

**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 corporate member of The Unitarian Christian Association**

# **THE CHALICE**

**STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH  
MAGAZINE**

**FEBRUARY 2008**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE  
IS SPONSORED BY  
Christine Clough to the Friends of Gorse Hall  
Supporting our Heritage with the  
Unitarian Church, Stalybridge**

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

I am writing this letter just a few days after the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which this year was held in our church on January 20<sup>th</sup>. While it is still all fresh in my mind I must thank everyone who contributed to the service in any way, either by taking part in the service itself or by being in church to ensure that all our visitors received a warm welcome. It was a great pleasure to be able to welcome our friends from other congregations in Stalybridge and our guest preacher, The Rev Alan Kennedy who traveled over from Liverpool for the service.

By the time you read this letter another significant occasion will have come and gone. I am looking forward to our service this Sunday (January 27<sup>th</sup>) which marks the tenth anniversary of my ministry at Stalybridge and to welcoming another guest preacher on this occasion, The Rev David Ayton who is minister at Bournemouth. David and I trained together for the ministry at Harris Manchester College, Oxford and those of you with long memories will remember David leading the prayers at the induction service in 1997.

Lent begins early this year with Ash Wednesday falling on February 6<sup>th</sup> so looking ahead, there will be a number of special events coming up in quite rapid succession! The UCA Synod and AGM will be held at Styal on March 1<sup>st</sup>, the following day will be Mothering Sunday. The East Cheshire Union Songs of Praise service will be at Hyde Chapel Gee Cross on March 9<sup>th</sup> and then we will be visiting Dob Lane Chapel Failsworth for a joint service on Palm Sunday (March 16<sup>th</sup>). The Stalybridge Churches Palm Sunday service will be held at St Paul's at 3 pm the same afternoon. There will be details of the special services for Holy Week and Easter in the next Chalice but for now please make a note in your diaries of the Easter Vigil which will be held in our church on Easter Eve (Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup>) at 7.30 pm.

This year will have a visiting choir joining us and contributing anthems to the service so please do make every effort to be present at what promises to be a very special occasion.

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Two little birds, in a wood,  
Singing hymns, whenever they could,  
They couldn't make out,  
What they were about,  
But they felt they were doing them good.

### **SERVICE FOR THE WEEK OF CHRISTIAN UNITY**

This was held at Stalybridge Unitarian Church on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January. Over 80 worshippers from Stalybridge churches of all denominations attended an uplifting service. Thanks to Rev A R Parker for conducting the service, to the clergy and members of other churches for attending and taking part. Special thanks to Rev Alan Kennedy for his thought provoking sermon on ecumenism.

## WARDEN'S NOTES

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Munich Air Disaster". On this day in 1958 a plane carrying the Manchester United football team (the Busby Babes) crashed while attempting to take off from Munich airport in bad weather. Twenty three people were killed including eight players. I was 10 at the time.

I had first been taken to Old Trafford when I was nine by Brian Schofield (Kathleen Spiby's late brother and a good footballer and cricketer himself); I was lucky enough to see the Busby babes in action. In those days little boys were passed over the heads of the crowd so we could get a good view at the front, we were passed back five minutes before the end of the game. People could stand and sit anywhere they wanted, there was no crowd segregation.

My favourite player was Duncan Edwards, "Big Dunc" died on the 21<sup>st</sup> February from injuries sustained in the crash, this was the day I took my 11 plus exam and my dad didn't tell me that Duncan had died until I got home, as he thought it would effect my exam. I remember February 1958 as if it was yesterday.

I know I was young and naïve at the time but I don't remember supporters of other teams gloating about the crash and the terrible loss of life. This is a far cry from today's supporters. Manchester United are playing Manchester City in a league match close to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the clubs have had to write to the City supporters begging them to treat the one minutes silence with respect and not shout or sing abusive chants. The FA has refused to hold a two minute silence at the next England international because they are afraid it "may annoy supporters of other clubs".

What sort of society are we becoming if this sort of thing is happening in what is supposed to be one of the most civilised countries in the world. Do we have to beg people to behave properly, is it really impossible for people to show respect without being told to do so. If this really is the case then our society is doomed.

Of course the “beautiful game” is not as beautiful as it was, Premiership players seem to get paid about £5000 a kick and even some of them cannot behave properly either on or off the pitch (let’s face it some of them can’t even kick properly!). Football spectators used to swap banter and jokes on the terraces, now they hurl sometimes vile abuse at each other. We read about footballers behaving terribly in city centre hotels and others being involved in fights in fast food restaurants. It is worth noting that Duncan Edwards once got in trouble with the police for cycling home from a match without lights on his bicycle!

I love football but if the state of senior professional football today reflects our wider society then we are in a lot of trouble.

To respect other people is not difficult, this country used to be renowned for its’ sense of fair play and good sportsmanship.

If people respect one another, not only at football matches but in all walks of life, then maybe the low-life members of society who are damaging the reputation and the decency of this great country will disappear from our lives forever.

Ken Howard.

## **ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION**

This will be held at Flowery Field on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May. The date for entries is 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Please take a copy of the syllabus from the table in the porch and get working! Let’s see if we can win it this year.

## FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP



I hope you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year which will help you through what currently seems to be the cold and dreary months of January and February. We have held our first meeting of 2008 and hope to be able to bring you a few events which will help carry you over 'till the Spring.

First of all we shall be holding our usual Whist Drive on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February starting at 7.30pm at church. Please come along and join us when for £2 you get to play whist, enjoy delicious refreshments and have the chance of winning not only a whist prize but also a raffle prize! You don't have to be experts to play – everyone is welcome. We try and play on the first Friday of the month, so 1<sup>st</sup> February followed by 7<sup>th</sup> March.

We are taking a group of people to see Sleeping Beauty on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February. The panto will be showing from 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February at Old Chapel, Dukinfield. If you have not already done so, and wish to come along, please contact Ken who will do his best to purchase tickets for you. We have two members of Stalybridge Unitarian Church treading the boards, Ken and Tilly. Please come along and offer your support.

Looking further ahead than this we will be holding an organ recital on **Wednesday** 12<sup>th</sup> March at church starting at 7.30 pm. Our organist Norman will be playing together with Philip, a friend of ours. Entrance is £4 which will entitle you to a good evening's entertainment and light refreshments. Unfortunately, we could not get both of these busy men together on a Friday, so thought, instead of missing out altogether, we would try it on a Wednesday. It promises to be a good night, so please don't miss out but come along and bring your friends with you.

Also in March we shall be holding a Fashion Night on Friday 28<sup>th</sup>. Put a note of it in your dairy and I will give you more details in next month's Chalice.

We shall not be holding a meeting in February but would welcome anyone who has any ideas or would like to assist in any fund raising event to come along on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7.15 pm when we have our next get together!

Sue Howard



### **£1 A MONTH CLUB**

November's winner was number 45, Jack Greenwood and December's winner was number 29, Mary Dagnagh.

Anyone wishing to renew their membership or join for the first time, please contact me on 0161 344 0942, 45 Church St, Dukinfield SK16 4PR.

Beryl Bradbury

### **LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)**



The February meeting will be held on Wednesday 6th at 3pm, when the hostess will be Mrs Olwyn Murphy. A warm welcome is extended to all ladies from the church, please see any of the members if you need any information.

## **UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP**

### Leaders for February

- 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Sue Howard  
10<sup>th</sup> February: Clare Bullock  
17<sup>th</sup> February: Ruth Mills  
24<sup>th</sup> February: Sue Howard

All young people, whether they visit regularly or are just visiting, are more than welcome to join us at our UYPG meetings which take place during morning service (after the 2<sup>nd</sup> hymn) every Sunday when we usually make or prepare something either connected with that day's service or for a forthcoming church social event. If you have any queries, please contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

## **STEWARDS FOR FEBRUARY**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Don Andrews  
10<sup>th</sup> February: Stuart Hinchcliffe  
17<sup>th</sup> February: Wendy Maher  
24<sup>th</sup> February: Tom Whitehead

## CHURCH FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY



- 3rd: Margaret Hallsworth in memory of Vic
- 10th: Mrs Jessie Sykes in memory of Mrs Annie Norfolk & Miss Ada Blackburn
- 17th: Mr & Mrs Derek Worthington in memory of Mr & Mrs Arthur Worthington
- 24th: Mr & Mrs Ken Howard in memory of Miss Margaret Hitchen

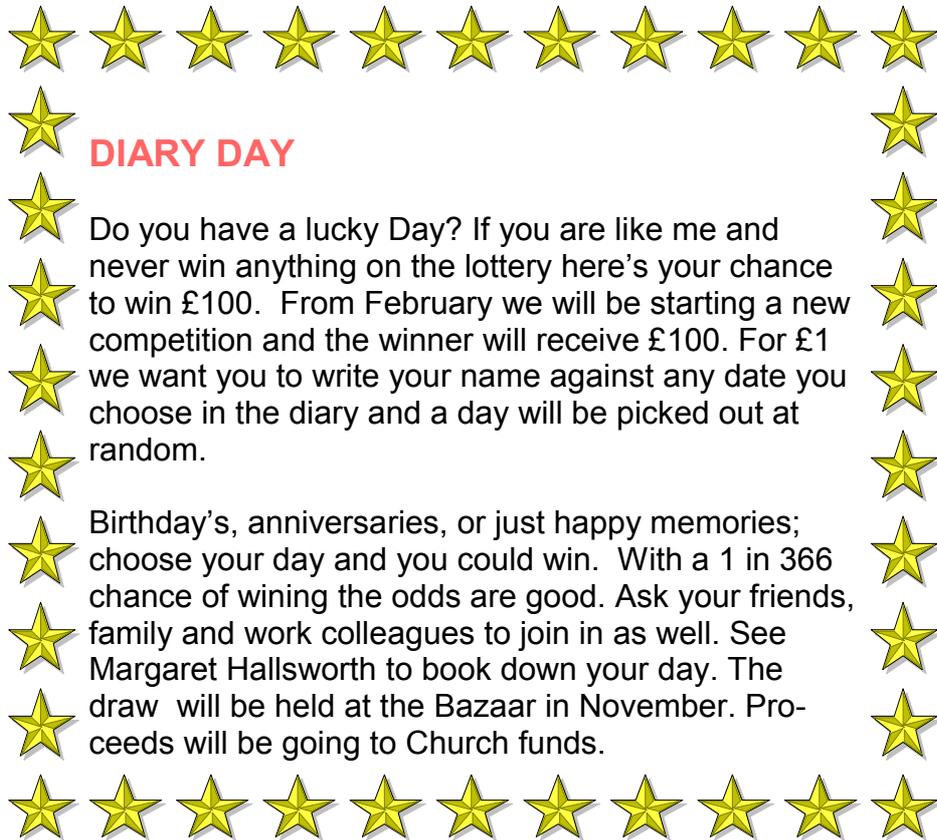
The vacant Sunday on the 6th January was kindly filled by Mrs Margaret Bennett (better known to most of us oldies as Margaret Hallett) who wished to be remembered by all her old friends in the YPL. Margaret keeps well and has recently moved back to Scotland again from Hereford, and sends all her good wishes to Hob Hillers. As the arrangements for the above were made during December it was too late to be published in the double issue Dec/Jan.

## CONDOLENCES

We are sorry to have to report the death of Mrs. Alice Holden (late wife of Harold). We hope that Harold and the family are able to find comfort at this very difficult time.

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY QUIZ 2008

Here's a chance to exercise your Quiz master talents. The G.A. Have sent us a limited number of Quiz sheets in order to raise money. If you want to give it a try please see Margaret Andrews. The sheets are available for just £1. All proceeds will be matched by the Bowland Trust which means that for every £1 we raise the G.A. will receive £2!



**DIARY DAY**

Do you have a lucky Day? If you are like me and never win anything on the lottery here's your chance to win £100. From February we will be starting a new competition and the winner will receive £100. For £1 we want you to write your name against any date you choose in the diary and a day will be picked out at random.

Birthday's, anniversaries, or just happy memories; choose your day and you could win. With a 1 in 366 chance of winning the odds are good. Ask your friends, family and work colleagues to join in as well. See Margaret Hallsworth to book down your day. The draw will be held at the Bazaar in November. Proceeds will be going to Church funds.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 1st Feb:	7:30pm	Whist Drive
Wed 6th Feb:	3pm	Ladies Society Monthly Tea
Fri 21st Feb:	TBC	Good Friday Sponsored Walk
Sun 2nd Mar:	11am	Mothering Sunday
Wed 12th Mar:	7:30pm	Organ Recital
Sun 16th Mar:	10:30am 3 pm	Visit to Dob Lane, Church Closed United Palm Sunday, St Paul's Church
Sat 22nd Mar:	7:30pm	Easter Vigil at Stalybridge
Fri 28th Mar:	7:30pm	Fashion Night
Fri 9th May:	2:30pm	ECU Songs of Praise, Hyde Chapel
Sat 10th May:	TBC	Arts and Crafts
Sun 11th May:	2:30pm	Whit Sunday
Sat 21st Jun:	TBC	Summer Fayre
Sun 6th Jul:	11am	Anniversary Sunday
Sun 5th Oct:	11am	Harvest
Sun 19th Oct:	11 am	Ladies Sunday
Sun 9th Nov:	11am	Remembrance Sunday
Sat 8th Nov:	TBC	Bazaar

# FEBRUARY

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	4.00 pm	Wedding at church
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Ladies Society Monthly Tea
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>		Old Chapel Pantomime
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning service and UYPG
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>		Church visit to Old Chapel Pantomime for those with tickets
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	NCUSSU delegates meeting at Stalybridge