

**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**

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THE CHALICE

**STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH
MAGAZINE**

MARCH 2010

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
Mr & Mrs Ian Bradbury
in memory of
Frank Green**



MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

Looking at my diary I am reminded that March 1st is St David's Day. The earliest accounts of the life of David weren't written until around 500 years after his death, thought to have been either in 589 or in 601, so there is a considerable mixture of history and legend within David's biography, but with no clear distinction between the two. David may have been a prince, the son of Sant, and grandson of Ceredig, who was prince of Ceredigion, a region in South-West Wales. His mother, Non, was the daughter of a local chieftain and may have been a niece of King Arthur.

David is generally agreed to have been a gentle and hard working person. Both he and the monks under his authority are said to have been vegetarian and to drink only water, and on this diet they had a full daily programme of praying and celebrating masses, cultivating the land, and beekeeping and other monastic crafts. Like all who lived in monasteries in those days, the monks also cared for many pilgrims and travellers and supported the local poor and needy. Despite this hard life they seem to have survived, and David himself is said to have been "tall and strong". Some Welsh people wear leeks on St David's Day. This is because during battles with the Saxons, David is reputed to have told his followers to wear leeks so that they could be distinguished from the enemy. So David had his feet planted firmly on the ground despite his monastic life, hard work, austerity and devotion.

Legend has it that David lived for one hundred years, but this is not supported by historical fact. David's body was buried in the grounds of his monastery, where the Cathedral of St. David now stands. After his death, his influence spread throughout Britain and by sea to Cornwall and Brittany.

St. David is the only Welsh saint to be canonized in the Western Church. He is credited with a number of miraculous happenings, which include bringing a young man back to life. And the important events in David's life are supposed to have been marked by the miraculous appearance of springs of water, hence he is sometimes known as the "water-carrier" (Aquaticus).

After David's canonisation in 1120, many pilgrimages were made to St. David's. Two pilgrimages to St David's were thought to be equivalent to one pilgrimage to Rome, and three pilgrimages to St David's were thought to be equivalent to one pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

What does this early Celtic saint have to say to us today, over the distance of nearly fifteen hundred years? Perhaps we should remember his gentleness and his self-discipline which enabled him to be so caring of others. Like Jesus, David was able to empty himself for others, and this made him a very approachable and well-loved person. The light of Christ shone through David, and it still shines through him after all these years.

Let us too shine with the light of Christ as we celebrate the life and work of St David, the patron saint of Wales.

Andrew.

STEWARDS FOR MARCH

7th	Tom Whitehead
14th	Stuart Hinchliffe
21st	Wendy Maher
28th	Bill Atkin



FUND RAISING

Well hasn't February just flown by!! By the time you read this, we would have had our Desert Island Disc Night which I hope was enjoyed by all.

Anyway, now for March's (and further ahead) events. First of all, our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 5th March 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!!

If you remember, I recently mentioned that we are trying to start a recipe book, but up till now, I have only received about a dozen recipes - so if anyone has a recipe they would like or have one to share with others, please contact me and I will add it to our 'book' which will be on sale shortly to help our fund raising efforts. It will be in a format which allows you to add new recipes. Once you have bought the original book, you will be given any 'new' recipes as they become available.

Some of you may remember the Piano Player and Friends Group that came to our church several years ago to entertain us, well I'm happy to say they have agreed to come again on Friday 21st May. A simple buffet will be served that night and in order to get an accurate number of those wishing to attend, tickets will be sold in advance for those wishing to attend. The cost will be £5 per head, and if you can't get to church to buy your tickets, please give me a ring (0161 3301295) and I will put your name down and you can pay on the door. For those of you who haven't seen them before, you are in for a real treat and if you like music at all, an evening not to be missed.

As I mentioned last month, we were thinking of holding a flower arranging session sometime, and we have been in contact with Jessie Sykes who has agreed to organise something, but would like to do it ready for harvest time, so you have a theme to work to. So please look out for further details later in the year when we have dates finalised.

Finally, don't forget our St George's Night Dinner to be held on Friday 23rd April when we hope to be able to serve a full English dinner. A notice will go up on the board for that, so keep your eyes open for that as well.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 8th March and anyone who is interested is very welcome to attend. It starts at 7.15 just before the main church committee meeting.

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 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!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Will meet on Wednesday March 3rd at 3 pm. The hostess will be Mrs Olwyn Murphy.

The Ladies would like to thank everyone who bought (& made) goods for our home- bake stalls this year. From the money raised we are able to send £100.00 towards the League project which is the Meningitis Trust.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

If you have not yet paid membership for the current year, which ends 31st March, there is still time to do so. Please send your £5 to Mrs M Andrews - address at the front of Chalice.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 5th March 2.15pm Womens world day of prayer at
Stalybridge Methodist Church
- 2nd April Good Friday Walk
- 4th April 11.00 am Easter Sunday service
- 3rd April UCA Easter Vigil Service at Stalybridge Unitarian
Church
- 8th-15th May Rome trip

FLOWERS FOR MARCH

- 7th Mr & Mrs Eric Caton in memory of Mr & Mrs
Harold Bullock
- 14th Mr & Mrs Geoff Spiby in memory of The Schofield
Family
- 21st Mrs Janet Pearson in memory of Mary Dagnah
- 28th Mr & Mrs G. Thomas in memory of Mr James Scullion

Calendar March 2010

- Monday 1st 7.30 pm Special Church Committee meeting
- Wednesday 3rd 3.00 pm Ladies Society Monthly Tea
- Friday 5th 7.30 pm Whist Drive
- Saturday 6th 12.30 pm UCA AGM at Kingswood
- Sunday 7th 11.00 am Morning service and UYPG
- Monday 8th 7.15 pm Fund Raising meeting
8.00 pm Church Committee meeting
- Sunday 14th 11.00 am Morning service and UYPG
Mothering Sunday
- Sunday 21st 11.00 am Morning service and UYPG
- Sunday 21st 2.30 pm ECU Songs of Praise Service
at Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Wednesday 24th 7.30 pm ECU Delegates meeting at Dukinfield
Including talk on Church Archives
- Sunday 28th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG
British Summer Time begins