

**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**

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS  
KINDLY SPONSORED BY  
MR & MRS G SPIBY**

## WARDEN'S NOTES

If we ever had a summer this year then I obviously missed it and it's fairly obvious to me that this global warming is not everything it's cracked up to be, I even had to put our central heating on the other day (in August!!). They say it's getting hotter but it's a long time since I saw tar melting on the street and we all got home from school with oily tarry fingers.

Some people have been on holiday to parts hotter and dryer and some have braved the British weather to holiday nearer home.

As usual church attendances have suffered during the summer months and some days we have had congregations under twenty when the average attendance is almost thirty. It is important that we maintain our Unitarian Free Christian witness in Stalybridge and now we are all (hopefully) refreshed it is time for us all to return to increasing our attendance at church.

We have a successful church and the size of the congregation is relatively healthy compared to a lot of other churches. The size of the congregation is not the be all and end all of a successful church but it is apparent that if people see a healthy active church then they are more likely to want to join us and that is what we want to happen.

If we can keep on attracting new people to join us for worship then this church will go from strength to strength. New people bring new ideas, new thoughts and of course new challenges for all of us but it is something we all have to try to do.

We have a high quality committee and a fund raising group who keeps trying to keep us entertained even though the support from our own congregation is not as good as it should be.

As well as our regular services and traditional special services we have a lot of big social events coming up, the Bazaar, Harvest Supper and a Family Christmas Party. Plans are under way for a special service and a social event to celebrate the ministry of Andrew Parker who completes ten years as our minister later this year.

It is important that we all give as much support as possible to the Minister and of course to each other. The very essence of church life is that we should all help and support each other as much as possible.

So our goal for the coming autumn and winter must be to support our church even more than we already do. We must commit ourselves to the future of this congregation and the future of Unitarian Free Christianity.

Ken Howard



## **CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

We will be having our Christmas Lunch once again at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. The date will be Wednesday 12th December, and I hope that as many of you as possible will join us. A notice will be put up in the porch in a couple of weeks time giving full details

## A PLEA FOR CHANGE

Global warming refers to an average increase in the Earth's temperature, which in turn causes damage to the climate. A warmer Earth will lead to changes in rainfall patterns, a rise in sea level and a wide range of impacts on plants, wildlife and humans.

It is becoming clear, as research has shown, that humans have caused most of the past century's warming by releasing heat-trapping gases we power our modern lives. The levels of these gases are higher now than in the last 650,000 years.

Climate change may now be a big problem but there are many little things we can do to make a difference. If we try most of us can reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that we put into the atmosphere. Driving a car or using electricity is not wrong. We just have to be smart about it. Many countries have introduced car pooling systems so that three or four people can travel in one car rather than taking three or four cars to work. By turning off lights, the television and the computer when you are finished with it can help cut down on the greenhouse gases we put into the air.

If we continue to ignore the signs of what is destroying the planet we live on we will leave little behind for future generations. As free thinking Christians we each have a duty to do our little bit to ensure nature remains as beautiful in another two hundred years as it is today.

Krystyna Hebb



## CHURCH STEWARDS

We still need more people to come forward to act as church stewards, it is not a difficult task and it is a good opportunity to meet and greet people as they arrive at church. If you would like to become a steward please contact the undersigned.

In order to comply with the laws concerning disabled access to church it is necessary for the steward for the day to complete a record for each service held at church.

In the next few weeks a book will be placed on the table in the porch, the details required will be self-explanatory but it is vital that this is filled in every week.

If any of the stewards need any help please contact me

Ken



## FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP



Well I haven't a lot to report on concerning activities over the summer, mainly because we don't seem to have had any summer to talk of! Our intended evening drive out on 20<sup>th</sup> July had to be cancelled as we would have been better off attempting to go out in boats than in our cars, but luckily for us, Andrew came to the rescue with a very interesting talk he happened to have about Queen Victoria which everyone found really interesting, so thanks Andrew for that. This was followed by our intended buffet supper at the Wharf Tavern which went down very well.

Our monthly whist drives have been well attended bringing in the usual funds to our 'pot' as well as providing those who come with a good night out. Our next whist drive will be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September starting at 7.30 at church. Please come along, as for £2 who could win a prize, including a raffle, and have some good refreshments at the end.

We have a few events lined up for you – most importantly - the Bazaar on 3<sup>rd</sup> November starting at 11.00 am. All the usual stalls will be there, so if you are one of those who contribute to a stall, now is the time to start thinking about buying, saving, collecting, cooking or making. Your contributions are invaluable as is the contribution from those who visit us on the day and spend their money. Please be sure to keep the date free in your diary!

Before that we will be holding our harvest supper on 1<sup>st</sup> October which you will notice is a Monday. We seem to have all Fridays fully booked around then, so we thought we could slip it in on a Monday. Please see the notice board for details and enter your name on the list so we can work out how much food we need.

At the end of November, on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> we shall be holding an early Family Christmas Party. There will be entertainment, games and refreshments. The cost will be £5 for adults with children getting in for free. Please enter your name on the list on the notice board if you would like to attend. There will be something for everyone, so please come along.

Finally, our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15 before the main church committee meeting. Anyone who feels they can contribute in any way, even if it is only ideas, are more than welcome to come along, so please do not hesitate to join us – you will be more than welcome.

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 Ruth Mills, no. 40

Berl Bradbury



### **LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)**

The Monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September when the hostess will be Mrs Margaret Hallsworth.

The Autumnal Meeting and Service will be held at Monton on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 11.30 am followed by a lunch provided by the ladies of that church. Could I please have names of those wishing to go by Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>, so that transport can be arranged.

Margaret Hallsworth

## **UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP**

### Leaders for September

2 <sup>nd</sup> September:	Sue Howard
9 <sup>th</sup> September:	Clare Bullock
16 <sup>th</sup> September:	Ruth Mills
23 <sup>rd</sup> September:	Sue Howard
30 <sup>th</sup> September:	Clare Bullock

All young people, whether regular attendees or visitors, 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.

# WELCOME

## **STEWARDS FOR SEPTEMBER**

2 <sup>nd</sup> September:	Ken Howard
9 <sup>th</sup> September:	Stuart Hinchcliffe
16 <sup>th</sup> September:	Tom Whitehead
23 <sup>rd</sup> September:	Bill Atkin
30 <sup>th</sup> September:	Don Andrews

## HARVEST SERVICE

The harvest service will be held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 11 am.

Our gifts for the harvest festival will be received at church on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September from 10.30 am to 11.30 am

We look forward to seeing you all at this important service

## CHURCH FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

2nd September	Mr & Mrs Geoff Spiby in memory of The Schofield family.
9th September	Mrs Peggy Hadfield in memory of Mr Jack Hadfield
16th September	Mr David Dawson in memory of Mr & Mrs Harry Dawson
23rd September	Mr Bill Atkin in memory of Mrs Margaret Atkin
30th September	HARVEST FESTIVAL



## FUNERAL

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Marion Morton on 28th July 2007. The funeral took place on 7th August, with a service at church, followed by a committal at Dukinfield crematorium. Marion was a lifelong member of Stalybridge Unitarian Church and we extend our sympathy to her son Colin and granddaughters Joanna and Caroline

## **OLD CHAPEL'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY**

In July, Margaret Andrews and I accepted an invitation from Dukinfield Old Chapel to attend the tercentenary celebrations. These took the form of a service and the unveiling of a plaque by HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex. This was followed by the opportunity to view the exhibition of the history of Old Chapel, a delightful buffet and the opportunity to talk to old friends.

The day was truly enjoyable and Prince Edward proved to be a wonderful guest of honour, who charmed absolutely everyone. After the service he was introduced to some of the members of Old Chapel and the excellent children's choir. Our own Tilly Pugh was a member of the choir and managed a lengthy conversation with the Prince during which she complemented him on his tie!

Congratulations to all you at Dukinfield Old Chapel and best wishes for the next 300 years.

Beryl Plant

## **IMPORTANT 2007 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Sunday Sept 30th	11 am	Harvest Service
Saturday October 6th	2 pm	NCUSSU AGM at Stalybridge
Saturday October 13th	2 pm	ECU Autumn Meeting
Sunday 21st October	11 am	Ladies Service
Saturday 3rd November	11 am	Bazaar
Sunday 11th November:	11 am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Sunday 2nd December:	11 am	Soroptomist Sunday at Stalybridge
Sunday 9th December:	6.30 pm	Memorial Service
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

# SEPTEMBER

Sun 2nd 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.

Wed 5th 3.00 pm Ladies Society Monthly Tea

Fri 7th 7.30 pm Whist Drive

Sun 9th 11.00 am Morning Service & UYPG

Sun 16th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG

Wed 26th 7.30 pm Monthly Discussion Group

Sun 23rd 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.

Sun 30th 11.00 am Harvest Service