

**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**

JUNE 2008

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
MRS M BENNETT IN MEMORY
OF MR & MRS W HALLETT**

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

During May we held our Annual General Meeting and once again it was good to hear the reports from the officers and know that our church is not only in good heart but in good hands! Here are the main points from the comments I made at the meeting, particularly for those of you who were unable to be present but also for those who were as we were a little bit conscious of time towards the end and it isn't always easy to take in everything that is read out at meetings like that anyway!

Once again we have had a busy and in many ways successful year. Our core congregation, of all ages, remains very loyal and Sunday attendances remain good despite the fact that a number of familiar faces are no longer with us on Sunday for various reasons. Our annual programme of services is developing more and more each year. Last December we had to hold two Christmas memorial services which were both well attended and appreciated. The UCA Easter Vigil this year was enhanced by the choral contributions of Roundelay, a choir based at Cross Street Chapel in Manchester. During the year we have participated in ecumenical services for Harvest, Palm Sunday, Whit Sunday and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which was held here. One very successful innovation during the year has been our joint services with Dob Lane Chapel. The service here and the one at Failsworth were well attended and I think, very worthwhile. The next one will be here in November.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helps in any way to ensure the smooth running of our fellowship here. The officers in particular for all the time and effort they put into their work for us, often unseen by everyone else. The members of the committee for their support and collective wisdom. Claire, Sue and Ruth for their work with the children, they do a marvellous job and are an essential part of our fellowship. To the children for taking on the role of sidesmen so efficiently. To Norman for his musical contributions to our worship. To Margaret for all her work as Flower Secretary. To Rachel for her work on Chalice. To the stewards, who are the face of Stalybridge Unitarian Church on their Sunday and who all do an excellent job of welcoming any newcomers and making them feel at ease - and everyone who helps in any way. Last, but by no means least I would like to express my thanks to the Warden for all his support and encouragement and for his untiring enthusiasm and commitment to this congregation.

Looking ahead now rather than back, as I write this letter I am in the middle of final preparations for our church visit to Rome. Next month there will hopefully be lots to tell you about that!

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

This will be held on Sunday 6th July at 11 am.

This is an important part of our heritage. The members of the Unitarian Young people's Group will receive their attendance prizes during this service.

WARDENS NOTES

Last month was very busy. Whit Sunday went very well and we were extremely lucky with the weather. It's hard to believe but there was a torrential downpour in parts of Ashton, but luckily it managed to avoid Stalybridge. I was personally a bit disappointed that one minister decided to hand over his responsibility by allowing a lay person to give the address. Sadly, although I am responsible for the organisation of the event, the clergy are responsible for the worship, all I can do is have a word in a few ears. Next year we will be the lead church so we will have a little bit more control over the proceedings. We also need a big turnout to show the town that we are a growing, successful congregation. Please put it in your diary now—**31st May 2009 WHIT SUNDAY**.

The Annual General Meeting went well and I would like to thank all those people who attended and all those who accepted a nomination to serve as an officer or committee member. The fact that we needed an election was a bit of a double-edged sword. It is exciting and healthy that we have more people who would like to serve the congregation but it is sad for those three people who failed to be elected. Two people who were not elected (Tom and Stuart) have served on the committee for over 60 years and over 20 years respectively and they deserve our thanks for their long term commitment to the congregation.

I am pleased to inform the congregation that the sale of the land behind church has now been completed. This has taken a long time as we had to obtain the permission of the Trustees, The British and Foreign Unitarian Association (overseeing trustees) and The Charity Commission. This money will be invested to boost our ability to maintain the services of the minister. Some money will be spent on disabled access and toilet facilities and on decorating all the ante-rooms. There will not be a spending spree, we need to control our finances carefully.

I know that all of us are committed to the future of the congregation and that is very important. I believe we are going in the right direction. Our new constitution (adopted at the AGM) has firmly established us as a Unitarian Free Christian Congregation. I believe that this is very important, we need us and everybody else to be aware of the real reason for our existence. We don't want to be part of a woolly catch all church, WE ARE AND WANT TO REMAIN A UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION. This does not make us old fashioned or out of touch. This makes us exactly what we want to be.

Ken Howard

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Don Andrew who celebrates his 80th Birthday on 9th June. We hope he enjoys his celebrations.

PULPIT SUPPLIES

While Andrew is in Rome:

Sunday 1st June Rev Csaba Todor (Csaba is a Romanian Minister studying at Unitarian College Manchester). We look forward to welcoming him and his family to church).

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP

First of all, many thanks to all who came to our Italian Night last month which was held to try and get our Rome travellers off to a good start. A good night was had by all and a few more coppers found their way into the fund-raising pot. Thanks must also go to all who helped make it a success. We had a few new faces and I hope we will be seeing them again at other events we hold throughout the year.

Obviously all efforts are being concentrated on the Summer Fayre at the moment, which, as you already know (I hope) will be held on 21st June from 2 to 4 pm. As well as the usual stalls of tombola, home bake, raffle, children's games, and gifts, we hope to have a few new ideas this year, including manicures and decorating gingerbread men. From what I hear as well, we hope to have a new super improved plant stall, so don't buy all your plants and baskets just yet, wait and see what we have to offer! Don't forget we are banking on all of you to contribute to our various stalls as well as coming along together with your friends to help make the afternoon a success. Let's just hope we have some good summer weather, for the afternoon at least, when you can sit outside in the sunshine enjoying your summer cream teas!

The chocolate quiz which was being circulated was won by Kathleen Spiby who got full marks—so well done the Spiby family (I believe the younger members managed to identify all the chocolates you had to name!) Margaret still has her £ diary going around in which you can pick a date for a pound and the person whose name is on the date that is picked (probably at the Bazaar) will be the winner of a nice lump sum of cash to help with your Christmas spending!

Our next whist drive will be held on Friday 13 June, so please come along and join in starting at 7.30 pm at church. See you next month.

Sue Howard

LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

The June meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th June at 3 pm. The hostess this month will be Mrs Kathleen Spiby.



£1 A MONTH CLUB

We have plenty of spaces on our £ a month club list at present, so in case you think you have re-entered your name, here is a list of people who are still in against their respective numbers. If you are not on and 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

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Alice Carr | 38. Pat Manton | 69. Nora Caton |
| 2. Alice Carr | 40. Ruth Mills | 70. Ken Howard |
| 5. Norman Bradbury | 41. Eileen Bullock | 71. Sue Howard |
| 6. Christine Clough | 42. Claire Bullock | 72. Stuart Hinchliffe |
| 9. Rachel Plant | 43. Anne Holden | 73. Anne Hinchliffe |
| 10. Kathleen Spiby | 44. Julie Mather | 74. Bill Atkin |
| 11. Geoff Spiby | 47. Olwyn Murphy | 75. Alan Swift |
| 18. Andrew Parker | 48. Barbara Birnie | 76. Sue Swift |
| 21. Tom Whitehead | 49. Wendy Maher | |
| 22. Peggy Whitehead | 50. Edith Howard | |
| 23. Minnie Parker | 57. Betty Dean | |
| 25. Gina Ullman | 58. Margaret Hallsworth | |
| 27. Hazel & Alan Brooks | 59. Amanda Pugh | |
| 28. Don Andrew | 60. Alison Pleszak | |
| 29. Mary Dagnah | 61. Janet Ford | |
| 30. Mary Dagnah | 62. Chris Hallsworth | |
| 31. Margaret Andrew | 63. Margaret Hallsworth | |
| 34. Anne Holden | 64. Beryl Plant | |
| 35. Ella Dale | 65. Ray Cooper | |
| 36. Roy Manton | 66. Norman Bradbury | |
| 37. Margaret Cooper | 68. Eric Caton | |

**ALL MISSING
NUMBERS HAVE
NO NAME TO
THEM SO ARE
AVAILABLE!!**

LAST MONTH'S WINNER WAS MR TOM WHITEHEAD (No.21)

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. We are currently working on our contributions for the Summer Fayre to try and encourage you all to spend a bit more money.

STEWARDS FOR JUNE

1st June:	Bill Atkin
8th June:	Ken Howard
15th June:	Don Andrews
22nd June:	Stuart Hinchliffe
29th June:	Tom Whitehead

NEW CONSTITUTION

The new constitution approved at the Annual General Meeting is on the notice board in the committee room.

FEELING BETTER

We are pleased to report that Mrs Minnie Parker is feeling better following the incident on Whit Sunday.



FLOWERS FOR JUNE

1st June	Table:	Miss Brenda Hallett in memory of Mr & Mrs W Hallett
	Font:	Mrs Gladys Drury in memory of Mr & Mrs Tom Stokes
8th June		Mrs Wendy Maher in memory of Mr & Mrs L Gowling and Peter
15th June		Mrs Edith Cooper in memory of Mr David Griffiths
22nd June	Table:	Mr Brian Oliver in memory of The Oliver family
	Font:	Mrs Marjorie Morton in memory of John
29th June		Vacant

There are some available flower dates, so please contact Margaret Hallsworth if you would like to provide flowers on one of the vacant dates.

SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 21st June 2008

*From 2 pm to 4 pm
Free Admission*

**STALYBRIDGE
UNITARIAN CHURCH
FORESTER DRIVE
STALYBRIDGE**

- Gift Stall
- Home Bake Stall
- Bottle Tombola Stall
- Plant Stall
- Cream Teas
- Raffle
- Manicures
- Children's Games

**FUN FOR EVERYBODY
BRING YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FRIENDS
ALL ARE WELCOME**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 21st Jun:	2pm	Summer Fayre
Sun 6th Jul:	11am	Anniversary Sunday
Sun 5th Oct:	11am	Harvest
Sun 19th Oct:	11 am	Ladies Sunday
Sun 9th Nov:	11am	Remembrance Sunday
Sat 8th Nov:	TBC	Bazaar
Sun 21st Dec	2.30 pm	Family Carol and Juvenile Membership Service
Sun 21st Dec	6.30 pm	Candlelit Carol Service

JUNE

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| Sunday 1st June | 11.00 am | Morning Service and UYPG
conducted by Rev Csaba Todor |
| Tuesday 3rd June | 7.30 pm | NCUSSU delegates meeting at
New Chapel Denton |
| Wednesday 4th June | 3.00 pm | Ladies Congregational Society
monthly tea |
| Sunday 8th June | 11.00 am | Morning Service and UYPG |
| Friday 13th June | 7.30 pm | Whist drive |
| Sunday 15th June | 11.00 am | Morning Service and UYPG |
| Monday 16th June | 7.15 pm
8.00 pm | Fund Raising Meeting
Church Committee Meeting |
| Saturday 21st June | 2.00 pm | SUMMER FAYRE |
| Sunday 22nd June | 11.00 am | Morning Service and UYPG |
| Sunday 29th June | 11.00 am | Morning Service and UYPG |
| Sunday 6th July | 11.00 am | ANNIVERSARY SERVICE |