

**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**

NOVEMBER 2010

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
SPONSORED BY
Mrs Olwyn Murphy
in memory of
Charles Murphy**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

One afternoon last week I visited someone who had just watched the lunchtime news and had been disturbed by the reports of religious and racial violence which it contained. The lady remarked how terrible it is that people who consider themselves religious can do such things and how lucky we are to live in a more tolerant society.

Indeed we are, but we must never be complacent enough to think that we live in a perfect society. Sadly there are many people who quite openly spread religious and racial hatred in our society in the name of their own faith. I was horrified some time ago when I went into a (so called) Christian book shop to find a little booklet on sale, the contents of which were a very crude and inflammatory attack on other faiths. As I looked through it I couldn't believe what I was reading, how could anyone who professed to follow the teachings of Jesus write such a thing? I always thought that Jesus had advocated that we love our neighbours as ourselves, but there was no sign of that here! I complained to the shop manager but he felt that it would "help bring misguided people to Christ" and could see nothing wrong with it.

So there really is no room for complacency! Perhaps within our liberal Christian churches we do become a bit complacent because we rarely come across instances of intolerance within our own ranks. We are so used to people accepting, welcoming and rejoicing in religious diversity that we forget that many people do not share the same experience. The message of religious tolerance which is the cornerstone of our ethos has never been more necessary than it is today. We may not have a very loud voice in society but we must be prepared use what voice we have to speak out in favour of religious freedom and tolerance whenever we get the chance.

Every blessing,

Andrew.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**SATURDAY
27TH NOVEMBER**

**STALYBRIDGE
UNITARIAN
CHURCH
FORRESTER
DRIVE**

**STALLS OPEN AT
11AM**

ENTRANCE 50P

Plants

Gift Stall

Books

Bake Stall

Raffle

Tombola

FUND RAISING & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Here we are again and it seems like winter is fast approaching and with that, our Christmas events.

Our first event in November will, as usual, be our Whist Drive, to be held on Friday 5th starting at 7.30 pm at church. The evening will cost you £2.00 which includes refreshments, whist prizes and a raffle. All are welcome, so please feel free to come along, you don't have to be an expert. The following one will be the Christmas Whist Drive which will be held on Friday 3rd December, when we will have some festive refreshments after a few hands of whist. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

I think our Craft Evening went off well and we are extremely grateful to the ladies who came and demonstrated for us. How nice that we have such skilled people amongst us. Together with the raffle, we managed to make about £130 over the evening, so thanks to all who contributed in any way.

Our Christmas Fair (known to some of you as the Bazaar) is being held this year on Saturday 27th November when we will have all the usual stalls. All donations will be much appreciated, so please hand your contributions to a committee member if you are unsure who is running the stall you have items for. We are looking for the usual items for the tombola stall, plants, books, gift items and home bake. Please make sure you have the date in your diary and we look forward to having as many people there as possible to help swell our ever dwindling funds!

We shall also be holding our usual Family Christmas Party on Saturday 18th December which will be starting this year at 4 pm, to enable the younger members to come before they are taken off to their beds. We are hoping Father Christmas will be calling in as usual. Please put your name on the board if you wish to attend, and if you are under 16, then your age as well. Any visiting children will be most welcome, but unfortunately we will have to charge each of them £2 entry. Adults will be charged the normal £5 which will cover refreshments.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our Friday Night is Music Night which was due to be held on 12th November, as at the time of the fund raising meeting last week, there were no names on the list. Perhaps everyone is too busy at this time of the year, so we will try it again sometime in the New Year.

Don't forget our Coffee Mornings which are held on the last Friday of the month starting at 10 am at church. It gives everyone a good chance to get together and have a natter. We have had a few passers-by coming in, so you get to meet new people as well. There is usually a delicious cake or the usual toast, teacakes or scones and well as different hot drinks. If you haven't been before, why not come along and give it a try.

I do still have copies of our recipe book available and there will be some for sale at the Christmas Fair, if you don't see me before then. I am still being given recipes, so it is an ever growing book with plenty of old favourites in it.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 8th November at 7.15 pm to which everyone is invited. If you feel you could help with fund raising in any way, either with ideas or in a more practical way, please come along and join us – you will be more than welcome!

Sue Howard

150th ANNIVERSARY

As part of our 150th Anniversary celebrations in 2012 we would like to make a disc of old photographs. If any of you have ANY photos related to church or Sunday School we would like to borrow them.

THEY WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU.

Please put them in a suitable envelope clearly marked with your name and hand them to me. It would be helpful if the photographs were dated (just the year is enough).

Thanks
Ken Howard

WARDEN'S NOTES

The Ministers, Officers and Congregation of this church have been renowned for their tolerance since the 13th July 1862.

“HERE, LET NO MAN BE A STRANGER” has stood up to the test of time well. We may not always agree with other people’s beliefs but we certainly accept that they have a right to hold them. In this church we are happy to welcome worshippers from other Christian denominations and other faiths.

From time to time bigotry and hypocrisy have reared their ugly heads and some churches in Stalybridge (in the recent past most notably Holy Trinity) have tried to undermine our well established presence in the town. The main claim of these bigots has always been that we are not Christians. Apparently some churches feel that only they are right and everybody else is wrong.

I am sorry to report that we are in a similar situation again. We have been informed by the minister of Stalybridge Baptist Church that our ladies will not be allowed to take part in the organisation of The Women’s World Day of Prayer service. Apparently they will be allowed to attend the service but will not be allowed to take part in the organisation of the service or take part in the service itself (readings etc). The Baptist minister claims she has been instructed to take this action by “Head Office”. I admit I am not sure if this is the Baptist equivalent of The General Assembly or a euphemism for God!! Whichever it is I don’t believe her, I firmly believe that other churches in Stalybridge have put pressure on her to take this most un-Christian decision.

There is nothing to stop us organising our own Women’s World Day of Prayer service. Perhaps we could invite other faiths; this would be a more Christian way of behaving than excluding one church.

This type of thing is not new and it is not confined to Stalybridge. What these people seem to forget is that Christianity does not simply involve going to church every Sunday; it is a way of life and should be reflected in the way we behave and in the way we treat people who do not share our beliefs.

Many people have tried to undermine Unitarianism since the 17th Century. ALL HAVE FAILED AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

Ken Howard

BEST WISHES

Hazel Brookes and Rhys have moved to Fleetwood. Julie tells me that they have settled well in their new home and Rhys is doing well at his new school. We wish them all the best and hope that we will still see them at church when they are visiting the area.

Ken

JUVENILE MEMBERSHIP

As usual the Juvenile Membership Certificates will be handed out during the carol service. The membership is open to all people under 16 and it only costs £1. Please see Clare Bullock if you would like your children/grandchildren to be included.

Ken

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Women's league meeting for November will be on Wednesday 3rd commencing at 3.00 pm when the hostess will be Mrs Olwyn Murphy.

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

7th	Hornpipe (water music)	G F Handel
14th	Remembrance Sunday Tune	Based on Solemn Melody Walford Davies
21st	March of the Priests	Mozart
28th	Ye banks and Braes	Scottish Air.

STEWARDS FOR NOVEMBER

7th Stuart Hinchcliffe

14th Bill Atkin

21st Wendy Maher

28th Don Andrews

FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

7th Mrs Jean Thomas (Scullion) in memory of

Alice, Constance, & Jack (the Somerfield Triplets)

14th Mr Jack Greenwood in memory of

Mrs Florence, Mr & Mrs Frank Greenwood

21st Mr Brian Oliver in memory of Mr Frank Oliver

28th Mr & Mrs George Horbury in memory of

Mr and Mrs W. Horburyl

Calendar November 2010

Monday 1st	7.00 pm	Women's Institute
Wednesday 3rd	3.00 pm	Women's League Monthly Tea
Friday 5 th	7.30 pm	Whist Drive
Sunday 7 th	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Monday 8 th	7.15 pm	Fund Raising meeting
Monday 8 th	8.00 pm	Church Committee meeting
Sunday 14 th	11.00 am	Remembrance Day service & UYPG
Sunday 21 st	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG
Wednesday 24 th	7.00 pm	4 th Wednesday Prayer Group
Saturday 27 th	11-2.30 pm	CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday 28 th	11.00 am	Morning Service and UYPG