

**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**

JULY/AUGUST 2006

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS KINDLY
SPONSORED BY
A MEMBER OF THE
CONGREGATION WHO WOULD
LIKE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

Those of you who were present on Easter Sunday and again on June 18th will now have experienced a new innovation in the way Communion services are conducted at our church. Instead of a short, separate service after the main service, we have now begun to make Communion an integral part of the 11 am service on certain Sundays. This we will aim to do four times a year. The next Communion services this year will be on September 17th and December 17th. Although this change to quarterly Communion means that we have fewer services than when we held them monthly the arrangement should prove to be more conducive to worship than the old system and I think that is more important.

I may as well take this opportunity to emphasise once again that in our tradition Communion is open to all who wish to attend without test or qualification and you are all welcome to receive the bread and the wine at Communion services. Equally though, you are not required to do so and the bread and wine are only served to those who wish to receive it.

The two services we have already held in this format have been very well received by those who were present and I think that the services ran very smoothly. There is always room for improvement though, so if any of you have any suggestions for how we might do things better or about the order of service I use for Communion I would be particularly pleased to hear from you.

A number of our friends have been unwell in recent weeks, some of them very seriously ill and have had to spend some time in hospital. Others are awaiting the results of tests and may need further investigations in the coming weeks. Please remember all these members of our community in your thoughts and prayers and look forward to seeing them all restored to us in better health in the coming weeks.

If you are going on holiday sometime over the next few weeks I hope that you have an enjoyable and relaxing time and return refreshed. If you are not going away, I hope that the weather is kind to you and that you enjoy the few short weeks of an English summer!

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.

Some members of the Unitarian Young People's Group proudly showing off their work together with the Minister

WARDEN'S NOTES

Would we be happier if everything always went to plan? Do things sometimes go wrong just to keep us on our toes?

If everything went along perfectly we would be robbed of the chance to take awkward and sometimes unpopular and difficult decisions.

I don't believe that life is supposed to be easy, sometimes difficulties are put in our way to keep our brains working.

This was the sad case recently when a quite serious outbreak of dry rot in church unfortunately led to the cancellation of the Summer Fayre. It was a real pity that this had to happen but we really had very little choice. It is the duty of this current congregation to safeguard the church for future generations. Delays in treating the dry rot could easily have led to a more serious and possibly catastrophic problem.

The successful treatment of the problem has already cost us over £2500 and this does not include redecoration. Dry rot is not covered by insurance companies on buildings as old as ours.

We have decided not to reschedule the Summer Fayre, it was difficult to find another date and it was felt unfair to ask people who had already worked hard to do it all over again.

If members and friends are so minded perhaps we could ask you to donate what you would have spent at the Fayre to "The Unofficial Dry Rot Fund". The treasurer would be delighted to receive any donations that you feel able to contribute.

I wish you all a good summer, let's hope the weather keeps up, and that the cricket and football teams get better.

Ken

UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

Leaders for July

2nd July: Clare Bullock

9th July: Sue Howard

16th July: Ruth Mills

23rd July: Sue Howard

30th July: Clare Bullock



We shall not officially be holding UYPG meetings during the month of August due to the number of people away on holiday. However, if any children wish to come to church, activities will be found for them to do as one of the leaders will certainly be there, so please come along. Our minister has given us an interesting project which will keep us all busy up until the Harvest Sunday, so even though nothing official is arranged, we still need your input!

All young people, whether regular attenders 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, apart from the 5th Sunday. If you have any queries, please contact Clare Bullock on 0161 303 8872.

144th
CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
SUNDAY 2nd July
11 AM

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP

As you will see this is a double edition of Chalice, as we (that is the editor/typists/printers) have a month off. Consequently I will be telling you about events coming up for a couple of months.

Firstly, our next Whist Drives will be held on 7th July and then 4th August. We start at 7.30 pm as usual at church and everybody is welcome. You don't have to be expert whist players in order to enjoy it!

Please look at the notice on the notice board in church regarding the summer evening drive out. This will be held on Friday 21st July when we shall have a drive out to Etherow Park. If the weather is fine and you feel up to it, you could have a short walk around and then on our return we shall go to the Wharf Tavern on Caroline Street in Stalybridge for a spot of tea! We need to know numbers however, so please put your name on the notice indicating if you need a lift or have a car with seats to spare and can offer lifts. If you can't get there before July, please give me a ring and I will enter your name on the list if required.

As I mentioned last month, we shall be having an Italian night at church on Friday 25th August. We need to have your names on the list for catering purposes. Italian food will be the order of the day and an introduction perhaps to a little Italian culture. We hope to have a good night, so please bring your friends along, but don't forget to put your names on the list. The price will be £6 each which will give you a three course (at least) Italian meal and hopefully some entertainment. Any queries? Please give me a ring.

Our next fund raising meeting will be held on Monday 14th August, and anyone who feels they could help in any way would be more than welcome. We start at 8 pm at church.

Sue Howard

LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

The July meeting will be on Wednesday 5th and the tea will take the form of a Faith Meal, when each person will bring food to share with other members. As usual, all ladies of the church are invited.

There will be no meeting in August, we will see you all in September

Margaret Hallsworth



THE NIGHTINGALE CENTRE GREAT HUCKLOW

It has been confirmed that this visit to Hucklow will take place from Friday 29th June to Sunday 1st July 2007. We have to confirm the booking within the next few weeks so it is extremely important that you put your name on the list in the porch as soon as possible

FROM THE TREASURER

Envelope Scheme

This scheme is a vital source of funds for the church. As an added bonus UK tax payers can Gift Aid their contributions and then the church can claim a rebate from the taxman (a very rare occurrence these days). If anyone is interested in joining the scheme please contact Margaret Andrews.

Subscriptions for the year 2006/07 are now due. Please send your £5 to the Treasurer (address at front of Chalice), or hand in to any committee member who will pass it on to me.

Margaret Andrews

SPECIAL SERVICES AND EVENTS 2006

Sun July 2nd	11 am	144th Anniversary Service
Sun July 30th		CHURCH CLOSED
Sun Sept 24th	11 am	Harvest Service
Tue Sept 26th	7.30 pm	NCUSSU AGM at Dukinfield
Sat Oct 14th	2.30 pm	ECU Autumn Meeting at Hyde Chapel
Sun Oct 15th	11 am	Ladies Service
Sat Nov 4th	11 am	Bazaar
Sun Nov 12th	11 am	Remembrance Day Service
Sun Dec 24th	2.30 pm	Juvenile Membership Family Carol Service
Sun Dec 24th	6.30 pm	Candlelit Carol service
Mon Dec 25th	11 am	Christmas Day service

£1 A MONTH CLUB

If anyone has not renewed their membership or wishes to join for the first time, then 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. Last month's winner was Eric Caton.

Beryl Bradbury

CHURCH GARDENS

We have had a request from our regular garden experts for some help in pruning, cutting down of large plants and generally tidying up of the garden/grounds around church. Consequently, we would appreciate anyone who could possibly make it to come to church on Saturday 8th July at 10 am bringing with them any tools which you think would be useful. We are very grateful to the members who spend so much of their free time keeping the grounds tidy and feel they certainly deserve our support. Even if you can't do any of the heavy work, you could always be in charge of brewing up!

WHIT SUNDAY

Thanks to all you turned out for the Whit Walks in June. We were lucky with the weather and a good day was had by all. Ken had the unenviable task of organising Staly-bridge churches and bring it all together in Armentieres Square and our thanks go to him in particular.

STEWARDS FOR JULY

2nd: Stuart Hinchliffe

9th: Bill Atkin

16th: Ken Howard

23rd: Don Andrews

30th: CHURCH CLOSED

STEWARDS FOR AUGUST

6th: Tom Whitehead

13th: Stuart Hinchliffe

20th: Bill Atkin

27th: Ken Howard



CHURCH FLOWERS FOR JULY

- 2nd Mr & Mrs Inman, Mrs B Weltman and Mr & Mrs R Hall in memory of Mrs B Hall and Miss M Dawson
- 9th Mrs Katherine Morris in Memory of Mr Steven Morris
- 16th Mr & Mrs Peter Goacher in memory of Mr & Mrs W Hallsworth
- 23rd Mrs Margaret Barr in Memory of Rev Fred W Barr
- 30th CHURCH CLOSED

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR AUGUST

- 6th Mrs Mandy Pugh and Tilly in memory of Mr Trefor Pugh
- 13th Mr & Mrs Don Andrews
- 20th Mrs Olwyn Murphy in memory of Mr Charles Murphy
- 27th Mrs M Whitehead and Mrs M Mather in memory of Mrs Norton

WEB SITE

We are pleased to inform you that Colin and Philip Horsfield have kindly agreed to take over the building and operation of our web site. We are very grateful to Colin and Philip, we will let you know when this re-vamped site is up and running.

JULY

Sun 2nd	11.00am	144th Anniversary Service and UYPG
Sun 2nd	2.00pm	Lance Garrard Lecture at Flowery Field organised by The Unitarian Christian Association
Wed 5th	3.00pm	Ladies Society monthly tea
Fri 7th	7.30pm	Whist Drive
Sat 8th	10.00am	Garden Work Party
Sun 9th	11.00am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sun 16th	11.00am	Morning Service and UYPG
Fri 21st	6.30pm	Evening Drive to Etherow Park followed by buffet supper at The Wharf Tavern
Sun 23rd	11.00am	Morning Service and UYPG
Sun 30th		CHURCH CLOSED

AUGUST

Fri 4th	7.30pm	Whist drive
Sat 5th		UCA Synod at Dean Row
Sun 6th	11.00am	Morning Service
Mon 7th	8.00pm	Church Committee meeting
Sun 13th	11.00am	Morning Service
Mon 14th	8.00pm	Fund Raising Meeting
Sun 20th	11.00am	Morning Service
Sun 27th	11.00am	Morning Service