

CHALICE

February 2012

50 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

February 2012

**THIS ISSUE OF
CHALICE IS
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Geoff**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Watching something on the television yesterday I was reminded that next week is the Chinese New Year and I made a mental note to avoid Manchester that day! Last year I was trapped in Manchester for several hours by the celebrations, unable to return to my car and then when I could, I was trapped in a massive traffic jam to get away. I won't make that mistake again!

In China the festival can last up to a fortnight but it seems to be concentrated into one evening in Manchester. One special feature of the celebrations is the lion dance and fireworks are set off to frighten away evil spirits. Each year in the Chinese calendar is dedicated to one of twelve animals – Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit (or Hare), Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Cockerel, Dog and Pig. Legend has it that twelve animals were arguing about the name of the next year and each thought it should have its name. So they decided on a race across the river and the year would be named after the winner. The Ox was the strongest and led the field but did not notice the Rat on his back who jumped off and landed first. So the first year was named after the Rat and the following years after the other animals in the order that they finished the race. This year beginning on 23rd January is the year of the Dragon.

It is believed by the Chinese that people inherit the characteristics of the animal of their year of birth. For example, someone born in the year of the Dog may be faithful, affectionate and protective. It's a little bit like horoscopes in newspapers and magazines. Some people believe that the star sign we are born under influences our character. Does it matter when we were born or is where we were born and how we were brought up that is more important? One thing we know for certain is that we are all different. There is no one else in the entire world exactly like us.

That is why many people are more likely to say that it is not chance, not the stars, not the animal of a particular year but God who gives us each a unique individuality, a Human Soul. Let us never cease to marvel at the wonder of human life and the miracle of our uniqueness as individuals.

Every blessing,

Andrew

FUNERAL

11th January Glyn David Thomas aged 73 years. Service at Lincoln Unitarian Chapel followed by committal at Lincoln City Crematorium the Minister officiating.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY GROUP

The next service of music and prayer will be on Wednesday 22nd of February (Ash Wednesday) at 7.30pm. Do join us to mark the start of Lent. Everyone welcome.

REV A R PARKER HOLIDAYS

Andrew will be taking his holidays as follows:

Sunday 6th May (Favourite Hymns Service)

Sunday 13th May

Sunday 8th July

Sunday 2nd September

Sunday 9th September

You will be informed who will be taking the services in due course.

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Well here we are at the start of another year which looks like it is going to be a busy one for our church and the congregation. As you are all probably aware, it is the 150th anniversary of the church and there is plenty going on by way of celebration of this event.

The first event, which may have happened by the time you read this, is/ was the Yew Tree Singers who are singing for us on Friday 27th January. This has been arranged to raise funds for the 150th Anniversary celebrations. I'm looking forward to hearing them and hope the evening is a great success.

Our next coffee morning will be held on Friday 24th February at church from 10 to 12 noon. It is a good chance to have a chat with people you may not have chance to talk to on a Sunday or join some of our friends who drop in quite regularly for a drink and snack. Everybody is welcome, including children, so please call in and bring your friends and neighbours with you.

Early in March, on Friday 2nd, we shall be having a St David's Day Dinner. It will be a full three course dinner and the cost will be £8 per person. Please put your names on the list on the notice board. We'd like to see as many people there as possible, as it is obviously being done as a fund raiser! Everyone is welcome.

Later on in March, on Friday 23rd, we shall be holding a Desert Island Discs evening. You may remember we held several of these a year or so ago and it was very interesting seeing what other people's tastes in music are. Our guest this time will be Jeff Sheehan and another member of his family. Once again, we need to know how many are coming, so please look out for the notice on the board.

Looking a bit further ahead, we will of course be celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with a dinner on 25th May. I'm sure it will give many of you the opportunity to dress up appropriately for such an important event. Meanwhile put the date in your diary and look out for further details on the notice board.

Whilst you have your diary out, please enter the 23rd June for the Summer Fayre and the 24th November for the Christmas Fair.

We do have a few other events planned, but no definite dates yet, but don't worry, we hope to bring you much more in this important year.

Whilst we still hope to be able to get a grant of some sort, we are still looking at having our new disabled access entrance done and need every penny we can raise. Please support us.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 20th February at 7.15 pm and anyone who feels they can help in any way would be more than welcome, just come along.

Thank you

Sue Howard

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CAROL SERVICE

NATIVITY TABLEAU



WARDEN'S NOTES

REV A R PARKER

Andrew needs to go into hospital on 30th January for an operation. I do not intend to go into details here. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Andrew a safe and speed recovery.

It is envisaged that Andrew will need to convalesce for three weeks. The services during this time will be conducted by members of the congregation:

5 th February	Ken Howard
12 th February	Derek Clayton
19 th February	Beryl Plant

150th ANNIVERSARY ARRANGEMENTS

Plans are now well in hand for this important celebration. The programme for the weekend is as follows:

Friday 13th July at 7.30 pm

An organ concert given by Nigel Ogden (BBC Radio2 "The Organist Entertains"). The price for this will be £10 per person, only light refreshments will be served.

Saturday 14th July 7pm for 7.30pm

There will be a dinner dance held at Stamford Golf Club. The menu is as follows:

TO START
Homemade golden vegetable soup
served with warm crusty bread

TO FOLLOW

Chicken supreme and pesto crushed new potatoes
served with slow roasted cherry tomatoes

TO FINISH

Homemade citrus tart
served with fresh coulis

CHEESE AND BISCUITS

A selection of traditional cheeses
accompanied by biscuits and grapes

COFFEE AND MINTS

The dinner will be followed by some very short speeches and toasts and these in turn will be followed by music and dancing.

The price for this will be £27.50 per person. (UYPG members £17.50).

Sunday 15th July at 2.30pm

The 150th Anniversary Service will be conducted by Rev A R Parker assisted by other Ministers at Andrews' discretion. We hope to be joined by the President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, other Unitarian dignitaries, The Mayor of Tameside and other invited guests.

During the service all members of the Unitarian Young People's Group will be presented with a commemorative Bible.

Places at the Organ Concert and the Dinner Dance are obviously limited. Notices will be on the board shortly for people to indicate their wish to attend. People living away can phone Ken Howard to book their place.

All payments must be made in advance and not later than 30th June. People wishing to pay by instalments can do so by making arrangements with Ken Howard.

OBITUARIES

We are sorry to report the passing of valued members of our church community.

Mrs Mabel Eastwood (née Pogson) died in Bishop Auckland. Mabel was well known to many people both at Stalybridge and Old Chapel. She will be particularly remembered for her dancing skills. As a young man I got to know Mabel well. She always seemed to be laughing and made others want to laugh with her. We send our condolences to Gail and the family.

Mrs Mary Horbury died in the Isle of Man after a short illness. The Horbury family were very important members of this church before they moved to the Isle of Man and it was always good to see them when they came back to visit the family. We offer our condolences to all the family at this sad time.

Glyn David Thomas died in Lincoln after a long battle with illness. Andrew travelled to the Lincoln Unitarian Chapel to conduct the service for the family. We offer our condolences to Jean and all the family at this very difficult time.

GLYN DAVID THOMAS

My family and I would like to thank Andrew for the caring way in which he conducted the funeral service of my husband, Glyn David Thomas. Glyn died peacefully at home on 28th December two days before our Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Not only did Andrew travel to Lincoln, but his words of comfort both before the service and during it, helped me tremendously. The whole congregation was impressed by him. We know this from the numerous phone calls and comments we have received.

I would also like to thank all those who sent cards of sympathy, again, a comfort, in the terrible grief I feel.

Glyn always felt welcome at the church in Stalybridge. He spoke of it with great affection and I thank you for your friendship towards him.

He was a wonderful man and my loss is great. Andrew's words will always be with me.

Jean Thomas (neé Scullion)

DISABLED ACCESS AND TOILETS

We have not yet been successful in obtaining funds to complete this project. The total cost is almost £25,000 and we have already raised/earmarked one third of this amount. If anyone knows of any companies/organisations who we should appeal to please speak to one of the church officers.

FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE

This will take place on Sunday 6th May at 11 am. Please fill in the hymn selection slip on the table in the porch or phone Ken with your selection.

WHIT SUNDAY

Negotiations are still going on regarding the policing of this event. A meeting with the police is taking place on 24th January. I will keep you informed of developments.

CAROL SERVICE 2011

This was a well attended service and I hope everyone enjoyed it. I feel a special thanks must go to the UYPG for the wonderful Nativity Tableau. It was marvellous to see so many children taking part in this important service. I understand that not all of the very young ones were happy to wear their costumes!! Nothing changes really.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

This will be held at Old Chapel Dukinfield on Saturday 12th May. Copies of the syllabus are now available. Please note the date for receipt of entries is Thursday 12th April.

SPECIAL SERVICES 2012

All services at 11am and conducted by the Minister unless otherwise stated.

February 19 th	Ladies' Sunday. Conducted by Beryl Plant
March 18 th	Mothering Sunday
April 1 st	Palm Sunday
April 5 th	Maundy Thursday Communion at 7pm .
April 8 th	Easter Sunday
April 22 nd	Send a Child to Hucklow 50 th Anniversary
May 27 th	Whit Sunday (final details to be announced)
June 3 rd	Thanksgiving Service for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
July 15 th	150th Anniversary Service at 2.30pm
August 26 th	350th Anniversary of the Great Ejection
September 30 th	Harvest Thanksgiving
November 11 th	Remembrance Day
December 23 rd	Carol Service at 4 pm
December 25 th	Christmas Day Service at 10.30am

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

5 th February	Panis Angelicus	Cesar frank
12 th February	Larghetto	P Mauri
19 th February	Music for Diapasons	L Bottazzo
26 th February	My Heart Ever Faithful	J S Bach

CHALICE SUBSCRIPTION

Thank you for your continuing support of the Stalybridge Unitarian Chalice newsletter. If you wish to continue with your subscription please can you fill in the enclosed form and select the relevant payment and delivery option.

Due to a rise in publishing and postal costs, we have had to increase the subscription for 2012. The cost is £5 if you pick up your copy in Church and £10 if you want it posted to your home.

Please send your completed form and payment to:

Wendy Maher
6 Castle Walk
Stalybridge
Cheshire, SK15 2EL

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet paid your church membership for the current year there is still time for you to do so. You may either send £5 per person membership to the Church Treasurer or send it with your Chalice subscription to Wendy at the address above.

M. Andrews

Church Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM MARGARET HALLSWORTH

Thank you for all the cards, visits, phone calls and texts which I received at the end of the year during my prolonged stay in hospital. I'm pleased to say that all seems to be well now.

POUND A MONTH CLUB

The winner of December's Pound A Month Club was Eric Caton.

COFFEE MORNING

Coffee morning will be held on Friday 24th February at Church from 10 am to 12 noon. Everybody is welcome, including children, so please call in and bring your friends and neighbours with you.

FLOWERS FOR FEBRUARY

- 5th February Mrs Margaret Hallsworth in memory of Vic
- 12th February Mrs Jessie Sykes in memory of Mrs Annie Norfolk & Miss Ada Blackburn
- 19th February Mr & Mrs Derek Worthington in memory of Mr & Mrs Albert Worthington
- 26th February Mr & Mrs Ken Howard in memory of Miss Margaret Hitchen

STEWARDS FOR FEBRUARY

- 5th February Don Andrews
- 12th February Ken Howard
- 19th February Tom Whitehead
- 26th February Bill Atkin