

**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 corporate member of The Unitarian Christian Association

THE CHALICE

**STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH
MAGAZINE**

NOVEMBER 2007

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
in memory of
NOEL BRADBURY
1925 - 2006**

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

Several people have mentioned to me recently that they are not looking forward to the end of October, not because of the nights drawing in and the clocks changing or even because of the decidedly colder weather, but because of the impending ordeal of Halloween. In some areas this has become a real problem for people with an almost continuous stream of young people and even adults calling at the door, some of them far from polite to say the least. Halloween has achieved a popularity in recent years where it now easily rivals Bonfire Night and I was reading the other day that in some parts of America it even receives more attention than Christmas!

Many Christians are disturbed by the evil overtones associated with Halloween, not to mention the acts of vandalism and violence that are associated with it. Some argue that Christians should have nothing to do with Halloween, that it is a celebration of evil, and it should be ignored. As with many celebrations, Halloween is a confusing mixture of pagan cultures and Christian tradition. The date of October 31st and November 1st are associated with pagan celebrations akin to new year and a day of scaring away spirits. The name "Halloween" comes from the Christian tradition. It is derived from "All Hallows' Eve." October 31st is the eve of All Hallows' day, better known as All Saints' Day. This is a day when the church celebrates and remembers the lives of the saints. It is likely that the church chose to move All Saints' Day to November 1st so that it could supplant the pagan festivities taking place at that time.

So what should Christians do with this day now called "Halloween?" We should do what we are supposed to do every day and that is shine the light of Jesus Christ. We should emphasize the Christian influences and strive to make Hallows' Eve a celebration of the acts of God through his people the saints. We should make it a day when acts of charity instead of vandalism

and fear abound. A day that emphasizes the light of Christ instead of the darkness of evil. A day when people meditate on the acts of Godly people instead of ghosts and goblins.

According to one account, Christians in the past used to place candles in their windows in preparation for the celebration of All Saints' Day. Perhaps instead of decorating with ghosts and goblins Christians should place lights in their windows to symbolize the light of Christ that shined through the lives of faithful Christians throughout the ages.

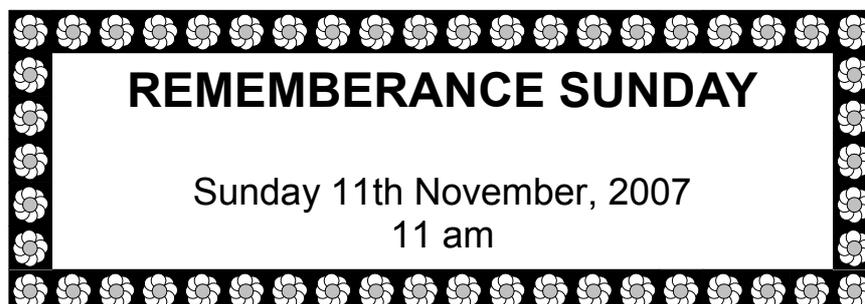
Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT GREAT HUCKLOW

Will take place on Wednesday December 12th. The cost will be approx £22.50 including transport. Please put your name on the list on the notice board or ring me if you would like to go. I have not received the menu yet but will pass it on later. We have usually had a "sell-out" for this event, so don't delay.



WARDEN'S NOTES

Writing a column like this every month is quite difficult. Sometimes inspiration comes only very slowly which is a problem when I am aware that Rachel needs to get on with the job of producing the magazine.

The production of Chalice is far from easy and the last week of every month is devoted almost entirely to the preparation and printing, I know how difficult and time consuming it is and we are grateful that Rachel has agreed to take on this task. I feel that the Chalice is important not only to the regular worshippers but to people who live too far away to attend regularly. It is a valuable way of keeping us all in touch. It is also available on the internet and I know for sure that it is regularly read in different parts of the world.

This church of ours has always produced hard workers and we have always been lucky with the amount of "in-house" talent we have been able to call on.

A church without God is not a church and a church without people is an empty shell. It remains important that we continue to pull together as a congregation. Not everybody is able to work but it is vital that those who can continue to do so. I know that time is precious these days but surely we can all spare a bit more time to work for a church that offers and provides us all so much.

We may not always think exactly the same way, it is inevitable that there will be differences of opinion. The important thing is that we are all pulling in the same direction. We all want to continue the Unitarian Free Christian Witness in Stalybridge. Our Liberal Christianity is becoming more relevant in this day and age. People want to be Christian but they also want to be able to think for themselves. This is what we can and must strive to continue to offer.

Ken Howard

SOROPTOMIST SUNDAY

As many of you may be aware, this year's President for the Soroptomist's is Gina Ullman. In honour of this there will be a Soroptomist service on Sunday 2nd December. This will be incorporated as part of our Advent service and conducted by the Minister, Rev. Andrew Parker as usual.

The Mayor has been invited to attend and soup will be served afterwards. This meal is described as a shared lunch and is intended to remind us that there are many in the world who would value a meal as simple as soup and bread, and are not nearly so lucky. There will be a charge of £3 for the meal and all funds will be donated directed to Gina's charity of choice, Send a Child to Hucklow.



FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be held on Friday 30th November at 7.30pm.

There's something for everyone; entertainment, games, a light buffet and Father Christmas is rumored to be dropping by!

Entrance is £5 for adults and children are free. Sign up on the church notice board to join the fun

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP



Thanks to all of you who came to our harvest supper on 1st October – a good night was had by all and we managed to auction off some of the harvest offerings enabling us to make a donation to Willow Wood Hospice in Ashton. We are not allowed to take fresh fruit and vegetables to places like that any more, so it was a nice idea to raise money which they will gladly accept. So once again thanks to all who came to support us that evening.

Our next whist drives are already organised, so let's see as many there as possible, firstly on Friday 9th November and secondly on Friday 7th December for our Christmas edition. Both will start at 7.30 pm at church, so please come along and join us when, for £2, you get the chance to win a prize and receive tasty refreshments as well. You don't have to be an expert and we guarantee you will have a laugh! .

We have two important events to be held in November. First of all we have the Bazaar to be held on Saturday 3rd November starting at 11.00 am. We need as much support as we can get, so whether you contribute by baking, saving bottles/tombola prizes, second hand books, bric a brac or Christmas gifts or you just want to spend a bit of money and have a good chat over a good lunch, please come along. This is still our major fund raising effort of the year and with the ever increasing costs of keeping our church in good order, we need all the help we can get!

The second big event in November will be the Family Christmas Party to be held on Friday 30th. There will be a light festive supper, games and entertainment suitable for everyone, young and old – please put your name on the notice board so we know how many to cater for. Everybody always seems so busy in December, so we thought we would get in early! The cost will be £5 for the evening. If you can't get to church to put your name on the list, please contact me and I will do it for you.

We are still looking for people to come up with some new fund raising ideas ready for a new start in 2008, so if you feel you could help, please come along to our next meeting which will be held on Monday 29th October at 7.15 pm which is just before the main church committee meeting.

Hope to see you all soon!

Sue Howard



£1 A MONTH CLUB

Anyone wishing to renew their membership or join for the first time, please contact me on 0161 344 0942, 45 Church St, Dukinfield SK16 4PR. Last month's winner was Roy Manton

Beryl Bradbury

LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

The Meeting in November will be held on Wednesday 7th at 3.00 pm when the hostess will be Mrs Margaret Andrews.



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Yesterday is a cancelled cheque

Tomorrow is a promised note

Today is ready cash

Enjoy it!

UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

Leaders for November

4th November: Sue Howard

11th November: Clare Bullock

18th November:: Ruth Mills

25th November: Sue Howard

All young people, whether they visit 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 when we usually make or prepare something either connected with that day's service or for a forthcoming church social event. If you have any queries, please contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Andrew will conduct our usual Advent Services. Our main carol service will be held on Christmas Eve.

Sunday 23rd Dec 2.30 pm Juvenile Membership Family Carol Service

Monday 24th Dec 6.30 pm Candlelit Carol Service.

Tuesday 25th Dec 11.00 am Christmas Day Service.

Parents who would like their children to be Juvenile Members of Church should contact Clare Bullock (0161 3038872). She will require the full name of the child plus £1 membership. The membership certificates will be distributed during the Juvenile Membership Service.

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER



- 4th Nov: Mrs Jean Thomas in memory of
The Somerfield Triplets.
- 11th Nov: Mr Jack Greenwood in memory of Mrs Florence
and Mr & Mrs F. Greenwood
- 18th Nov: Mr Brian Oliver in memory of Mr Frank Oliver
- 25th Nov: Mr & Mrs George Horbury in memory of Mr &
Mrs W. Horbury

STEWARDS FOR NOVEMBER

- 4th November: Bill Aitkin
- 11th November: Ken Howard
- 18th November: Stuart Hinchcliffe
- 25th November: Wendy Maher

VISITS TO THE SICK AND ELDERLY

From the beginning of November a book will be displayed in the foyer to meet the requirements of the disabled persons regulations. Provision has been made to include in this book information on any church members who require a visit or would appreciate some flowers. If any member of the congregation is aware of any such person, would they please put the information in the book so that a visit can be arranged.

BAZAAR

GIFT STALL

TOMBOLA

CAKES

GAMES

BRIC-A-BRAC

BOOKS

*SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER
11AM
STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN CHURCH
ENTRANCE 50P*

IMPORTANT 2007 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 3rd November	11 am	Bazaar
Sunday 11th November	11 am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Wed 14th November	7.30 pm	ECU Council Meeting at Mossley
30th November:	7.30 pm	Family Christmas Party
Sunday 2nd December:	11 am	Soroptomist Sunday at Stalybridge
Sunday 9th December:	6.30 pm	Memorial Service
Wed 12th December:	3 pm	Hucklow Christmas Lunch
Sunday 23rd December:	2.30 pm	Juvenile Membership & Family Carol Service
Monday 24th December:	6.30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelit Carol Service
Tuesday 25th December:	11 am	Christmas Day Service

WELCOME

NOVEMBER

Sat 3rd 11 am Bazaar

Sun 4th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.
Conducted by Rev. Alan Kennedy

Fri 9th 7.30 pm Whist Drive

Sun 11th 11.00 am Remembrance Sunday Service
& UYPG

Sun 18th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

Sun 25th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

Fri 30th 7.30 pm Family Christmas Party