

**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 2010**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS  
SPONSORED BY  
The family of Agnes Rhodes, in  
loving memory of our angel in  
the sky**

## **WARDEN'S NOTES**

A belated Happy New Year to everybody.

To say it was a strange Christmas is a bit of an understatement. We were unable to hold any of our traditional carol services and altogether five church services were cancelled because of bad weather. Thanks to the hard work of Wendy Maher and Billy we were able to keep the church steps clear of ice and snow; unfortunately the approaching roads and pavements were very dangerous and we considered it too risky to simply hope that people got to church safely.

I certainly felt that something serious was missing from my life, I missed singing our traditional carols and I certainly missed seeing old friends at church over Christmas. We have re-arranged the Juvenile Membership service and the certificates will be presented by Rev Andrew Parker during the Sunday morning service on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Please make every effort to attend to support our young people.

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Your committee is considering ways to increase the size of our congregation/membership. We can not get away from the fact that the numbers of people attending worship is getting smaller. Sadly this is due mainly to the fact that older members of our congregation have passed away. We cannot allow this situation simply to drift along and nobody can do the work for us. Our first efforts should be concentrated on persuading people to attend worship more often and then trying to tempt people who consider themselves Stalybridge Unitarians to come along to worship with us regularly.

After this we then have to concentrate on attracting members of the local community to join us.

This will not be easy and we all need to help and be involved.

The committee will be having a special meeting later in early March to discuss all the options; the congregation will be kept informed accordingly.

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We will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the beginning of Unitarianism in Stalybridge on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012. I know this seems a long time from now but we need to organise things well in advance. Your committee will also be considering this at the special committee meeting.

Ken Howard

# Juvenile Membership Service

## **Taking place Sunday 14th February at 11 am**

Due to bad weather over the Christmas period we had to cancel this service. We have been able to reschedule for Sunday 14th February, so come along to collect certificates and prizes

# Coffee Morning

We will be holding, what we hope to become, a monthly coffee morning. The first will be **Friday 5th February from 9am until 12pm**. Come along for a cake, coffee or tea and a chat

## **STEWARDS FOR FEBRUARY**

7th	Wendy Maher
14th	Bill Atkin
21st	Don Andrews
28th	Ken Howard

## **FUND RAISING**

Well here we are again at the beginning of a new decade – it doesn't seem five minutes since we were all celebrating the new millennium.

I hope you all had a happy and joyous Christmas – it was a real shame that so many events had to be cancelled due to the extremely cold weather, but hopefully we are over that now and can look forward to the brighter days of spring.

We have had our first meeting of the year and hope to have a few events lined up for you. First of all, our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February starting at 7.30 pm at church. Please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening out when you may even win a prize! The cost is £2 which includes a raffle and refreshments. Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be an expert!! The one after that will be held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March, so we look forward to seeing you all then.

We shall be opening church on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 for a coffee morning. Doors will open at 9.00 am until 12 noon and everyone is most welcome. You will be able to get a cup of tea or coffee and some tasty refreshments, so please come along for a chat and a drink and hopefully meet someone new. You can stay for as long or as short a time as you wish, and we hope it will be a way of encouraging local people into our church for a social event. If it proves successful, then we shall hold a coffee morning each month.

Our next event after these will be another Desert Island Discs Night when our castaways will be Wendy Maher and Ken Howard. This will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February. We will be putting a notice on the board to get numbers for our usual potato pie supper, so please look out for that and put your name down if you wish to partake.

If you remember, I recently mentioned that we are trying to start a recipe book, but up till now, I have only received about a dozen recipes - so if anyone has a recipe they would like or have one to share with others, please contact me and I will add it to our 'book' which will be on sale shortly to help our fund raising efforts. It will be in a format which allows you to add new recipes. Once you have bought the original book, you will be given any 'new' recipes as they become available.

Some of you may remember the Piano Player and Friends Group that came to our church several years ago to entertain us and we are hoping to have them to sing and play to us again. As soon as we have fixed it up a notice will go up on the board, so please look out for that as we shall be selling tickets in advance so we have some ideas of numbers.

We would also like to hold both a flower arranging session and possibly a cake decorating evening, so please look out for that as well. Notices will be put up as soon as we have confirmed details.

The last thing we arranged at our last meeting was a St George's Night Dinner to be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. We hope to be able to serve a full English dinner and a notice will go up on the board for that as well.

So there are a few things to look out for and our next meeting will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March and anyone who is interested is very welcome to attend. It starts at 7.15 just before the main church committee meeting.

Sue Howard

## **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 ring Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872

## **MEMORIAL TREE**

As some of you may have noticed, we now have a Memorial Tree at the back of church. If anyone would like someone remembered, please get in touch with Clare Bullock or Sue Howard and we will arrange for the children to make your tag to hang on the tree. You can choose your shape – we have a flower, a bird, a butterfly and a leaf up to now, so you need to decide what shape you want and what colour and also we need a brief message to be written and it can then be hung on the tree. There is no cost involved, it is just a project the UYPG have undertaken. The more we have on, the better it will look, so please get in touch!

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The Ladies will hopefully meet on Wednesday 3rd February (weather permitting) after quite a long enforced break. The Hostess will be Margaret Hallsworth.

The Annual General Meeting of the Manchester District will be held at Rochdale on Saturday February 6th. Any ladies wishing to attend, please have a word with me if you need transport.

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**

If you have not yet paid membership for the current year, which ends 31st March, there is still time to do so. Please send your £5 to Mrs M Andrews - address at the front of Chalice.

## **HAITI DONATIONS**

Thank you from Paris for the donations to the Haiti Disaster Fund, which he collected on Sunday 24th January. The money will be paid into the Gorse Hall Primary School disaster fund collection.

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1<sup>st</sup> March      7.30 pm Special Committee meeting to discuss our future progress
- 5th March      2.15pm Women's world day of prayer at Stalybridge Methodist Church
- 8th March      7.15pm Fund raising and social committee meeting  
8pm Committee Meeting
- 3rd April      UCA Easter Vigil at Stalybridge Unitarian Church
- 8th-15th May   Rome trip

## **FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY**

- 7th            Mrs Margaret Hallsworth in memory of Vic
- 14th          Mrs Jessie Sykes in memory of Mrs Annie Norfolk & Miss Ada Blackburn
- 21st          Mr & Mrs Derek Worthington in memory of Mr & Mrs Albert Worthington
- 28th          Mr & Mrs Ken Howardin in memory of Miss Margaret Hitchen

# Calendar February 2010

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> 3 pm Ladies society Monthly Tea

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 9 .00 am – 12 noon Coffee Morning at church

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Whist Drive

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

(Presentation of Juvenile Membership certificates)

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> UCM Students visiting church

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Visit to Old Chapel pantomime

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 1.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

(Conducted by Beryl Plant)

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 6.30 pm Pulpit Supply meeting at church

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm NCUSSU delegates meeting at Stalybridge

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Desert Island Discs and potato pie supper

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

(Christening during service)