

**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**

**FEBRUARY 2009**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE  
IS SPONSORED BY  
MRS E. BULLOCK**

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

I was very disappointed not to be able to conduct the carol services and the Christmas Day service in December. A special word of thanks to the children and their leaders for all their hard work in the weeks leading up to Christmas in preparing the splendid banners for church and their presentation at the service on the religious significance of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Well done! Those of you who have experienced this 'flu bug will understand why I couldn't be there! A number of people told me that it would get better and then return for a second assault. They were right and I had to miss another Sunday in January. I am grateful to Ken for taking the carol services and the service in January and to Rev Patricia Shaw who took the service I was scheduled to take at Old Chapel on that January Sunday evening. Our organist, Norman has also had a bad dose of the 'flu in January and I am grateful to Kathleen Redeyoff and Roger Firth for stepping in at short notice to play the organ on the two Sundays on which Norman was unable to be with us.

My commitment at Old Chapel meant that I was unable to attend the Stalybridge Churches Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service at St Peter's Church. The preacher was the (Catholic) Bishop of Shrewsbury and I am told that his sermon and the whole service were very uplifting and most worthwhile. Once again I am grateful to Ken for standing in for me that evening and to Wendy for representing the congregation by collecting our lighted candle at the end of the service which can now be brought to our own church and lit at special services throughout 2009 to remind us of our unity in Christ. The Ministers' group has also made arrangements for a united service on Palm Sunday at St Paul's; Whit Sunday; and we are already looking ahead to next Advent and Christmas and considering what we can do together then! We are very lucky in Stalybridge to have such a healthy spirit of cooperation between all the churches.

During January we were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Miss Alice Carr who has been a good and very generous friend to the church over many years. The Bazaar is not quite the same without Alice's wonderful raffle prizes! Our thoughts are also with the family and friends of Mr Nicholas Inman who died in December, particularly to his parents, Wendy and David. Wendy has also had a bad fall and ended up in hospital a couple of weeks ago with a fracture so we wish her a speedy recovery. Also our sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs Edith Pickford who died on Boxing Day and they too are in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Mrs Joyce Clayton fell over the Christmas period and ended up in hospital with a fracture. She is now at home but it will take some time to fully heal. Then in January Mrs Gladys Drury had a bad fall at home and had to be admitted to hospital for a partial hip replacement. We send both of them our very best wishes and hope that they will soon be feeling on the road to a full recovery. We also have a number of members who are unable to attend church now for varying reasons, and we send them our love and best wishes for 2009 as we do to any of our members and friends who have not been feeling fully up to par over the last few weeks. Let's hope that the gradually lighter and slightly warmer days help to lift all our spirits!

Every blessing to you all in the coming weeks,

Andrew

## **WARDENS NOTES**

I am sure you are all aware of the chaos going on within the financial markets.

I am duty bound to inform you that this has inevitably affected the church. The interest paid on our investments have been drastically reduced because of the extremely low interest rates and the value of our shareholdings has been badly hit.

It goes without saying, therefore, that money is extremely tight. I am sure you will all agree that our first priority must be to do all possible to retain the services of our excellent Minister.

Your committee discussed the situation recently and it has been decided that we must reduce all expenditure to an absolute minimum. We regret that we will be unable to construct the disabled access for the time being, we are also not in a position to complete the decorating in the snooker room and in the porch. The committee has also decided that we will not be making any grants to organisations both inside and outside the Unitarian movement until further notice.

I should point out that this problem has not been caused by either previous committees or the current one. Over the last twenty five years or so various committees have worked hard in many ways to put our finances on a stable footing. The sale of the land was, if you like, the last piece of the jigsaw. Just as we were looking at a financially secure future this has been snatched away from us by greedy bankers and a disorganised, naive government.

## **Thought for the Month**

Like everyone else we hope that the financial situation starts to improve but it certainly will not happen quickly. Your committee will monitor the situation very carefully.

In the meantime we have to remain positive. It is even more vital that we all support fund raising events as much as possible. May I also ask you all to consider increasing the amount you put in the collection. Every little bit will help. Together we can get through this sticky patch and come out stronger.

Ken Howard

### **COMMITTEE ROOM**

On behalf of the congregation I would like to thank Peggy Whitehead and Kathleen Turner for the loan of paintings being used to decorate the committee room. It's wonderful to see what talent we have in our midst.

Ken Howard

## **FUND RAISING**

Well, here we are again into another new year. I trust you all had a peaceful and joyous Christmas and New Year and are up and ready to join in some of our events in the hope of making some much needed funds for our church in these difficult times. Harvest supper which is being held on the Monday after the Harvest Service, which is Monday

Our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February starting, as usual, at 7.30 pm at church. All are welcome, so come along and bring your friends for a fun night out. We are trying to keep to holding our whist drives on the first Friday of the month, so consequently, our March one will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup>. There are prizes and refreshments and a raffle and all for £2.

As I mentioned in the last Chalice, we are having Andrew give us a talk on Queen Victoria's funeral. It has been held before when we had an evening drive out cancelled, but if you missed it, now is your chance to come and listen to a very interesting talk. It will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> February when a light supper will be provided. Once again, we ask you to put your name on the list so as to give us some ideas of numbers.

We are trying something new in March when we shall be holding a Desert Island Discs night. Two of our well known members will be asked to name the music they would like to have with them if they were marooned on a desert island together with a book and a luxury item. Please come along and listen to their choices and why they made those choices. A potato pie supper will be served and the cost for the evening will be £4. This will be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.30 pm. Please put your name on the notice board if you wish to come along just so we know how many to expect for catering purposes.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March starting at 7.15 pm just before the main church committee meeting.. Anyone is welcome, so if you have any ideas or think you could provide some much needed support, please come along.

Sue Howard

### **£1 A MONTH CLUB**



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

### **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The meeting in February will be held on Wednesday 4th at 3pm, when the hostess will be Mrs Margaret Hallsworth.

Manchester District Women's League AGM will be held on Saturday 7th February at Rochdale, and some of our members will be attending.

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## **MISS ALICE CARR**

We are saddened to hear of the death of Miss Alice Carr who passed away peacefully on Sunday 18th January. Miss Carr was a lifelong supporter of the church and she will be sadly missed. The funeral will take place in church on Thursday 29th January at 10.30 am, followed by committal at Dukinfield Crematorium at 11.30 am. Ken Howard

## **FUNERALS**

### **17<sup>th</sup> December**

Nicholas Inman, aged 40 years. Service and committal at Dukinfield Crematorium, the Minister officiating.

### **9<sup>th</sup> January**

Edith Pickford, aged 81 years. Service in church followed by interment at Mottram Cemetery, the Minister officiating.  
At the time of going to print the arrangements for the funeral of Miss Alice Carr had not been finalized



## **FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY**

- Sunday 1st Mr & Mrs T. Whitehead & Anne in memory of Miss Alice Carr
- Sunday 8th Mrs Jessie Sykes in memory of Mrs Annie Norfolk & Miss Ada Blackburn
- Sunday 15th Mr & Mrs Derek Worthington in memory of Mr & Mrs Albert Worthington
- Sunday 22nd Mr & Mrs Ken Howard in memory of Miss Margaret Hitchen

## **STEWARDS FOR FEBRUARY**

- Sunday 1st Wendy Maher
- Sunday 8th Ken Howard
- Sunday 15th Bill Atkin
- Sunday 22nd Don Andrews

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Women's World day of Prayer, service to be held at Stalybridge Unitarian Church
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	ECU Songs of Praise to be held at New Chapel Denton
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mothering Sunday
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	UCA AGM at Padiham
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Eve
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Sunday
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ECU AGM at Hyde Chapel
May 9 <sup>th</sup>	Arts & Crafts Exhibition at Old Chapel Dukinfield
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Whit Sunday

July 5<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary service  
September 20<sup>th</sup> NCUSSU AGM at Flowery Field  
September 27<sup>th</sup> Harvest Service  
October 3<sup>rd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Trip to Rome  
October 10<sup>th</sup> ECU Autumn Meeting at Stalybridge  
November 8<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday  
November 15<sup>th</sup> Ladies Service  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Carol Service

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

All young people, whether they attend 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. If you have any queries, please contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

We are just waiting for the Arts and Crafts programme and then we will be starting work on our entries for that. We hope you liked our new nativity banners which we made ready for Christmas. We always have some project on the table, so anyone who wishes to join us will be more than welcome and will definitely be kept busy

# Calendar February 2009

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	3.30pm	Ladies Congregational Society monthly tea
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> - Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Old Chapel pantomime "Humpty Dumpty"
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning service and UYPG
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Church visit to Old Chapel Panto mime.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11am	Morning service and UYPG (including Christening of Alfie James Price)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Talk and slide show on "The Funeral of Queen Victoria", given by Rev A R Parker