

**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**

JUNE2011

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED**

by

**Mrs Olwyn Murphy
in memory of
Charles Murphy**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

As I write this letter yet another bank holiday weekend is in sight. We do seem to have had rather a lot recently! There is no sign of the summer though, despite predictions of a summer heat wave. Many of you will be turning your thoughts to holidays or to the occasional day out during the longer and hopefully warmer days. We all need days when our routine is interrupted and we can rest for a while. Even in retirement we occasionally need a change of pace or surroundings.

In centuries gone by there were no statutory holidays and the only times that people could break from their labours were Sundays and religious festivals and there was no such thing as retirement. Holy days and holidays were one and the same thing and such days must have been very precious. We are more fortunate. Those working get statutory holidays and bank holidays and when we reach a certain age we are able to retire and take life at an easier pace. We have far more leisure time than any generation before us.

Yet times of unhurried reflection and prayer are rare. Even our weekly holy day – Sunday is no longer what it was. Not so long ago, Sundays were very different - the shops were shut, the roads were empty and churches were amongst the few places to be busy. It was very easy for Sunday to be a completely distinct day, a day set apart for worship and fellowship. But now Sunday is an incredibly busy day, many people have to work, and the idea of it being a "day of rest" feels somewhat archaic. The important thing is that we should each make the best use of the time we have, whenever we have it. Sunday is still an important day for many of us and we mark that by coming to church but it is not the only day that is holy. Every day is a holy day.

As I was completing this letter I received the sad news of the death of our good friend Joyce Clayton. This will come as a great sadness to us all and we send our deepest sympathies to Derek and all Joyce's family and assure them that our thoughts and prayers will be with them in the days ahead.

Andrew

FOURTH WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd June at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of quiet prayer and reflection.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The meeting in June will be on Wednesday 8th June, at 3pm, when the hostess will be Mrs Kathleen Spiby. The Women's Institute meeting will be on Monday, 6th June at 7.15pm

OBITUARY

We are sorry to report that Joyce Clayton passed away at home on 25th May. We offer our condolences to Derek and all the family at this very sad time.



FLOWERS FOR JUNE

5th TABLE: Miss Brenda Hallatt in memory of
Mr & Mrs W. Hallatt
FONT: Mrs Gladys Drury in memory of
Mr & Mrs Owen Stokes

12th WHIT SUNDAY

19th Mrs Wendy Maher in memory of
Mr & Mrs L Gowling & Peter

26th Mr Brian Oliver in memory of the Oliver Family

FUND RAISING & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

First of all, thanks to all of you who came to our Royal Wedding Reception Evening and to all who helped make it a success. We managed to make a profit of £130 towards our fund raising efforts, so that was great!

Our Whist Drive on Friday 6th May unfortunately had to be cancelled as only 6 people turned up. We will try it again on Friday 1st July. Please come along even if you don't know how to play and you can soon be taught. Refreshments are served and a raffle held and a charge of £2 is made to cover these costs. Prizes are awarded for ladies, men and bobby! Please come along, but if you are unsure speak to Ken, Margaret Hallsworth, Olwyn, Edith, Andrew or myself who are regular attendees and can tell you exactly what goes on.

The next big event we are all thinking about now is the Summer Fair which will be held on Saturday 18th June, so please put the date in your diaries and start to think about how you could support us on this special day. We are looking for the usual donations, so please come forward if you can help in any way with prizes for the tombola, raffle and cakes for the home bake stall.. All usual donations would be much appreciated, and the usual stalls will be held with maybe a few extras. We are hoping we have good weather for the event as we have a game which would be better played outside, so we'll keep our fingers crossed. It would be nice to see a few more children there, so why not look around and encourage your friends, neighbours or family to come along for an hour or so on 18th June, from 2pm.

As mentioned last month, we hope to hold another Craft Evening on the 14th October at church. If anyone knows anyone 'crafty' and you think they might like to share their skills with others, please get in touch so we can invite them on the night. Please look on the board for further details in due course. Refreshments will be served and a charge of £5 made.

We also have Glenys Marshall who will be coming on Friday 11th November to give us a talk on the Oberammergau Festival. Please look out for a notice about it later in the year so you can put your name up if you wish to attend. Further details will be given then, but just put the date in your diaries, as I am sure it will be very interesting.

We also hope to have a lady come and give us a talk on Collecting Family History sometime in September, but we have yet to finalise details of this. We will hopefully update you soon.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 11th July at 7.15 pm before our main committee meeting. Please come along if you feel you have anything to offer. You would be very welcome.

Sue Howard

Thanks

Edith Howard would like to thank everybody for their kind wishes, cards and gifts on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

NEW WEBSITE

Our new website is now up and running.

Please look at our new site and let us know what you think.

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/stalybridge

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

June

5th	Waltz	F Suhubert
12th	No service	Whit Walks
19th	Andantino	Cesar Franck
26th	A Tune for Trumpets	John Travers.

WARDEN'S NOTES

Being a member of a congregation like ours normally brings us joy and happiness. The chance to worship together and socialise together is indeed great cause for celebration. It both helps us and uplifts us and, in my opinion, makes us better people.

Life is not a bed of roses. There are times when we are sad. From time to time we have to deal with situations when friends pass away.

We also feel it when people move away from the area or even simply stop joining us for worship.

It is during difficult times when our fellowship comes to the fore, when we can support the family and friends of people who have passed away or help people who are unwell.

We must always remember that no matter what else is happening in our lives there are always people who need our help and comfort. This surely is one of the most important messages that Christianity has taught us.

Ken

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**CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
AND PRIZE GIVING**
Sunday 10TH July
at 11 am

A decorative border consisting of small, stylized human figures in various poses, arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

**WHIT SUNDAY PROCESSION OF
CHRISTIAN WITNESS**
SUNDAY 12TH JUNE
MEET AT CHURCH AT 1.30PM
(No morning service)

Calendar June 2011

- Sunday 5th 11.00am Morning Service and UYPG
- Sunday 12th 1.30 pm Whit Sunday Procession of Witness
Meet at church at 1.30 pm
No Morning Service
- Friday 17th Whit Friday Band Contests
Venues throughout Tameside
- Saturday 18th 2.00pm to 4 pm Summer Fayre
- Sunday 19th 11.00am Morning Service and UYPG
- Wed 22nd 7.30pm 4th Wednesday Prayer Group
- Thursday 23rd 7.30pm NCUSSU Delegates meeting at Mossley
- Sunday 26th 11.00am Morning Service and UYPG

EARLY JULY

- Friday 1st 7.30pm Whist Drive
- Sunday 3rd 11.00am Morning Service and UYPG
Conducted by Ken Howard

STEWARDS FOR JUNE

5th Stuart Hinchcliffe
12th Bill Atkin
19th Wendy Maher
26th Ken Howard