

**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 2009

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
Mrs S Gregory
In memory of
Norma & Arthur**

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

The end of June brings us the Summer Solstice, the day when the sun is farthest north and which marks the official beginning of summer in the northern hemisphere and the beginning of winter in the southern hemisphere. Quite a number of Unitarian churches will mark this event in some way and it is one of those things which can easily be misused to create an artificial division between what are perceived to be different types of Unitarian. It is often thought that marking the Solstice is the preserve of our New Age friends and something which should be avoided by Unitarian Christians.

Actually, the Summer Solstice is a festival which should be important to Unitarian Christians and to all other Christians as well. God's blessing and presence is declared by the cycles of the sun. (Read Psalm 19 verses 1-6). We do not worship the sun but neither should we worship God apart from God's creation; we worship God in deep gratitude for all of nature's messengers and blessings.

Christians have always been wary of linking worship closely and overtly to the cycles of nature. It was a way Christians distinguished themselves from pagan ritual practice. However, in doing so we may have moved too far in the direction of diminishing the importance of God's creation and the seasons in worship. We minimize the place of nature at our peril. All too easily we become insensitive to the wonder of God's world and our interrelatedness with all the other creatures. When that happens it is only a small step to the abuse of the natural world which we see all too often. Let us never diminish the importance of God's creation in our lives or in our worship.

A Prayer for Summer:

Radiance of heaven,
Light of our souls,
Splendour of God's glory bright,
we greet you with joy as we begin the summer of the year.
We want to play, holiday,
and change our pace under the warmth of your sun.
Save us from forgetting you.
Give us new eyes to see what you are doing in others ...
in those who have sunshine but no relief from suffering ...
in the inner places of our hearts that need your truth and light ...
Refresh us in hearing what you are saying
through the Goliaths we face ...
through the deprivation as well as the fullness ...
through the storms that threaten us
but cease when they hear your voice ...
We thank you for the coming of summer
and the radiance of your living Word shining among us.

Amen.

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.

80TH BIRTHDAYS

Olwyn Murphy celebrated her 80th birthday on 30th June and Eileen Bullock will be celebrating her 80th birthday on 17th August.

We wish both ladies well and hope that they enjoy their celebrations

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

We will meet as usual on the 1st Wednesday of the month, that is the 3rd July. There will however, be no meeting in August at church as we hope to take a drive out on that day.

WARDENS NOTES

The effort that went into raising £744 at the Summer Fayre was remarkable. We are grateful for all the work put in by so many people to make the day a huge success. Events like this show that we continue to work as a team and this is something we should all be proud of.

Since my article regarding finances earlier this year I am pleased to say that we have received donations from far and wide. Most of them are anonymous so we obviously cannot name the donors but I would like to thank them all on behalf of the congregation for this invaluable help.

Whit Sunday turned out to be a wonderful day. It was an honour to lead the churches in the procession through Stalybridge and I hope that everyone enjoyed the day. Thanks are due to all those who helped in any way to make the day a success.

Our 147th Anniversary Service will be held on Sunday 5th July at 11 am. Please make every effort to attend this important annual service. The members of the UYPG will also receive their attendance prizes during this service. The children deserve our thanks for being such an important part of our congregation. They work very hard in many aspects of church life.

Claire Maddocks from Old Chapel is the new Religious Education Co-ordinator of the East Cheshire Union and she hopes to be able to attend this service.

Thinking about anniversaries; we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the start of Unitarianism in Stalybridge on 13th July 2012 (The Sunday School was first opened on July 13th 1862). This is a very big occasion and in order to ensure that the celebration is suitably grand we need to start organising things well in advance. Anybody with any ideas please let me know.

As we all look forward to summer I hope those of you who are going away have a good holiday. For those of you who are staying at home let us hope that the weather stays kind and England win The Ashes!!

Ken Howard

FLOWERS FOR JULY

Sunday 5th Mr & Mrs Inman, Mrs B Weltman and Mr & Mrs R Hall in memory of Mrs B Hall & Mrs M Dawson

Sunday 12th Mrs Catherine Morris in memory of Mr Steven Morris

Sunday 19th Mrs Margaret Barr in memory of Rev, Fred Barr

Sunday 26th Mr & Mrs Peter Goacher in memory of Mr & Mrs W Hallsworth

FLOWERS FOR AUGUST

Sunday 2nd Mrs Mandy Pugh and Till in memory of Mr Trevor Pugh

Sunday 9th Mr & Mrs Don Andrews

Sunday 16th Mrs Olwyn Murphy in memory of Mr Charles Murphy

Sunday 23rd Mr & Mrs Derek Clayton in memory of Mrs Joan Broadbent and Radcliffe

Sunday 30th Mrs Mavis Beaumont

FUND RAISING

A lot seems to have happened since I last wrote for the Chalice, but what stands out more than anything else is the Summer Fayre. Thanks so much to all who helped in any way. I was a bit worried as a few of our regular helpers and contributors had not been well but everyone came up trumps and we had a great selection of home baked goodies on my stall, as well as on the Tombola and Gift stall, so managed to make as much as we normally would, so thanks to all of you who helped in any way. It was good to see so many budding gardeners buying in for the summer from our plant stall!

Our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 3rd July 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 7th August.

As for forthcoming events, we shall be holding our second evening of Desert Island discs on 17th July. Proceedings start at 7.30 pm and the cost for the evening will be £4 which will entitle you to an evening's entertainment as well as a potato pie supper. Our guests this time will be Margaret Hallsworth and Derek Clayton. Please come along and share their choice of music with them. If you intend to come, please put your name on the notice on the board so we know how many to cook potato pie for.

On 31st July, we shall be having our Summer Drive out. The destination is still a mystery and it will be followed by a buffet supper at the Wharf Tavern. Please enter your names on the list so we know how many to cater for and also if you need a lift, we need to know. Give me a ring if you want me to put your name down and you can't get to church for some reason. We will meet at church at 6.30pm on Friday 31st July.

We have had a very kind offer from Joyce and Derek Clayton to visit their home. They are holding a 'bring and buy' afternoon and providing lovely cream teas. This will be on Saturday 8th August and will be held from 2 – 6 pm. Joyce and Derek live at 11 Peaknaze Close, Simondley, Glossop, SK13 6UN. Our car will be leaving church at

2.00 pm if anyone would like a lift. Please let us know if you need directions. Let's hope it is a nice afternoon when we can all sit out and enjoy what I hear is a lovely garden in a beautiful setting.

Finally, following our various different cultural evenings, I am quite often asked for recipes that have been used. As a result we are thinking of writing a recipe book for sale with favourite recipes in it. If you would like to see a recipe in it or have a recipe which you would like to share with others, please let me know and I will make a start on it. We can make additions to the book as we go along – but let's get started and see how we go on.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 10th August at 7.15 pm which is just before the main church committee meeting.

Have a lovely summer!

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 2nd hymn) every Sunday. If you have any queries, please contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

MEMORIAL TREE—The UYPG are hoping to create a memorial tree for church members wishing to remember friends and family. If you wish to hang a shape—leaf, bird or butterfly, on one of the branches with details of your friend or relative please contact Sue or Clare. You will need to consider shape, colour and appropriate words, we think perhaps no more than 15.

We have to thank Sue Howard for the idea. It may take a little time to set up, but we envisage it will be an on going project.

£1 A MONTH CLUB

Last month's winner was Janet Ford, winning £33.50. Congratulations!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- July 5th Church Anniversary service
- September 20th NCUSSU AGM at Flowery Field
- September 27th Harvest Service
- October 3rd-11th Trip to Rome
- October 10th 150th Anniversary celebration at Old Chapel, Dukinfield
- October 18th Ladies Service
- November 8th Remembrance Sunday
- December 20th Carol Service

FLOWER SECRETARY

After many years service, our flower secretary, Margaret Hallsworth, has decided to resign from the post. We would like to thank Margaret for all her hard work over the years.

We now need someone to take over the post and continue to arrange and organise the flowers for church. Anyone who is interested in this role, please contact a member of the committee

STEWARDS FOR JULY

Sunday 5th Stuart Hinchcliffe
Sunday 12th Tom Whitehead
Sunday 19th Ken Howard
Sunday 26th Bill Atkin

STEWARDS FOR AUGUST

Sunday 2nd Don Andrews
Sunday 9th Tom Whitehead
Sunday 16th Stuart Hinchcliffe
Sunday 23rd Wendy Maher
Sunday 30th Ken Howard