

**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**

**APRIL 2007**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS  
KINDLY SPONSORED BY  
MRS OLWYN MURPHY**

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

*There's a spirit in the air, \*  
Telling Christians everywhere:  
Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
Living, working, in our world.*

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Ken and I together with some other members and friends of church travelled to Kingswood Meeting House, just south of Birmingham, for the Unitarian Christian Association's Synod and Annual General Meeting. Last year this meeting was held here in Stalybridge and many of you will recall what an enthusiastic and forward-looking occasion that was. This was repeated at Kingswood and the whole day was most successful and enjoyable.

The Unitarian Christian Association has continued to develop during the last twelve months with a significant increase in membership and a mushrooming of activity. This Synod was looking particularly to the future with decisions made about future events, including a retreat, a youth event and regular Taize services and about our developing friendship with the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church of Ireland. There is also a new prayer and service book which will be published in the next few weeks. There is a lot happening!

The next UCA event will be held here at Stalybridge on Holy Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, when we will once again hold an Easter Vigil commencing at 8pm. This was a great success last year with people travelling from all over the Manchester area and beyond to attend. Do please join us this year if you can.

The Unitarian Christian Association has an important mission to fulfil within our family of churches and chapels. It can only do that though if there is support from within those congregations. I am pleased to say that Stalybridge is one of the most active member congregations, and guided by the Spirit, I am sure that will long continue to be the case!

*There's a spirit in the air,  
Telling Christians everywhere:  
Praise the love that Christ revealed,  
Living, working, in our world.*

Every blessing.

Andrew.

\* Hymns of Faith and Freedom number 176



## **DISCUSSION GROUP**

The Minister will be hosting a number of discussion group evenings over the next few months. This will give everybody an opportunity to discuss all aspects of our worship with the Minister and other members of the congregation. The first meeting will be at church on Wednesday 23rd May starting at 730 pm

## **CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This will take place at church on Sunday 6th May immediately after morning service. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

## WARDEN'S NOTES

The Lords' Prayer consists of 69 words, the American Declaration of Independence 362 words, and the European Directive on the Distribution and Export of Duck Eggs manages a staggering 52,476 words.!!

What does this tell us? To begin with it tells us that short really is sweet. It also tells us that the EU is spending vast amounts of our money covering themselves against all eventualities.

Words are important but quantity does not necessarily improve the quality. I have said many times before that Christianity was never intended to be complicated. It is a simple message of love . The message itself is simple but living up to the message is not so easy.

Over the years the waters of Unitarianism and Free Christianity have been muddied by words. Many people have tried to lead us away from the core ideal of Free Christianity by tempting people to try out many different paths and ideas, many of them totally excluding God and Jesus. So many things have and are being tried that I suspect many Unitarians are unsure of their own religious identity. We within the Unitarian Free Christian community have no such worries.

The Unitarian movement as a whole is now so mixed up that it is impossible to find a "corporate" identity. This is the reason why other Christian churches are sometimes unable to take us seriously.

Many senior members of the General Assembly would like to see "Free Christian" removed from all Unitarian references. We Free Christians are a thorn in their side and they really would like to see the back of us. What they have not realised or conveniently forgotten is that Free Christians are an awkward lot. We don't take kindly to being pushed around.

One of our tasks is to ensure that Unitarian Free Christianity continues to prosper in Stalybridge. We cannot influence other churches within the General Assembly but we must ensure that in turn we are not influenced by those who want to move away from Free Christianity.

Ken

### **£1 A MONTH CLUB**

We have now reached the end of the current year of £1 a month club which has ended with a membership of 75. If you would like to renew, as we hope you will, please contact me. I am at church most Sundays, but if you do not see me there I can be contacted on 0161 344 0942 or at 45 Church Street, Dukinfield, SK16 4PR. Likewise if you would like to join for the first time, you would be very welcome. In case you don't know what it is all about, basically, every member pays one pound in every month and every month a draw is made with the winner receiving half of the month's income. The rest goes into the fund raising pot. Last month's winner was Mrs Mary Dagnah.

Beryl Bradbury

### **ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION**



This will be held on Saturday 12th May at Old Chapel Dukinfield. Copies of the syllabus are available on the table in the porch. Please collect your copy and get making/knitting/practising. Let's try to make it a winning year .

Our entries will be received at church on Thursday 12th April from 7 to 8 pm.

## FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP



I hope all of you that attended enjoyed our Night in Rome. It was nice to see so many faces there and Andrew certainly did us proud with his presentation. You could feel as if you were actually there with them all last year. Thanks to Margaret as well for cooking!

Our next event will be the 'Count Your Blessings' count up night which will be held on Friday 20th April at church starting at 7.30 pm. Please put your name on the board if you wish to attend as food will be served and we need to know numbers.

Our next Whist Drive will be held on Friday 4th May at 7.30 pm at church, so please come along if you fancy it. Refreshments are served and you stand a good chance of winning a prize. The cost for the night is £2.00 which includes a raffle as well!

Now we have changed our clocks we can start to feel summery which leads us into our Summer Fayre which will be held on 16th June. We need you to start collecting/making for the various stalls. We shall be having a Gift Stall (Beryl Bradbury), a Tombola stall (Margaret Hallsworth), a Homebake stall, a plant stall and a raffle. Please think how you can help and contact the person responsible if you can help in any way. We had to cancel our Summer Fayre last year, so we need to make an extra special effort this year to try and make up for lost revenue!

Please feel free to join us at our fund raising meetings if you feel you can help in any way—we are always keen for new ideas. Our next meeting will be at 7.15 on Monday 23rd April in church.

Sue Howard

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

The April meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th at 3.00 pm when the hostess will be Mrs Margaret Andrews. All ladies are welcome.



## **CHURCH SECURITY**

Following the break in to the cellar the insurance company have insisted that security is improved in this area. We are grateful to a member of our congregation who paid for the purchase and installation of roller shutter doors on the cellar and the organ chamber.



## **GOOD FRIDAY SPONSORED WALK**

Once again this is being organised by Bill Atkin. The walk is five to six mile around Monyash and Flagg and is not too arduous. Meet at church at 9 30 am and bring a packed lunch.

## **EAST CHESHIRE UNION**

The ECU Annual General Meeting will take place at New Chapel Denton on Saturday 5th May starting at 2.30pm. Details are on the notice board.

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

Leaders for April

1st: Sue Howard

8th: Clare Bullock

15th: Ruth Mills

22nd: Sue Howard

29th: 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 APRIL**

1st Don Andrews

8th: Ken Howard

15th: Stuart Hinchliffe

22nd: Tom Whitehead

29th: Bill Atkin



## CHURCH FLOWERS FOR APRIL

- 1st Mrs K Turner & Mrs S Howarth in memory of Mr & Mrs George Roberts
- 8th Mr & Mrs Alan Swift in memory of Mr Edward Robinson and Mr Frank Swift
- 15th Mrs Liz Griffin in memory of Mr Frank Rhodes and Mr Michael Rhodes
- 22nd Vacant week
- 29th: Sue & Ken Howard in celebration of Jennifer and Ian's wedding.

**Count Your Blessings**  
**Friday 20th April at 7.30 pm.**  
**A games evening to celebrate**  
**the collection of our blessings.**  
**A supper will be served.**  
**Price £3.50 per person**

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

Saturday April 7th	8 pm	UCA Easter Vigil
Sunday April 8th	11 am	Easter Day Service
Saturday April 14th	11.30 am	MDA Ladies Meeting at Stalybridge
Saturday May 5th	2 pm	ECU AGM at Denton
Sunday 6th May:	12 noon	Church AGM
Saturday 12th May	2 pm	Arts & Crafts at Old Chapel
Sunday 27th May:	1.30 pm	Whit Sunday (no morning service)
Saturday June 16th	11 am	Summer Fayre
Sunday July 1st		Church closed (Hucklow weekend)
Sunday July 8th	11 am	Anniversary Service
Saturday August 4th	2 pm	5th UCA Synod at Great Yarmouth
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

*Church AGM  
Sunday 6th May  
immediately after  
morning service*

# APRIL

- Sun 1st 11.00 am Palm Sunday  
Morning Service and UYPG.
- Wed 4th 3.00 pm Ladies Society Monthly Tea
- Fri 6th 9.30 am Good Friday Sponsored Walk
- Sat 7th 8.00 pm Easter Vigil Service
- Sun 8th 11.00 am Easter Day Morning Service and UYPG.
- Thu 12th 7 to 8 pm Stalybridge Arts and Crafts Entries  
accepted at church
- Fri 13th 7.00 pm Other schools A & C entries
- Sat 14th 11.00 pm Manchester District Women's League  
meeting at Stalybridge
- Sun 15th 11.00 am Morning service & UYPG
- Fri 20th 7.30 pm Count Your Blessings Evening
- Sun 22nd 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG
- Mon 23rd 7.15 pm Fund Raising meeting
- Mon 23rd 8.00 pm Church Committee meeting
- Sat 28th Wedding at church
- Sun 29th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.