23rd	Mr & Mrs Stuart Hinchcliffe
30th	Men's Guild to remember past members



# Calendar December 2010

Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>		<b>NO MONTHLY TEA THIS MONTH</b>
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30 pm	Christmas Whist Drive
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Women's Institute meeting
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	12 noon	Ladies Congregational Society Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Memorial Service
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Fund Raising Meeting
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Church Committee Meeting
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	NCUSSU Carol Service at Brookfield Church Gorton
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup>	4-6 pm	Family Christmas Party
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Christmas Carol and Juvenile Membership Service
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7.00 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Prayer group
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>		<b>NO CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE</b>
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Boxing Day Service

# Calendar January 2011

Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>		<b>NO WOMEN'S INSTITUTE MEETING</b>
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Ladies Congregational Society Monthly Tea
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Prayer Group
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG

## **MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE**

### December

5th Noel Angelin Cesar Franck  
12th In the Bleak Mid Winter H Darke  
19th Carol Service  
26th Festal Prelude on "Christians Awake" Walther

### January

3rd Triumphant Trumpet N Rawsthorne  
10th Toccato C Tambling  
17th Brother James' Air W West  
24th Prelude F Harrington  
31st Amazing Grace



## *Christmas Quiz*



1. Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message to the nation?  

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2. Who banned Christmas in England between 1647 and 1660?  

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3. On which date is Epiphany celebrated in the traditional Western calendar?  

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4. Who are the four ghosts in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol?  

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5. What liqueur goes into making a 'snowball' cocktail?  

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6. What is the English title of the carol written in 1818 by Austrian priest Josef Mohr originally called Stille Nacht?  

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7. The Nordic countries (Denmark, Sweden, Norway notably) tend to celebrate Christmas chiefly on which date?  

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8. Which of the Wise Men was said to have brought the gift of gold for the baby Jesus?  

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9. What changed in 1752 which caused England to have a White Christmas less frequently thereafter?  

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10. How many gifts are given in total in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas?  

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