

**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 2010

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
Alan and Sue Swift
in memory of
Frank Swift (Alan's Father) and
Edward Robinson (Sue's Father)**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

It was good to see so many of our members and friends on Whit Sunday and to be able to join once again with the other churches in Stalybridge for a united service and Procession of Witness. The turnout amongst all the churches was good again this year and it looks as though this tradition is going to continue for many years in Stalybridge when other towns are not so lucky. The weather was kind to us this year, perhaps even a little bit too warm in the sun during the service, but we coped! Our thanks go to everyone who helped to make the day a success and especially to Ken who played a leading role in the organisation for the whole town and ensured that everything went smoothly on the day.

At the service I was most amused to learn that Father Bernard had spotted me walking across St Peter's Square in Rome the week before on the Vatican webcam! Our group had another wonderful week in Rome visiting many places of interest. The weather was not as hot as on previous visits but that made it much easier when walking around the city or using the buses. I'll have to start thinking about the next visit now!

I keep being told that we are going to have a heat wave this summer. A few days ago when it was really hot and sunny I might have thought that was right but today is grey and dull and a bit cool but I suppose there is still plenty of time for it to happen. If it does though, please spare a thought for the wildlife that comes into our gardens and put out a dish of water in the shade somewhere to help them get through dry spells. Whether you are going away for a break over the next few weeks or enjoying the summer at home do make the most of whatever time you have to relax and recharge your batteries.

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Thank you to all the congregation for their generous donations to Christian Aid. I'm so pleased we made our contribution to this worthwhile cause. Following the service on 9th may we raised £25 for the charity.

Rachel Plant

Quotes for the Month

"Tell a man there are 300 billion stars in the universe and he'll believe you. Tell him a bench has wet paint on it and he'll have to touch it to be sure."

Murphy's Law

*"On life's journey
Faith is nourishment,
Virtuous deeds are a shelter,
Wisdom is the light by day and
Right mindfulness is the protection by night.
If a man lives a pure life nothing can destroy him;
If he has conquered greed nothing can limit his freedom"*

Buddha

FUND RAISING

Well we hope you all enjoyed our latest evening's entertainment which was a return of The Piano Player and Friends who came and entertained us on Friday 21st May. It was great to see them again and they were as good as ever. If you weren't able to come, look out for a return – we don't want to leave it so long before we invite them again.

Our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 4th June starting, as usual, 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 following that will be held on Friday 2nd July.

You may have noticed that I have now published our recipe book. It is a collection of recipes given to me by members, both current and former, of our congregation as well as recipes we have used over the past few years that have been used at our various evenings around the world! The cost is £5, and this will include any new recipes that come my way over the next year. The book is a loose leaf file, so additions can be made whenever necessary. If you would like one, please see me. I am the only one selling it at the moment as I need to keep proper records as I need to know who to send new recipes to if I get any. It is not too late to send me a recipe if you have one which you think people might like. Just hand or post it to me and I will add it to the collection.

We are continuing to hold our 'coffee mornings' each month, the next being on Friday 28th May and then 25th June. Wendy is doing a great job organising everything and making sure anyone who comes receives a warm welcome. Please come along and lend your support. All ages are welcome and we even have a children's corner for the younger ones.

I thought I'd just mention the Summer Fayre again which, this year, will be held on 19th June, 2 to 4 pm. All the usual stalls will be there, so once again we are looking for your support. All donations are welcome, whether they be tombola prizes, gifts for the gift stall, cakes etc for the home bake stall, raffle prizes, plants for the plant stall or if you cannot donate anything, your presence would be appreciated. I'm sure there will be something for everyone and of course you will be able to enjoy a nice cream tea! Please make a note in your diary!!

Our next Desert Island Discs night will be held on Friday 16th July starting at 7.30pm. A notice will be put on the board for you to put your name on so we know how much potato pie to make. Our 'ship wrecked' guests will hopefully be Clare Bullock and Rachel Plant.

We are hoping to have an evening drive out on Friday 30th July. The weather wasn't too kind to us last year, but I'm sure we will be luckier this year. A notice will also be going up for this, so please enter your name for catering purposes. Further details will be announced when known.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 14th June 2010 at 7.15 pm which is just before the main church committee meeting. Please feel free to join us if you feel you could help in any way. We always need help with new fund raising ideas and it might be YOU who can provide them.

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 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, a heart, a star 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!

WARDEN'S NOTES

I would like to thank everybody who attended the Annual General Meeting of the congregation. It is important and fulfilling to know that we can still attract sufficient people to work as our officers and committee. Running a church is not easy and we need a solid group of committed members to ensure that we do things properly.

Many thanks also to the people who walked on Whit Sunday. The weather was beautiful and we had a reasonable turn out. Special thanks must go to the banner team who must have found it quite hard going in the heat. Thanks also to my mum for once again providing the buns. Denton Brass Band did us proud once again. Whit Sunday is one of the best days of the church calendar and an opportunity to exhibit our Unitarian Free Christian faith to the people of Stalybridge.

At the first committee meeting following the AGM it was decided to form a sub-committee to start discussing the arrangements for our 150th anniversary in 2012. The sub-committee will eventually (hopefully) come up with a definitive plan for all the celebrations. These plans will then need the approval of the main committee. Finance will be an obvious obstacle and there is no doubt that we will need to increase our fund raising activities. I would ask all of you to support these events as much as possible.

Ken Howard

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

This month we will meet on Wednesday 2nd June at 3pm when the hostess will be Mrs Kathleen Spiby

STEWARDS FOR JUNE

6th	Don Andrews
13th	Ken Howard
20th	Tom Whitehead
27th	Stuart Hinchcliffe

FLOWERS FOR JUNE

6th	TABLE	Miss Brenda Hallatt in memory of Mr & Mrs W. Hallatt
	FONT	Mrs Gladys Drury in memory of Mr & Mrs Owen Stokes
13th		Mrs Wendy Maher in memory of Mr & Mrs L Gowling & Peter
20th		Mrs Edith Cooper in memory of Mr David Griffiths
27th		Mr Brian Oliver in memory of The Oliver Family

Calendar June 2010

- Wed 2nd 3.00 pm Ladies Congregational Society monthly tea
- Friday 4th 7.30 pm Whist drive
- Sunday 6th 11.00 am Service conducted by Danny Crosby
(Service followed by Christening)
- Monday 7th 7.15 pm Women's Institute
- Sunday 13th 11.00 am Service conducted by Rev A R Parker
- Monday 14th 7.15 pm Fund Raising meeting
- Monday 14th 8.00 pm Church Committee meeting
- Thursday 17th 7.30 pm NCUSSU delegates meeting at Mossley
- Saturday 19th 2 to 4 pm Summer Fayre
- Sunday 20th 11.00 am Service conducted by Rev A R Parker
- Monday 21st 7.30 pm 150th Anniversary sub-committee meeting
at 75 Hutton Avenue
- Sunday 27th 11.00 am Service conducted by Rev A R Parker