

**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 2011**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE  
IS SPONSORED**

**in loving memory of  
Frank Swift and Edward  
Robinson**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear All

One of Aesop's fables tells of two men walking along a road and finding an axe lying on the ground. They are friends but the man who saw it said "I have found an axe. That will be useful." "Don't say I" said the second man, "say *we* found an axe. We are friends on the road together. Surely it is *our* axe and we shall sell it and share the money." The first man would not agree and continued to say that it was his axe.

They had not gone much further when the owner of the axe came running towards them. The moment he saw the first man carrying the axe he threatened to prosecute him. "Oh dear!" cried the first man, "we are in trouble." "Don't say *we*" said the second man "say that *you* are in trouble. You would not let me share the prize, you can hardly expect me to share the trouble."

A nice little story which I suspect will always be relevant! We can all be selfish, particularly when things are going well. Then, when things go wrong we expect others to help us. No one of us is self-sufficient, we all need friends, but we can only have friends if we are friendly too, it is a two way process. This means that we must help others when they are in difficult times even if at the time everything is alright for us.

One of the great benefits of belonging to a church community is the help and support we find here. Church is not a place where we should always be hearing "I" and "mine" but rather "we" and "ours." A place also, where we can enjoy the friendship of others and show friendship ourselves.

Every blessing,

Andrew

## MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

November

6 <sup>th</sup>	Processional Wedding March from "The Sound of Music"	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance	Schmutt
20 <sup>th</sup>	To A Wild Rose	E Macdowell
27 <sup>th</sup>	Sheep May Safely Graze	J S Bach

Barry would like to thank Kathleen Redeyoff for playing the organ whilst he was on holiday.

## FLOWERS FOR NOVEMBER

- 6<sup>th</sup> Mr & Mrs Glynn Thomas in memory of Alice, Constance & Jack  
(Jean Scullion) (The Somerfield Triplets)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Mr Jack Greenwood in memory of Mrs Florence and Mr & Mrs  
Frank Greenwood
- 20<sup>th</sup> Mr Brian Oliver in memory of Mr Frank Oliver
- 27<sup>th</sup> Mrs Mary Horbury in memory of Mr George Horbury and Mr &  
Mrs W. H. Horbury

## ANNOUNCEMENT

We are sorry to report the recent death of Marjorie Sands (nee Fotherby). We offer our condolences to her family and friends.

## WARDEN'S NOTES

By the time you read this Sue and myself will hopefully be in Florida visiting Warren and his family. As you can imagine, we are really looking forward to seeing them all.

I was thinking the other day what a brave choice Warren and Lisa made to start a new life with their family in a country which is, in many ways, vastly different from here.

Of course we all make choices all of the time and many of them we make without even thinking about them. Some choices are of course life changing while others are quite trivial but we still have to make a decision.

Many of us still choose to attend worship regularly and this indeed can be a life changing choice. To be able to worship freely, without fear and without false restrictions being forced on us is something that our forefathers fought for, and something for which we should be eternally grateful .

The very lifeblood of Unitarian Free Christianity is the knowledge that we can think and decide for ourselves what road our spiritual life should take. We refuse to have things given to us on a “take it or leave it” basis. As FREE CHRISTIANS we do not like being told that we MUST believe something for fear of going to hell if we don't.

So next Sunday and every Sunday when you get up you have a choice to make: *“Shall I go to church today?”* I hope and pray that the answer is YES and I can guarantee that by the end of the service you will realise what a wise choice you made.

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## **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE**

This will be held on Sunday 13th November at 11am. Please try to attend.

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## **THE WHITEHEADS**

At the time of writing Tom is back at home following his knee operation and Peggy is recovering in Critical Care after the operation on her heart. We wish them both a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them back at church.

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## **MABEL EASTWOOD (Neé Pogson)**

I have received a lovely letter from Shirley Gregory (neé Hadfield) which I would like to share with you.

*Does anyone remember Mabel Eastwood (neé Pogson)? I am sure some of you will! She is now living in Bishop Auckland close to her daughter, Gail. Mabel is now 90 and her sense of humour is still brilliant! She loves to reminisce about friends and happy times in Dukinfield and Stalybridge and sends her love to all who know her.*

Ken

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Women's League 5 members of the League attended the Autumnal meeting of the Manchester District, which was held at the Rochdale church on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. Later in the day we drove to Denton New Church for their annual American Tea.

Our meeting in November will be held on Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the Host and Hostess for the day will be the Rev. Andrew Parker and Mrs Minnie Parker. We will not be having our usual meeting in December, as this will be the day of our Christmas outing for a meal at the Wagon and Horses, Matley Lane.

## **FOURTH WEDNESDAY GROUP**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.00 pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be no meeting in December.

## **OLIVER**

Our very own Adam Lambe is appearing as Oliver in the musical of the same name in New Mills from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November. Details of performance times and tickets are available on the notice board.

## **STEWARDS FOR NOVEMBER**

6 <sup>th</sup>	November	Bill Atkin
13 <sup>th</sup>	November	Wendy Maher
20 <sup>th</sup>	November	Ken Howard
27 <sup>th</sup>	November	Don Andrews

## JUVENILE MEMBERSHIP

If you would like your children/grandchildren to be enrolled as a Juvenile Member of church please see Clare Bullock who will arrange that a certificate is presented at the Christmas Carol service. The cost of membership is £1.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 4 to 6 pm. Friends are welcome to attend but we must have names etc on the notice board so that we can arrange catering and ensure that Father Christmas knows how many presents he has to bring.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The donations received at the Harvest Festival service totalled £96.60. Thanks to everyone who donated. The money has been sent to Mediquip4kids. This charity buys medical equipment for children in the North West.

## CAROL SERVICE

Our Christmas Carol Service will take place on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm**. Please note there is only one service on this day. The service will include the presentation of Juvenile Membership Certificates.

## **NOAH AND THE ARK (Sent in by Olwyn Murphy)**

In 2009 the Lord came to Noah, who was now living in England, and said “Once again the Earth has become a wicked place and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of everything, along with a few good humans”. He gave Noah the computer aided design drawings saying “You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for forty days and forty nights”.

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard – but no sign of the Ark. “Noah” He roared, “I’m about to start rain! Where is the Ark?”

“Forgive me Lord” begged Noah, “but things have changed. I needed

Building Regulation Approval because the Ark was over thirty cubic meters in size. I’ve been arguing with the Fire Service about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission prior to building the Ark in my garden because it is a development site even though in my opinion it is a temporary structure, but the roof is too high. I had to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

The Local Area Access Group complained that my ramp was going to be too steep, and the inside of the Ark wasn’t fully accessible. Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted to cover the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions in order to clear the path for the Ark to be moved to the sea. I told them the sea would be coming to us, but they would not believe me.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees had Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest that was created in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls – but to no avail. So in the end I had to use sustainable wood trees!

When I started to gather in the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued that the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space. Then the County Council, the Environmental Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they had conducted an Environmental Impact study on your proposed flood.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many Black and Minority Ethnic workers I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The Trade Unions say I can't use my sons. They insist that I have to hire only CSCS accredited workers with the Ark building experience.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise have seized all my assets, claiming that I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So, forgive me Lord, but it will take at least another ten years for me to finish the Ark”.

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked “You mean you're not going to destroy the world?”

“No said the Lord the Government has already beaten me to it!”

## FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

First of all, because it is normally one of the first events in the month, I need to let you know that we have sadly decided to cancel our whist drives for the time being. Unfortunately over the past three or four months we have had less than six people turn up, which doesn't really lead to a good night's whist. If, in the future, we hear of people keen to start playing again, we will start it up, but until then, I'm sorry but there will be no whist drives.

On a more positive note, don't forget we hold a coffee morning on the last Friday of the month starting at 10.00 at church. Please come along for a chance for a chat accompanied by some tasty refreshments.

Many thanks to all the ladies who came and demonstrated their craft skills on 14<sup>th</sup> October. We never fail to be impressed that we have so much talent in our midst. It is sad that we had so few spectators, but from the feedback I received, those that did come really enjoyed the night. Thanks to the generosity of the people who donated raffle prizes and the caterers, we managed to make over £100 towards church funds.

Now to other forthcoming events - we have Glenys Marshall who will be coming on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November to give us a talk on the Oberammergau Festival. This should prove most interesting and a potato pie supper will be served during the evening. Cost of entry will be £6 so please enter your name on the notice board if you wish to attend or give me a ring.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November, we are delighted to welcome the group 'Patchwork' to our church who will entertain us with music for everyone. Food will be served and there is a notice on the board, so please enter your name on if you wish to attend. Don't sit in front of the telly on a Friday night, come along to church and be entertained with live music!

The event after that will be our big one – THE CHRISTMAS FAIR - to be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November starting at 11 am and running through to 2.30 pm. All our usual stalls will be held, plus a few extra.

We need the support of everyone, so if you have any donations to make to any of the stalls, please make yourself known, but if not please come along anyway and help us raise much needed funds. Bring your neighbours and friends. A light lunch will be available, so please make a note in your diaries and come along.

Whilst on the subject of Christmas, our Christmas party will be held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December starting at 4 pm. We hope to be able to persuade Father Christmas to fit us in on his busy schedule.

We would love to see more children there, so if you have friends/ neighbours with young children, please invite them along. The cost will be £5 for adults, with our church member children not paying anything, but visiting children paying £2 each. We need to know the names and ages (children's) of all people coming as soon as possible, so please can you put your name on the appropriate notice on the board or give me a ring and I will put it up for you. There should be games and fun for everyone and food served as well.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.15 pm. Everyone is welcome, whether they have ideas for fund raising or just want to help out, please come along if you feel you have anything to offer.

Sue Howard

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN  
CHURCH

Forester Drive, Stalybridge

The logo for the Christmas Fair features the words "CHRISTMAS FAIR" in a bold, sans-serif font. Each letter is filled with a different color from the rainbow spectrum: C (purple), H (red), R (orange), I (yellow), S (light green), T (green), M (dark green), A (blue), S (dark blue), F (purple), A (purple), I (purple), R (purple). The letters have a slight 3D effect with a grey shadow underneath.

**SATURDAY**  
**26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2011**  
**11am to 2.30 pm**

Admission 50p on the door

**PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT  
TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT  
SOCIAL AND FUND RAISING  
EVENT.  
YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL**