

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 2011

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED by
Mrs B Weltman
in memory of
Betty Hall and Muriel Dawson**

MINISTER'S LETTER

I am writing this letter on 23rd April which would normally be St George's Day but as this year it falls on Holy Saturday it will be kept on 2nd May instead which by coincidence is also the early May bank holiday. Saint George has been the patron saint of England since the middle ages. He's popularly identified with England and English ideals of honour, bravery and gallantry - but actually he wasn't English at all. Very little is known about the real Saint George, much of what we think we know is just fanciful legend.

What is thought to be the truth is that George was born in Cappadocia, an area which is now in Turkey, in the 3rd century; that his parents were Christians; and that when his father died, George's mother returned to her native Palestine, taking George with her. George became a soldier in the Roman army and rose to the rank of Tribune.

The Emperor of the day, Diocletian (AD 245-313), began a campaign against Christians at the very beginning of the 4th century. In about AD 303 George is said to have objected to this persecution and resigned his military post in protest and tore up the Emperor's order against Christians. This infuriated Diocletian, and George was imprisoned and tortured - but he refused to deny his faith. Eventually he was dragged through the streets of Diospolis (now Lydda) in Palestine and beheaded. It's said that Diocletian's wife was so impressed by George's resilience that she became a Christian and that she too was executed for her faith.

George is patron saint not only of England but also of Aragon, Catalonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Palestine, Portugal, Germany and Greece; and of Moscow, Istanbul, Genoa and Venice (second to Saint Mark). He's also patron saint of soldiers, archers, cavalry and chivalry, farmers and field workers, riders and saddlers. In recent years he has been adopted as patron saint of Scouts.

In Rome, in the hollow of the street named after the Velabrum, the swamp where Romulus and Remus are said to have been found by the she-wolf, is a small 7th century church dedicated to St George – San Giorgio in Velabro. It has suffered greatly over the centuries from floods and in 1993 a terrorist bomb caused extensive damage. Careful restoration has, however, returned it to its original appearance. Beneath the altar of the church are kept a few fragments of bone which are believed to be the remains of St George.

Every blessing,

Andrew

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th May at 3pm. The Hostesses will be Mrs Eileen & Miss Clare Bullock

BAPTISMS

27th March Daisy Rhian Flood, daughter of Gareth and Donna of Mill Lane, Hyde.

3rd April (Mothering Sunday) Noah Bryn Jeffrey Chadwick, son of Bryn and Nicola of Forester Drive, Stalybridge



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

FUND RAISING & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

At the time of writing this, we are leading up to The Royal Wedding, so by the time you are reading this, we would have had our Royal Wedding Celebration which I hope has gone well and that all you came enjoyed it.

Our first event in May will be our Whist Drive which will be held on Friday 6th May starting as usual at 7.30 at church. We look forward to welcoming any new players – don't be shy you don't have to be an expert and you could have an enjoyable evening. The cost is £2 which covers refreshments, a raffle and of course prizes.

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. 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.

A quick reminder about the coffee morning held on the last Friday of the month. It is from 10.00 to 12.00 and all are welcome. It does give people an opportunity to meet others and have a drink and something to eat. Sometimes it is a bit of a rush after church service on a Sunday to talk to everyone you want to, so a Friday morning is a bit more relaxed with more time. Please come and join us.

Now for some future events - 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.

The pound a month club year has started a new year again. For those who don't know what it is – it is a group of people who each pay a pound into the pot every month and at the beginning of each month a draw is made, and the winner receives half of everything that has been collected and the other half goes into our fund raising pot. Beryl Bradbury runs this, so if you wish to be part of it, please see Beryl to join in.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 23rd May 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

NEW WEBSITE

Together with the GA we have designed a brand new website which will be on line shortly after the beginning of May.

I would like to thank John Wilkinson who has worked hard on our behalf to design the new site.

I would also like to thank Colin Horsfield who looked after our old site for many years.

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

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/stalybridge

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* **STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN** *
* **CHURCH** *
* **SUMMER FAYRE** *
* **SATURDAY** *
* **18TH JUNE AT 2 PM** *
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WARDEN'S NOTES

I am pleased to inform the congregation that after a lot of nonsense (and that is putting it mildly) it has been agreed that the Whit Sunday Procession of Christian Witness will go ahead as normal on Sunday 12th June. (Subject to the approval of TMBC and GMP)

I find it sad that some ministers in the town seemed to think we should not attend this important Christian celebration. By making us feel uncomfortable they seemed to be hoping that we would withdraw but there was no chance of that.; and they were obviously afraid of publicly telling us we should not attend for fear of the bad publicity this would bring.

I should point out that this trouble once again was stirred up by certain members of the clergy and not by the congregations and the good church going people of Stalybridge.

I would like to thank the Minister, officers and congregation of Stalybridge Methodist church who supported us through this sad affair.

I think the time has come to re-think the organisation of this event so that this kind of nonsense can not happen in the future. Perhaps the event (including the service) should be organised entirely by congregational members rather than members of the clergy.

Let us hope now that we have good weather and that we all enjoy our procession of witness in the tried and tested traditions of Stalybridge.

Ken

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY 8TH MAY 2011
After morning service.
Please make every effort
to attend.**

Calendar May 2011

Sun 1st 11am Morning Service and UYPG

Wed 4th 3pm Ladies Congregational Society Monthly Tea

Fri 6th 7.30pm Whist Drive

Sun 8th 11am Morning Service and UYPG
12pm Annual General Meeting

Sat 14th 2pm Arts & Crafts Exhibition, Old Chapel, Dukinfield

Sun 15th 11am Morning Service and UYPG

Sun 22nd 11am Morning Service and UYPG

Mon 23rd 7.15pm Fund Raising & Social Committee meeting
8pm Church Committee meeting

Sun 29th 11am Morning Service and UYPG

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FLOWERS FOR MAY

1st TABLE Vacant
FONT Mrs Marjorie Sands in memory of
Dorothy & Joan

8th 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

15th TABLE Mr & Mrs Derek Clayton in memory of
Mrs Emily Clayton
FONT Mrs M Sands & Mrs SA Knight in memory
of
Mr Neville Sands

22nd TABLE Vacant