

CHALICE

December 2011/January 2012

30 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

December 2011/January 2012

**THIS ISSUE OF
CHALICE IS
SPONSORED
in loving memory of
Joyce Clayton**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear All

Another year almost gone! This year does seem to have flown by but I suppose if we pause to think of all the things we have done this year then we cannot complain too much as we have managed to pack quite a lot into it. Our usual Sunday worship continues week by week and the usual special services throughout the year have been well attended and we have had a good number of social events which many of us have enjoyed.

Looking ahead to 2012 we have a lot to look forward to. Here at church we are already preparing for our 150th anniversary celebrations in July and that weekend promises to be a weekend to remember. Just a few weeks before that, at the beginning of June, we will be able to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, only the second time in history that a British monarch has reached that milestone, the other being Queen Victoria of course in 1897. Then, at the end of July, for those of you interested in sport there will be the London Olympics to enjoy.

Before all that though we need to complete 2011 and in the Church we do that with the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Advent is traditionally seen as a time of preparation, but not just for the preparation of material things. Advent can also be a time of spiritual preparation so that we can fully appreciate the joys which the Christmas season can bring. Let us take full advantage of this opportunity so that we may approach Christmas truly prepared to hear anew the message of love that God sends in the birth of a child and so be better prepared to enter 2012 with confidence and with joy.

Every blessing,

Andrew

BAPTISMS

- 30th October Amelia Claire Rothwell, daughter of Claire Norton and Adam Mark Rothwell. Amelia is the great grand daughter of the late Eda Kilroy.
- 20th November Millie Louise Adams, daughter of Lee and Louise Adams of Hanover Street, Stalybridge.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

There will be no evening Christmas memorial service held at church this year. Instead, there will be an opportunity during the morning service on 11th December to remember our departed loved ones. For anyone who would like to attend a special memorial service the Minister will be conducting one arranged by Massey's Funeral Directors in Hyde which is to be held at Hyde Chapel, Gee Cross on Monday 5th December at 7.30pm. Anyone who wishes to attend would be most welcome.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

We will not be hosting a Memorial Service this year but special prayers for those who have lost loved ones will be included in the service on 11th December.

OBITUARY

We are sorry to report the death of Edwin Whitehead (brother of Tom). We offer our condolences to the family at this sad time.

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Doesn't time just fly by – it's hard to believe that I will be writing about events in 2012 in this edition of Chalice!

First of all, a few thanks to be given. We thoroughly enjoyed Patchwork, the musical duo who entertained us on 18th November. We managed to make in the region of £140 and thanks must go to all who helped organise it and the people who provided food and raffle prizes on the night. Patchwork very generously gave their services for free, so thanks to them as well

Secondly, our Christmas Fair went well with quite a lot of new faces present spending their money. We had a few more stalls than usual, so grateful thanks to all of you who worked so hard to help in any way and also of course to all of you who came and spent your money. Also thanks to any of you who brought your friends along to spend their money. To date we managed to make just over £1000, but I believe we are expecting a few donations to come in yet, so a great effort. THANK YOU.

If you have been at church services recently, you will know we are holding our Christmas Party on Saturday 17th December starting at 4 pm. We urgently need to know the names and ages of any children attending. Please put names up on the board as soon as possible or give me a ring to let me know. Adults are very welcome as well of course and we need to know how many of you are coming for catering purposes. There will be fun and games for everyone, so please come along and join us. The cost for adults will be £5 and for visiting children £2 each. Church member children will not be charged. We hope we can persuade Father Christmas to come along so please don't miss it.

As this is a double month edition of Chalice, I will tell you about an event in January. On Friday 27th the Yew Tree Singers will be coming to our church to entertain us. There will be a hot supper served during the interval and the charge for entry will be £6 each. We hope it will raise funds to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of our church which takes place in summer 2012. We will need to know how many people are coming to enable us to cater, so please put your name on

the notice board at church. It's all for a good cause, so please come along and join us for what proposes to be a good night.

We shall not be holding our usual coffee morning on the last Friday of the month in December but will go ahead as usual in January so please come along anytime from 10.00 to 12.00.

Our next fund raising meeting will take place on 9th January 2012 starting at 7.15. If you have any good fund raising ideas or are prepared to help in any way, please come to the meeting – you would be more than welcome.

Finally, may I take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Sue Howard

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CHRISTMAS FAIR



WARDEN'S NOTES

These days it seems that anybody who can cook a half decent Christmas dinner can become a celebrity television chef. The latest advert regarding Christmas food is a mince pie that smells (and presumably tastes) like a Christmas tree. Call me old fashioned but I really like my mince pie to smell like a mince pie. If I really wanted to eat a Christmas tree I would do. What next? A turkey that smells like fish and chips? What is the point?

Some people seem to be obsessed with changing things just for the sake of it, and, of course to make money and further a personal career.

In the latest edition of "The Unitarian" the editor asks the question "How can you be a Unitarian and a Wiccan?" and then proceeds to tell us how this is indeed possible. The short and only answer to the question is that you can't be a Unitarian and a Wiccan. The word Wiccan is derived from witchcraft and at best it can be described as a pagan cult. It has nothing whatsoever to do with Unitarianism.

Just like the TV chef is trying to hijack the mince pie for his own ends the editor of The Unitarian is trying to hijack Unitarianism. If people want to be Wiccans that is fine by me, but they must not be allowed to use Unitarianism to further their cause.

As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and the beginning of a year during which we will celebrate our 150th Anniversary, I would like to thank everyone for their commitment to the cause of Unitarian Free Christianity in Stalybridge.

Sue and myself would like to wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ken

A MESSAGE FROM JANET

Kia Ora, Greetings from New Zealand, as I cannot be with you all over the holiday period; I want to wish you all a Happy Christmas and all best wishes for the New Year, 2012.

Regards

Janet Ford

FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 4 th December | Mrs and Mrs Tom Whitehead in memory of Mr and Mrs Tom Whitehead senior |
| 11 th December | Susan and David Roberts in memory of Mr and Mrs Frank Roberts |
| 18 th December | Janet Pearson in memory of Mary Dagnah |
| 25 th December | No Service |
| 1 st January | Mrs Margaret Bennett (nee Hallatt) to remember all UYPL friends |
| 8 th January | Mr and Mrs E. Caton in memory of Mr and Mrs Elson Caton |
| 15 th January | Geoff Kirkham in memory of sister Jean Kirkham |
| 22 nd January | Mr and Mrs Hinchliffe |
| 29 th January | Men's Guild to remember past members |

OLD CHAPEL DUKINFIELD

Presents the pantomime

“JACK AND THE BEANSTALK”

by John Morley

Saturday 11th February to Saturday 18th February
(except Sunday)

at 7.30pm

Tickets Adult £6 Child £3

All tickets for last night £6

Tickets from Jenny Halsall 0161 339 7450



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 18th December 4pm CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 25th December NO SERVICE —t here is a service at Old Chapel Dukinfield starting at 10.45am.

Sunday 1st January service as normal at 11 am.

NCUSSU CAROL SERVICE

There will be no NCUSSU Carol service this year.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Once more our good friend Martin Arnold has kindly donated a Christmas Tree. This will be put up and decorated by the Men's Guild on Tuesday 13th December.

YEW TREE SINGERS

Friday 27th January at 7.30 pm

Entry £6 including a hot supper

Please put you name on the board.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Saturday 17th December at 4pm

Please put you name on the board. All welcome

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

The Christmas Carol service is to be held on Sunday 18th December at 4pm.

Come along and sing your favourite carols.

The service will include the presentation of Juvenile Membership Certificates.

Please note there is only one service on this day.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make the Christmas fair a success. The takings from each individual stall are as follows:

Door	£ 42.00
Books	£ 35.25
Children's Games	£ 49.00
Gift Stall	£ 50.00
Christmas Goods	£ 68.56
Plants	£ 64.00
Home bake	£168.25
Christmas Tombola	£ 79.00
Tombola	£100.00
Raffle	£146.00
Tea Room	£137.70
Donations	£ 90.00

TOTAL £ 1029.76

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

4 th December	Sketch	
11 th December	Nocturne (Midsummer nights dream)	Mendels sohn
18 th December	Carol service	
25 th December	No service	
1 st January	Toccatino	C Tambling
8 th January	Larghetto	Mozart
15 th January	I watch the sunrise	C Murphy
22 nd January	Menuet (Water Music)	Handel
29 th January	Finlandia	J Sibelius

FOURTH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The next service of music and prayer will be on Wednesday 25th January at 7.00 pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be no meeting in December.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

As we look forward to Christmas we must remember those members and friends who are unable to be with us due to illness or other problems. We wish them well and assure them that they are always in our thoughts and prayers.

STEWARDS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

4th December Tom Whitehead

11th December Stuart Hinchcliffe

18th December Bill Atkin

25th December No service

1st January Wendy Maher

8th January Ken Howard

15th January Don Andrews

22nd January Tom Whitehead

29th January Stuart Hinchcliffe

