

**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**

OCTOBER 2008

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS SPONSORED
BY MR & MRS DEREK WORTHINGTON
IN MEMORY OF
THE KNOTT & WORTHINGTON
FAMILY**

WARDENS NOTES

On our way to France we stayed overnight in a town in the west of England. Sue and I had not visited the town before and we wanted to see it. While walking to the Tourist Information Office we happened to pass the Unitarian Church so I had a look around to find the notice board, name of minister and times of services etc.

When we eventually got to the Tourist Office I picked up the leaflet which gave details of local places of worship. The categories were very simple, first came a list of the Anglican Churches, this was followed by a list of Roman Catholic churches. Next came "Free Churches" and finally came "Others".

I was more than a little disappointed when I found the Unitarian Church under "Others". "Others" in my opinion is a dangerous place to be, it is only a short step from "miscellaneous" which is only a little bit away from "oddballs". Being categorised as "others" does nothing for the cause of Unitarianism and Free Christianity. It labels us as a denomination with no ethos, with no direction and with no real idea of where we want to be. Anyone reading the leaflet looking for a church to worship in would have no idea what the Unitarian Church would have to offer and therefore would be unlikely to attend.

I do not intend to name the church as I have no intention of embarrassing them. My point is that if the denomination does not know what it stands for then how can we expect the world at large to know? The denomination seems to be trying to promote a "catch all" culture where anybody can use Unitarianism as a banner to walk under without giving credence to what Unitarianism really should stand for.

We at Stalybridge are happy to shout out our Unitarian Free Christianity from the rooftops and that is how it should be. We must have an identity. People who visit our church to worship must be given some idea of what to expect, after all they are coming to a place of worship, not a social club. We want new worshippers, every church does, but we want them to join in with a form of Unitarian Liberal Christianity which has stood the test of time and has served us well.

People have followed Jesus for over two thousand years. The story of his life has been handed down to us. It is our job to hand the message down to future generations.

Just think what the world would be like if Jesus had been classed under "Others".

Ken Howard



HARVEST SUPPER

We will be holding our annual harvest supper on the Monday after the harvest service at 7.30pm (Monday 6th October). The cost is £5, an absolute bargain for some great food and good company!

See the church notice board for full details.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Annual trip to the Nightingale centre for a christmas lunch has been arranged for Wednesday December 10th. If you wish to join us, please put your names on the list on the notice board.

Transport will be arranged as previously and I will let you know the menu and cost as soon as I can.

If you haven't been before I can assure you of a good day out, and we are often blessed with a lovely day.

DIARY DRAW

I still have lots of spaces in the diary, so if you want the chance to win £100, please let me know.

LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

The October meeting will be held on Wednesday October 1st at 3pm, when the hostess's will be Mrs Eileen & Miss Clare Bullock. All ladies from the church are of course very welcome.

Magaret Hallsworth

£1 A MONTH CLUB



The winner in August was Anne Holden. Congratulations!

If you wish to renew your membership or indeed join for the first time, please contact me on 0161 344 0942, 45 Church St, Dukinfield SK16 4PR. All cheques must be payable to Stalybridge Unitarian Church.

Beryl Bradbury

MEMORABELIA

We have recently had donated to the church an item of historical interest. This has brought about a discussion about all the wonderful things we have tucked away which other members of the church might like to share.

Unfortunately we don't currently have anywhere to display such items. The committee are looking into the possibility of a display case and we are appealing for items which would be suitable for the display.

Please get in contact if there is anything you would be happy to donate and would be of interest to the congregation.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A little luck, a little pluck
In moments so demanding.
A little hope, a little scope
For help and understanding.
A little grit, a little bit
Of tact and toleration.
Little piece of each can cease
A lot of aggravation

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP

Well, here we are again at the end of what we laughingly call our summer and are heading straight into the next lot of activities which, believe it or not, seems to be revolving around Christmas already with all the usual Christmas goodies appearing in all the shops. This leads me on, of course, to mention the Bazaar to be held this year on Saturday 8th November starting at 11 am. It is fast approaching now, so please offer all the support you can again this year. We will have all the usual stalls, so are looking for people to help provide goodies for the home bake stall, bottles for the bottle tombola, other prizes for the usual tombola. We hope to have a couple of new ideas this year as well, so please make sure you keep the date free and come along and support us.

Before the bazaar, we will be holding our harvest supper on Monday 6th October starting at 7.30pm. This is the day after the harvest service, so once again, please come along and have a good evening eating and drinking with friends and family.

Our Whist Drive this month will be held on Friday 3rd October starting at 7.30 as usual at church. We shall be holding the November whist drive (due to the bazaar being held on 8th) on Friday 31st October. So, we have two in October, none in November and then the Christmas Whist drive on 12th December. All are welcome, so come along and bring your friends for a fun night out.

Please don't forget Margaret Hallsworth's diary which is being circulated. You have to put your name on your chosen date for £1. Once the diary is full, (probably at the Bazaar on 8th November) a date will be drawn out of a hat and the lucky winner will receive a cash prize ready to spend at Christmas. Please contact Margaret if you would like to take part.

Following the success of last year's effort, we shall be holding a Christmas party again this year for both children and adults alike. We are hoping Father Christmas will be able to make it again this year. It will be held on Friday 5th December. Please enter your name on the list on the notice board so that we have an idea of how many to cater for. Anyone who has any ideas of games we can play or can provide any sort of entertainment would be much appreciated – please step forward and let us know!

I don't know if you all remember the Fashion Night we held earlier this year when Stephanie showed a wide range of clothes which could later be purchased. It was a great night and one certainly not to be missed. Stephanie has kindly agreed to do it again and it will take place on Friday 21st November starting at 7.30pm. The entrance fee will be £1.50. Please come along and get yourself kitted out for Christmas and have an enjoyable night as well.

Finally, our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 3rd November starting at 7.15 pm just before the main church committee meeting. Anyone is welcome, so if you have any ideas or think you could provide some much needed support, please come along.

See you all again next month.

Sue Howard



HARVEST SERVICE

The harvest service will be held on Sunday 5th October at 11 am.
Our gifts for the harvest festival will be received at church on Saturday 4th October from 10.30 am to 11.30 am
We look forward to seeing you all at this important service.

MINISTERS HOLIDAYS

Andrew will be taking two weeks holiday in October and the services will be conducted as follows:

October 12th Beryl Plant – Church Secretary

October 19th Rev Chris Wilson - Minister of Old Meeting
(Unitarian)
Great Yarmouth

Please do your best to support these guest preachers.

UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

All young people, whether they attend 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. If you have any queries, please contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

The children are being kept very busy at the moment. We are trying to keep up with Andrew's children's talks every week about the different names for Jesus and making posters to illustrate each name. We are also getting organised for what we have to do for the Bazaar with games etc and then we are also thinking about the nativity scene in church at Christmas time. So, children, please come along as we will be sure to keep you all busy.

FLOWERS FOR OTOBER



- 5th October HARVEST FESTIVAL
- 12th October Mrs Edith Howard in memory of Clarrie & Steven
- 19th October Miss Jemma Dagnah
- 26th October Alison & Julian Stafford in memory of baby Jack Taylor

STEWARDS FOR OCTOBER

- Sunday 5th Ken Howard
- Sunday 12th Bill Atkin
- Sunday 19th Don Andrews
- Sunday 26th Stuart Hinchcliffe

BAKE STALL

TOMBOLA

BAZAAR

Saturday 8th November

Stalybridge Unitarian Church
Forrester Drive

Stalls open at 11am
Entrance 50p

All the usual stalls and some new additions
Tell your friends!

RAFFLE

GIFT STALL

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 3 rd Oct:	7.30pm	Whist Drive
Sat 4 th Oct:	10.00am	Harvest Festival gifts received at church
Sun 5 th Oct:	11am	Harvest
Mon 6 th Oct:	7.30pm	Harvest Supper
Sat 11 th Oct	2.30pm	ECU Autumn Meeting at Flowery Field
Sat 25 th Oct	2.30pm	UCA 8 th Synod at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, London
Mon 3 rd Nov:	7.15pm 8pm	Fundraising & social group meeting Committee meeting
Sun 9 th Nov:	11am	Remembrance Sunday
Sat 8 th Nov:	11am	Bazaar
Sun 23 rd Nov:	11 am	Ladies Service
Fri 5 th Dec:	7.30pm	Christmas Party
Sun 21 st Dec	2.30 pm	Family Carol and Juvenile Membership Service
Sun 21 st Dec	6.30 pm	Candlelit Carol Service

OCTOBER

Wed 1 st Oct	3.00pm	Ladies Congregational Society monthly tea
Fri 3 rd Oct	7.30pm	Whist Drive
Sat 4 th Oct	10.00am	Harvest Festival gifts received at church
Sun 5 th Oct	11.00am	Harvest Festival Service
Mon 6 th Oct	7.30pm	Harvest Supper
Sun 12 th Oct	11.00am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Beryl Plant
Sun 19 th Oct	11.00am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev C J Wilson
Sun 26 th Oct	11.00am	Morning Service and UYPG
Fri 31 st Oct	7.30pm	Whist Drive