

**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**

**JULY/AUGUST 2008**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS  
IN MEMORY OF  
BETTY HALL & MURIEL  
DAWSON**

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

June 28<sup>th</sup> 2008 marked the beginning of a special year of celebrations to mark the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Saint Paul. The exact date of his birth is not known but this anniversary is based on an educated guess! It is very likely that Paul was about ten years younger than Jesus. Paul was born to a Jewish family from Tarsus (in eastern modern day Turkey). He was given the biblical name Saul and the Roman name Paul (his father had obtained Roman citizenship). He was educated in Jerusalem as a student of Gamaliel the Elder where he received instruction in the Jewish Law and he describes himself as “a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees” (Acts 23 v 6). After his education he returned to Tarsus and so he was not in Jerusalem at the time of the ministry of Jesus only returning to Jerusalem a few years after the crucifixion. During this phase of his life Saul was a fervent Pharisee. He witnessed the stoning of Stephen, holding the cloaks of his murderers (Acts 8 v 1-3). Soon afterwards he was given the task of going to Damascus to imprison the Christians there (Acts 9 v 2).

His conversion took place on the road to Damascus when a light from heaven suddenly surrounded him and falling from his horse, he heard a voice saying “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” This experience changed his life. He withdrew to the desert and spent three years there rethinking his life before journeying to Jerusalem to meet Peter with whom he spent fifteen days. Peter must have taught him the oral traditions about Jesus (nothing was as yet written down) and helped his fledgling faith come to maturity.

In the years to come, Paul was to travel around the eastern Mediterranean spreading the news about Jesus, sometimes assisting existing small Christian communities and sometimes founding new ones. He became convinced that his mission

was not to take the message to Jews but to non-Jews and so he abandoned his Jewish name Saul in favour of Paul. His preaching often stirred up trouble and he was often in danger. Eventually he was arrested in Jerusalem and sent to Rome for trial. On the way he was shipwrecked in Malta but was finally brought to Rome, probably in the year AD 61. For at least a couple of years he was held prisoner and he continued to write and to teach while awaiting a trial which never materialised. That is where our information from the Bible comes to an end. Tradition has always held though that Paul became a victim of the persecutions of the Emperor Nero and that he was beheaded and buried outside the city wall.

Tradition had always held that the Basilica of St Paul outside the walls was built above the tomb of St Paul. In 2006, excavations beneath the high altar revealed a stone slab bearing the inscription *Paulo Apostolo Mart* - Latin for *Paul Apostle Martyr* which is believed to be the tomb of St Paul. Those of us who went to Rome a few weeks ago visited the Basilica and saw the tomb.

Paul is the most well-known figure of the first Christian generation, both for his Letters (seven of those attributed to him in the New Testament are considered by scholars to be authentic) and for the story of his life described by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. His Letters represent an extraordinary source of information for us yet the figure of Paul remains mysterious. The Letters cover only fifteen years of his life and the Acts, which chronicle his journeys, were written twenty years after his death.

I shall watch with interest the elaborate celebrations which are being held in Rome over the coming twelve months to honour Saint Paul and no doubt at some point during the year we will mark the anniversary in our own, rather simpler way in one of our services.

Wishing you every blessing

Andrew.

## **WARDENS NOTES**

As we look forward to summer (it must come soon) I would like to wish a happy holiday to all of you who intend to go away. For those who stay at home I hope we get some good weather.

I mentioned the sale of the land in last month's Chalice but I feel it is necessary to clarify the situation.

The land has now been sold and this money has already been wisely invested by the treasurer to ensure we receive a regular monthly income from the funds.

I think you are all aware that all the finances of the church are our own responsibility. We do not receive money from any central funds. This new investment coupled with existing investments will go a long way to provide the necessary monthly outgoings. BUT.....

It is important for us all to realise that we must still continue to raise funds through the good efforts of the Fund Raising and Social Group. Energy and fuel prices are going through the roof and consequently all other prices will inevitably follow suit. The bottom line is that we cannot sit back, we have to maintain a good proactive attitude to social and fund raising events. It is vital that we all understand the importance of this.

I am sorry to report that a quantity of lead was stolen from the church roof last week. This is being replaced (with an alternative to lead) as a matter of urgency and we will claim from our insurers. Inevitably this will cost us money by way of the insurance excess, raised premiums and a loss in our no-claims position.

Towards the end of the summer work will begin on re-decoration of all the anterooms and the upgrading of the kitchen, we have already accepted a quotation for this work. We are also obtaining quotes to provide disabled access and disabled toilet facilities.

Please make sure we have a good congregation for the Anniversary Service on 6<sup>th</sup> July. This will be our 146<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and it is important that we all give thanks to our "*Founders wise with vision strong*". It is also an opportunity to congratulate members of The Unitarian Young People's Group who will receive their prizes from the Minister.

Ken Howard

## MRS EDA KILROY

We have been saddened to learn of the death of a long standing member of the congregation and good friend to many of you, Mrs Eda Kilroy. Eda has not been able to join us for worship for some time now but was always interested to know about events and developments at church. During the time that she has been in Staley House I know that she appreciated visits from Margaret Hallsworth and Betty Bredbury and it was good to see her with her daughter Joan on Whit Sunday at the United Service. I understand that there is to be no funeral service as it was Eda's wish that her body be used for medical research. Nevertheless, our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends at this time.

Andrew.

## FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE

This has proved to be a very popular service in the past. It will be held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 11 am. Voting papers will be available on the table in the porch. You must give these back to Ken before the end of July so that we have a chance to print hymn sheets etc.

## FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP

Well, we have rushed through June with people still playing Whist and of course our main event of the month which has been the Summer Fayre. It was a fairly dismal day which made a few people reluctant to go out but we still did very well with a lot of effort from slightly less people than usual. Our total sum raised to date is £741 which for a two-hour stint is fantastic. This was made up as follows:

Raffle: £88.00	Tombola: £83.00	Tea Room: £56.70
Children: £37.05	Books: £46.29	Gift stall: £91.10
Home bake: £102.00	Plants: £74.50	Donations: £160.00
Sunshine bags: £2.36		

Very many thanks to those who worked so hard to make their stalls successful. This was a better total than last year, so well done to all who came to spend their money as well.

Our Whist Drive this month will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July starting as usual at 7.30 pm 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!

Please don't forget Margaret Hallsworth's diary which is being circulated. You have to put your name on your chosen date for £1. Once the diary is full, (probably at the Bazaar on 8<sup>th</sup> November) a date will be drawn out of a hat and the lucky winner will receive a cash prize ready to spend at Christmas. Please contact Margaret if you would like to take part.

We will be having our summer drive out on 18<sup>th</sup> July when we will be visiting Hyde Chapel. We will meet at church at 6.30 pm to get to Hyde at 7 pm when Andrew will give us a talk and guided tour round the Chapel which will be followed by a buffet supper at the Wharf Tavern in Stalybridge at 8.30 pm. Please come along and join us at whatever stage you like. If you require the buffet supper, please put your name on the list in church and also if you require a lift to Hyde, please enter your name as well so we can arrange transport.

It should prove to be a very interesting evening, especially with Andrew giving us the benefit of his knowledge and interest in Hyde Chapel. It also doesn't depend on the weather as Andrew says there is enough to talk about inside if the weather happens to be bad! Don't miss out and put your name on the list!!

We hope to be holding a Musical Evening in September and a games night catering for the children especially sometime in October, so please look out for further details.

Meanwhile, our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August at church at 7.15 pm, so everyone is welcome, especially if you have any fund raising ideas to offer. See you next month.....Sue Howard

## LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

The meeting in July will be held on Wednesday 2nd, when the meal will take the form of a Faith tea. Each member brings an item of food to be shared amongst everyone. We sometimes have quite unusual mixtures of food, but it all adds to the enjoyment of the occasion. All ladies from the church are of course very welcome.

There will be no meeting in August

## **CLEAN-UP SATURDAY**

It has come to our attention that church is becoming cluttered with unused "stuff". The cupboards are full, the vestry is overflowing and the snooker table is lifting up with everything that is stashed under it. On Saturday 26th July at 11 am we are having a spring clean (yes, I know it's summer). The grounds around church are also having a bit of a tidy. Help would be very much appreciated from all who are able, and there's the promise of a light lunch for all helpers.

## 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.

The children have been very busy over the past month preparing games for the Summer Fayre and I am sure you will agree they did a very good job as well raising nearly £40 on the day.

The minister has set us a task to tie in with his services and sermons over the coming months, so the children will be illustrating the different names Jesus was known by. I am sure you will agree it is good to see their posters going up on the wall week by week to bring to life what Andrew has been talking about during the services.

The UYPG prize giving will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> July, so please contact Clare if you require further information about this

### STEWARDS FOR JULY

Sunday 6th	Wendy Maher
Sunday 13th	Bill Atkin
Sunday 20th	Ken Howard
Sunday 27th	Don Andrews

### STEWARDS FOR AUGUST

Sunday 3rd	Stuart Hinchcliffe
Sunday 10th	Tom Whitehead
Sunday 17th	Wendy Maher
Sunday 24th	Bill Atkin
Sunday 31st	Ken Howard



## **FLOWERS FOR JULY**

6th Mr & Mrs Inman, Mrs B. Weltman & Mr & Mrs R. Hall  
in memory of Mrs B. Hall & Miss M. Dawson

13th Mrs Catherine Morris in memory of Mr Steven Morris

20th Mrs Margaret Barr in memory of Rev. Fred Barr

27th Mr & Mrs Peter Goacher in memory of Mr & Mrs W. Halls  
worth

## **FLOWERS FOR AUGUST**

3rd Mrs Mandy Pugh & Tilly in memory of Mr Trefor Pugh

10th Mr & Mrs Don Andrews

17th Mrs Olwyn Murphy in memory of Mr Charlie Murphy

24th Mrs Mary Dagnagh

31st VACANT

Mrs Mavis Beaumont kindly donated flowers on Sunday 22nd  
June. This was unfortunately arranged after the June issue was  
printed, Thank you, Mavis.

As you can see we have several free Sundays on the Flower  
Rota. If anyone wishes to donate flowers, please have a word with  
me

## BAPTISMS

18<sup>th</sup> May Eva Lisette Norton, daughter of Mike and Rebecca of Astley Street, Stalybridge.

8<sup>th</sup> June Will Robert Fletcher, son of Martin and Amanda of Wellbank, Stalybridge.

## FUNERAL

18<sup>th</sup> June Joan Bradbury.

Service in church followed by committal at Dukinfield crematorium, the Minister officiating.

Joan was a loyal and hard working member of our congregation for many years and her absence in recent years due to health problems has been keenly felt. We send our deepest sympathies to all her family.



## £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

## FAVOURITE HYMNS SERVICE

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*THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH*

*I'll not easily offend, nor easily be offended  
What's amiss, I'll strive to mend  
And endure what can't be mended*

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 2nd Jul:	3 pm	Ladies Congregational Society Tea
Fri 4th Jul:	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sun 6th Jul:	11 am	146th Anniversary Service & prize giving
Sat 12 th Jul:		Family Fun Day at Great Hucklow
Fri 18th Jul:	6.30 pm	Summer Drive out
24th &25th Jul:		Unitarian Christian Association 2 day officer group meeting at Flagg
Sat 26th Jul:	10 am	Clean-up Saturday
Fri 1st Aug:	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sat 2nd Aug:		UCA 7th Synod at new meeting Birmingham
Sun 17th Aug:	11 am	Favourite Hymn Service
Sun 5th Oct:	11 am	Harvest
Sun 9th Nov:	11 am	Remembrance Sunday
Sat 8th Nov:	TBC	Bazaar
Sun 23rd Nov:	11 am	Ladies Service
Sun 21st Dec	2.30 pm	Family Carol and Juvenile Membership Service

# JULY

Wed 2nd	3 pm	Ladies Congregational Society monthly tea
Friday 4th	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 6th	11 am	Anniversary Service & prize giving
Sunday 13th	11 am	Morning service & UYPG
Friday 18th	6.30 pm	Summer Drive Out
Sunday 20th	11 am	Morning service & UYPG
Saturday 26th	10 am	Clean up Saturday
Sunday 27th	11 am	Morning service & UYPG

# AUGUST

Friday 1st	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 3rd	11 am	Morning service & UYPG
Sunday 10th	11 am	Morning service & UYPG (conducted by Chrissie Wilkie of Dean Row)
Sunday 17th	11 am	Favourite Hymn service & UYPG
Monday 18th	7.15 pm 8 pm	Fund Raising Meeting Committee Meeting
Sunday 24th	11 am	Morning service & UYPG
Sunday 31st	11 am	Morning service & UYPG