

**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 2011

**THIS ISSUE OF
CHALICE IS
SPONSORED
in loving memory of
Frank Green**

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

One of the hymns we sing fairly regularly at church is *Now thank we all our God*. It was written by the German poet, dramatist and musician Martin Rinkart (1586 – 1649) and despite being over three hundred years old, it remains a favourite with most congregations. It has stood the test of time partly because it is set to a tune which is easy to sing and to remember and partly because it reminds us in a very simple and effective way that we have much to give thanks for and that we should not forget to give thanks for all we have.

Too often we take everything for granted, everything comes our way so easily and we never go short of anything. If we run out of something we go to the shop for more and our shops almost always have full shelves and are nearly always open.

By the time you read this we will have celebrated our Harvest Festival at church, but do any of us actually know what the harvest has been like this year? It isn't something that we need to know these days. If home grown produce is in short supply we simply buy food from abroad and we import so much food anyway that it actually makes little difference to our food bills despite the doom and gloom that usually accompanies a very wet or very dry spell early in the year.

At the time that hymn was written and until well into the nineteenth century the success of the harvest at home was vitally important to people. If your harvest failed you starved. Sometimes we talk today about going hungry but we don't really know what that means. There are however some places in the world where people do know real hunger and where the success of the local harvest can still mean the difference between life and death. Thankfully people are more aware of this today than ever before and governments, international agencies and charities are working to remove this blight from our world which actually produces more food than is needed to feed everyone. However, there is still a long way to go as we see all too often on our television screens.

So let us never forget to give thanks for what we have and never forget those who are not as fortunate as we are.

Every blessing,

Andrew

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

We are pleased to report that Barry has almost recovered from his accident and will continue his musical recitals when he returns from holiday later this month.

16th October Ricercare per organo

Floriano Arresti

23rd October 2 Short pieces Dialogue & trio

J Boyvin

30th October Fugue (Magnificate Primi Toni)

Pachelbel

OBITUARY

We are sorry to hear that Mrs Rose Nuttall passed away recently in Eastbourne. We would like to offer our condolences to the family.

PEGGY WHITEHEAD'S 90th BIRTHDAY THANK YOU

I would like to thank all my friends and everyone who sent me a card and good wishes for my 90th birthday.

The day was spent with Tom and Anne in Eastbourne, but my birthday weather was not what you would expect on the sunshine coast, it rained most of the day!!

However, the rest of the time we had good weather and were able to "see the sights"

Thank you again



Peggy Whitehead

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

First of all, thanks to Derek Clayton and his family who hosted the Bring and Buy Cream Tea afternoon at his home in Glossop and to all who attended. They managed to make a massive £280 on the afternoon, and that was even taking dodgy weather and horrendous road works in the area into account. It was a great effort and much appreciated.

Now to future events - after a summer break, we will be starting our coffee mornings again with the first one being on Friday 30th September from 10 am. Please come along for a chat and some refreshments where it is dry and warm! Everyone is welcome, so if you come, why not bring along a friend or neighbour.

Following that we shall be holding a Whist Drive on Friday 7th October starting at 7.30 pm at church. We have had to cancel the last couple of months due to lack of numbers, so we are trying it once again, but if we do not get enough people to attend, then we may well have to consider cancelling this event. It would be a shame, as there are a few who really enjoy the whist evenings, so if you are at all interested or know anyone who is, please contact them and encourage them to come along. The cost for the night is £2 which includes refreshments and a raffle. I will let you know next month, what the future holds regarding whist.

Our next big event after that will be the Craft Night. We are lucky to have been able to get a few ladies along who are happy to show off their skills, with jewellery making, card making, cake decorating and decoupage amongst them. It will be held on Friday 14th October starting at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be served and a raffle held and the entrance cost will be £5. The last time we held a craft night, it was very well attended, so please come along again and bring your friends and neighbours with you. We have a list up in church for you to put your name on if you wish to attend, so if you are coming please put your name up or give me a ring and I'll do it for you.

In November, on Friday 11th at 7.30 pm, we are having a talk given to us about the Oberammergau Festival. This will be followed by a potato pie supper. There is also a notice on the board regarding this, so

once again please put your name up or give me a ring, so we know how many to cater for. It should be a very interesting talk, and we are looking forward to it.

On 18th November, we will be entertained by a group known as 'Patchwork'. They are a guitar playing duo and will play all types of music including pop, folk and show songs. Refreshments will be served and it starts at 7.30 pm. The entrance cost is £5.00. Once again, please look out for the notice on the board to put your name up. We haven't had Patchwork at our church before, but they have a great reputation, so it promises to be a good entertaining night.

Looking a bit more towards the end of the year, our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 26th November starting at 11 am. This is normally a big fund raising event, so please put the date in your diary and help us in any way you can with donations for the home bake, gift and tombola stalls. Lunch will be available and we look forward to having a full church as well as you being able to purchase quality goods at knock down prices.

We have booked a date for our Christmas Party which will be held on Saturday 17th December when we hope to have a visit by Father Christmas. There will be a list on the board for everyone to put their names up including the children's names and ages. It will start at 4 pm and go on for a couple of hours with games, music and refreshments. Everyone is welcome

We hope we have arranged a few events that will cater for everyone and you feel able to support us in any way you can. Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 10th October starting at 7.15 pm, so anyone who feels they could help in any way or if you have any suggestions as to the type of event you would like to see held at church for fund raising efforts, please let us know or come along to the meeting and you would be more than welcome to join us.

Sue Howard

WARDEN'S NOTES

I think almost all of us receive unsolicited phone calls from time to time from people trying to sell us something or some service we don't want to buy. The best way to deal with these is to just put the phone down and that is what I normally do. However, if I am feeling a bit mischievous I sometimes let the call continue just so that I can have a bit of fun. I did this a couple of weeks ago and I would like to give you an approximate transcript of the conversation.

CALL CENTRE (CC) Good morning is that Mr Ken Howard?

KEN Yes

CC May I call you Ken?

KEN No

CC Is it true that you worked in some factories?

KEN Yes

CC Has the noise in the factory affected your hearing?

KEN Pardon? (*I heard him*)

CC (*louder*) Has your hearing been affected?

KEN No

CC We want to send you to a clinic to assess your hearing where they will prove that you have lost 10% of your hearing.

KEN But my hearing is fine

CC But the clinic will give you a paper saying you have lost 10% of your hearing and then we will be able to claim £5000 for you.

KEN So you want me to tell lies.

CC But nobody will know you are telling lies

KEN But I will

CC Pardon?

KEN Are you a bit deaf? Perhaps you should claim the money yourself!

At this point the Call Centre put the phone down.

I am not trying to show that I am whiter than white but I wonder why people feel they have the right to persuade us to tell lies and defraud some insurance company for no reason. Nothing in life is free and I wonder why some people think it is otherwise.

Everybody finds themselves in all sorts of difficulties from time to time, that is just the nature of life.

Cheating was never and never will be a way of solving problems. If organisations and individuals like my Call Centre “friend” would concentrate their efforts on working within the system instead of trying to bend the rules then the world would be a better place.

That is the proper way to behave.

Ken

FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER

2nd Mr Bill Atkins in memory of Mrs Margaret Atkins

9th Mrs Edith Howard in memory of Clarrie & Steven Howard

16th Miss Jemma Pearson in memory of Mary Dagnah

23rd Mrs Kathleen Bradbury in memory of Noel & Joan & brother Noel Bradbury

30th Vacant

STEWARDS FOR OCTOBER

2nd October Wendy Maher

9th October Ken Howard

16th October Don Andrews

23rd October Tom Whitehead

30th October Stuart Hinchcliffe

FOURTH WEDNESDAY GROUP

Do join us on Wednesday 26th October at 7 pm for a time of reflection and prayer in church which usually lasts about 20 minutes. Everyone is welcome and if anyone would like to suggest music or readings for this time together please have a word with Andrew.

CAN YOU SING?

Barry our organist and choirmaster is still looking for volunteers to join the choir.

Would you like to join or do you know someone else who might? If so please have a chat with Barry after the morning service.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Autumn Meeting of the Manchester District Women's League will be held at the Rochdale Church on Saturday 15th October, and will consist of a short service then a business meeting followed by lunch at 12.30 pm. If you wish to attend, please let me have your name by Sunday 9th October.

The next meeting of the Stalybridge group will take place at church on Wednesday 6th October at 3 pm when I will be the hostess. All ladies from church are most welcome but please let me know beforehand for catering purposes.