

**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**

**MAY 2010**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS  
SPONSORED BY generous  
members  
who wish to remain  
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## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I am writing this letter on a bright and sunny, yet still quite chilly morning. Looking out of the window I can see signs of new life all around. The leaves are beginning to appear on the trees, the daffodils are swaying in the breeze and a blackbird is busily gathering material from the flower beds to build a nest in one of the trees. This time of year is a time of growth and new life, of change and development. It is no accident that it is also the Easter Season of resurrection, transition and tremendous challenges. Ascension Day, which this year falls on May 13<sup>th</sup>, brings these themes into clear focus. It is the day on which the disciples had to come to terms with the fact that the risen Jesus was not going to be with them forever in exactly the same way.

Taking leave, sending off a loved one, saying good bye is hard. But it is an unavoidable reality of life and more than that, it seems to be necessary for a person's growth and maturing. A baby's umbilical cord has to be severed so that the baby can become an independent organism. Children have to be sent off for their first day of school, or to college - another step of growth towards independence and maturity. It makes parents sad, yet also proud of them.

As we journey from one stage of life to another - from birth to infancy, to adolescence, to adulthood, to mature adulthood, to the ultimate homecoming - the common link between each of the stages seems to be a difficult transition. Change is hard. Each of these times of change challenges us to grow in our faith. It takes a tremendous amount of faith and trust in a child to be able to send him or her off on that first school day. It takes faith on the part of the child too.

Following Easter, Jesus prepared his disciples for their next step of spiritual growth and maturity. By the time Ascension Day came, he had sufficient faith in his disciples that they would do well, with the help of his Spirit, but there was yet one more stage on their path to spiritual maturity - an understanding of their reliance on each other's

strength. Again and again we find this theme in Jesus' last days on earth. He instructed them to love one another, to rely on each other, to help, encourage, and empower each other. That's how the disciples survived; that's why Christianity is still here today.

Whatever changes, transitions, crises or conflicts we may face, let us remember that they are necessary towards achieving the next step. Let us focus on the opportunities for growth that lie ahead of us. Let us also remember that the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ is a source of encouragement and strength to make it through any challenge and transition. May the Spirit of Christ fill our hearts and lead us to the way of love and togetherness.

Every blessing.

Andrew.

#### Music during the service

Each week, our organist, Barry, will contribute a piece of music to our worship. We will do our best to print a list of the items in advance in Chalice. Here are the pieces for May:

May

2<sup>nd</sup> March in G Caleb Simper

9<sup>th</sup> On a Theme of "Morning Has Broken" P Hamburger

16<sup>th</sup> (*Barry on holiday*)

23<sup>rd</sup> (*Whit Sunday*)

30<sup>th</sup> Sortie (Grand Choeur) Alexandre Guilmant

Barry would be particularly pleased to welcome new members to the choir. If you would like to know more please have a word with him after the service one Sunday morning.

## **FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Doesn't it make a difference when the weather is good. I'm sure you will agree with me when I say we're ready to be out and about when you wake up in the morning and the sun is shining. We have a few events planned for you over the next couple of months, so please do get out and about and come along and support your church. We need all the help we can get for our fund raising efforts.

By the time you are reading this, we would have had our St George's Night dinner which I hope was enjoyed by all. It's always nice to have the time to sit and chat with friends over a leisurely meal. It was a pity we did not have a few more takers, but as long as those who came were happy, that's what matters!

Our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 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!!

I feel I now have enough recipes to publish our recipe book, so I am hoping it will be available within the next couple of weeks. The cost will be £5, but 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. It will be available from church, but I will need to keep a check on who actually buys one, as I need to know who to issue new recipes to in the future.

We are continuing to hold our 'coffee mornings' each month, the next being on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April and then 28<sup>th</sup> May. 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.

As I mentioned last month, we shall be hosting our old friends 'A Piano Player and Friends' on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May. We are selling tickets in advance for this at a cost of £5 each. You will be beautifully entertained and light refreshments will be served. Please ask for a ticket if you wish to have one, I have some, as well as Clare, Wendy, Margaret Hallsworth and Bill. I can guarantee it will be a good night.

Perhaps our biggest event coming up is the Summer Fayre which, this year, will be held on 19<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

We also hope to have an evening drive out on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> May 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

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The Women's League will meet on Wednesday 5th May at 3pm when the hostess will be Mrs Edith Howard

### **STEWARDS FOR MAY**

2nd Ken Howard, 9th Don Andrews

16th Tom Whitehead, 23rd Stuart Hinchcliffe

30th Wendy Maher

## **WARDEN'S NOTES**

Our congregational Annual General Meeting will be held immediately after the morning service on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May. As always this is an important meeting. It is your opportunity to take an active role in the running of our church.

Please check the nomination sheet on the notice board and nominate who you would like to see as your officers and committee (please ensure that you seek the permission of the nominee).

I have said many times that we have a great opportunity to further the cause of Unitarian Free Christianity in Stalybridge. It is our duty to continue the work that our predecessors did and to do this we have to work together. We have to do it ourselves as we cannot expect or rely on funds/assistance from other sources.

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The Whit Sunday Procession of witness will take place on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. In this edition of Chalice you will find an envelope for you to donate towards the cost of Denton Brass Band. Please make an extra special effort to attend so that we can show ourselves to the town as a thriving congregation.

Ken Howard

## **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!

## FUNERAL

8<sup>th</sup> April Frieda Mary Harrison aged 105 years. Service in church followed by interment at Mottram Cemetery, the Minister officiating.

Although unable to attend in recent years, Frieda had been a life-long member of church and the congregation was never far from her thoughts. She loved reading Chalice and keeping up to date with events here. She could remember from her childhood, people who had been involved with the building of the church which was still a fairly new building when she was born! I have only known Frieda for the last twelve years of her long life, just a fraction of her journey. Some of you have known her for much longer. All of us who knew Frieda will have many happy memories of time spent with her and will always give thanks that her life touched ours.

Andrew

### FLOWERS FOR MAY

2nd	TABLE	Vacant
	FONT	Mrs Marjorie Sands in memory of Dorothy and Joan
9th	TABLE	Mr & Mrs P. Billingsley in memory of Mr & Mrs Tom
	Stokes	
	FONT	Mrs M Sands & Mr & Mrs Curd in memory of
		Mr & Mrs H. Barker
16th	TABLE	Mr & Mrs Derek Clayton in memory of Mrs Emily Clayton
	FONT	Mrs M Sands & Mrs SA Knight in memory of
		Mr Neville Sands
23rd		WHIT SUNDAY
30th	TABLE	Vacant
	FONT	Mrs M Sands & Mrs SA Knight in memory of
		Mr & Mrs R Fotherby & Nigel

# Calendar May 2010

Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup>	2.30 pm	ECU AGM at Hyde Chapel
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service (The Minister)
Monday 3 <sup>r</sup>	9.30 am	May Day Walk (See notice board)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.15 pm	Women's Institute Meeting
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	3.00 pm	Ladies Congregational Society Monthly tea
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	All day	Local and Government elections at church
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Arts and Crafts at Flowery Field
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service (Rachel Plant)
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	12.15 pm	Church AGM
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.15 pm	Fund Raising Meeting
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.00 pm	Church Committee Meeting
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Service (The Minister)
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.30 pm	A Piano Player and Friends
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	1.30 pm	Meet at church for Whit Sunday procession (NO MORNING SERVICE)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Coffee morning
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning service (The Minister)