

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**

SEPTEMBER 2011

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE
IS SPONSORED**

**in loving memory of
William and Emily
Hallett**

ORGANIST

We are pleased to report that Barry is recovering from his accident. However his arm is still in a support and his playing will be limited until this is removed.

GROUNDS

Derek Clayton (assisted by Bill Atkin) has done a tremendous amount of work on the grounds for which we thank him. Please have a look next time you are at church.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Instead of our usual meeting in August we decided to go Compo's cafe in Holmfirth which was arranged before the fundraising group thought of the same thing. We went on Tuesday 9th August so most of our members have had a double dose of fish and chips during August. The weather was lovely on the day so we were able to enjoy the scenery on the journey. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 7th September when we will meet at 3.00pm and the hostess will be Mrs Margaret Andrews.

A PRAYER FOR HARVEST

We would bring you now our joyful thanksgiving for the harvest of the fields and all that the fertile earth has yielded .

May we enjoy the gifts of your bounty in wisdom, temperance, and thankfulness, ever mindful of the love which bestows them.

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

First of all, thanks to Bill who organised our trip to Compos Chippy on Friday 10th August. We had decent weather for a change so enjoyed the drive there and had a good fish and chip supper when we got there.

Next, let me tell you about our Whist Drive which will be held on Friday 2nd September to be held at church and we start at 7.30 pm, so please come along even if you don't know how to play as you can soon be taught. Refreshments are served and a raffle held and a charge of £2 is made to cover these costs. Prizes are awarded for ladies, men and booby! We would very much like to see a few new faces as our numbers seem to be dwindling.

Whilst we are on regular events, don't forget that it will be our coffee morning on 30th September from 10 to 12 at church. Please come along for a chat and some light refreshments. Why not come when you've finished your shopping and bring your friends with you.

On Friday 23rd September, we shall be holding a harvest supper starting at 7.30 pm. As well as being fed, we are delighted to welcome Jean Goodall who is going to give us a talk about 'Collecting Family History' so it should be a very good night. Please enter your name on the notice board or give me a ring so we have ideas of how many to cater for. The cost for the evening will be £5.

As mentioned last month, we shall be holding a Craft Evening on the 14th October at church starting at 7.30 pm. We have been in touch with a few 'crafty' people, so please come and enjoy watching these skilled people undertake their crafts and perhaps learn how it is all done! Light refreshments will be served and the cost to cover these costs will be £5. We need to have some idea of how many will be coming to this as well, so please put your name on the board or give me a ring if you intend to come.

We also have Glenys Marshall who will be coming on Friday 11th November to give us a talk on the Oberammergau Festival. Please enter your name on the notice board if you wish to attend.

By the time you read this, we would have attended the Summer Cream Tea and Bring and Buy at Derek Clayton's home in Glossop. Our sincere thanks go to Derek for hosting this great fund raising afternoon and I'll let you know how we got on next month.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 12th September at 7.15 pm. Please come along if you feel you have anything to offer, either physical help or just some fund raising ideas if you have any. You would be very welcome.

Sue Howard



FLOWERS FOR SEPTEMBER

- 4th Mr & Mrs Geoff Spiby in memory of the Schofield Family
- 11th Mrs Janet Pearson in memory of Mary Dagnah
- 18th Mr David Dawson in memory of Mr & Mrs Harry Dawson
- 25th Mr Bill Atkin in memory of Mrs Margaret Atkin

WARDEN'S NOTES

We are now getting to the end of August and we are still waiting for the promised heat wave. There have been good parts to the summer and I would like to refer especially to the performance of the England cricket team!!. The autumn and winter has started off well as Stalybridge Celtic are sitting proudly on top of the league (not sure how long it will last).

On a more serious note the summer was blighted by the criminality seen in Manchester and other major cities. Many words of explanation have been offered in the media but nobody seems to have a definitive answer to these problems.

As usual the problems were caused by a minority and we must always remember that the vast majority of citizens are decent law abiding people and these are the people who we must be concerned about. People going about their everyday lives deserve to do so in peace and safety and we must do whatever it takes to ensure that this is always a priority.

Everybody must remember that life was never advertised as being easy. The majority of people who are seen to be "rich" (and therefore considered by some to be bad people) have worked hard to get where they are. For people to be jealous of other people is at best pathetic.

When we see the serious problems in other parts of the world we should be grateful that we live in a relatively safe society where we are free to do and say what we want provided it is within the law.

The United Kingdom is not perfect but neither is anywhere else.

I feel that people are missing out on so many things by not attending any church. Church gives us a wonderful sense of community and togetherness. For one hour a week we can throw off the cares of the outside world and consider the spiritual wellbeing of ourselves and other people.

That must be good for everybody.

Ken

STEWARDS FOR SEPTEMBER

4th September Don Andrews

11th September Tom Whitehead

18th September Stuart Hinchliffe

25th September Bill Atkin

DEAR CONGREGATION...

Would anybody consider joining the Choir? You can always come up and see me after the morning service. I promise I don't bite

Thank you
Barry (Organist & Choirmaster)

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 26th November from 11am to 2.30pm. Please put this date in your diary.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Septembers coffee morning will be on Friday 30th starting at 10:00.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

A chance meeting with a friend the other day and the conversation that ensued reminded me of an old story that is told of a boy who lived on top of a hill. Each morning he looked out of his window across the valley to the hill on the other side. On this hill was a house which had golden windows. As the months went by he longed more and more to see the house and he began to wish that he lived there rather than on his side of the valley.

One morning he made up his mind to cross the valley and see the house for himself. So he set off but soon found that the journey was harder and much longer than he expected. When finally he came up the hillside it was getting dark. Imagine his disappointment when he saw the windows of the house were not golden at all but just like the windows in his house. It was too late to make the journey back that night so he knocked on the door and he told his story to the couple who answered. They welcomed him in, gave him supper and a bed for the night. The next morning he awoke to glorious sunshine, and looking out of the window across the valley to his own house he was amazed and delighted to see that his house had golden windows.

We all know the old saying "The grass on the other side is always greener" and it often seems that way at first glance. It is easy to think that others have a better house, have more success in life, have a better behaved dog, are happier or whatever. The strange thing is that those we envy are more often than not thinking the same things about us.

Rather than thinking about what others have it would be much more useful to try to appreciate more fully what we have. To make the best of our lives, the skills and abilities we have and to fully appreciate our families and our friends. In doing so we improve our own lives and the lives of those around us and hopefully we become better people for it.

This is the only way that humankind advances, by people making the best of what they already have and striving to improve it. Chasing after rainbows never improves anything!

Every blessing.

Andrew.

DISABLED ACCESS AND TOILETS

Planning permission for this work has now been granted and our Project Managers (Cordingleys) have put the work out to tender. The total cost of the work is approx £20,000 plus VAT. Your committee is now in the process of applying for grants. You will be kept informed of developments.

CHALICE EDITOR

Rachel is about to take up a new teaching post in Harrow and we wish her and Alistair all the best in their new venture. We would like to thank Rachel for all her hard work as Chalice editor.

The new joint editors are Wendy Maher and Jeff Sheehan and we would like to thank them for committing themselves to this important job.

HARVEST SERVICE

The Harvest service will take place on Sunday 25th September at 11 am. The service will be conducted by the Minister. As last year there will only be a small display of produce and we would ask that members of the congregation will give a donation to "Medequip4kids". This is a wonderful charity which was very grateful for our help last year.