

**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**

**JUNE 2007**

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS  
KINDLY SPONSORED BY  
MRS MARGARET BARR  
IN MEMORY OF  
THE REVEREND F W BARR**

## MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends

I am sorry that I was not able to be with you at the recent Annual General Meeting. If I had been, this is what I would have said:

Once again we have had an interesting and in many ways successful year at Stalybridge. We continue to play an active role in the ecumenical activities in Stalybridge and it was especially good to be able to welcome friends from other churches to the United Harvest service which was held in our church. I and members of the congregation have taken part in other ecumenical services during the year.

We also play a central role in the Unitarian Christian Association with Ken being the Clerk to the Synod (secretary) and I am the membership secretary. The UCA is developing into a strong and influential body that has the potential to be a very important organisation for our Christian congregations and I am delighted that we are able to be at the centre of activities.

Our own activities here at Stalybridge continue to help hold our congregation together. Worship is obviously central, it is what the church exists for, and it is always good to see new faces on a Sunday morning. The Christmas Memorial service and the Easter Vigil were both very well attended and appreciated by those who came.

A number of our members have been unwell or have had serious problems to deal with in recent weeks and it is at times like this that we really feel the benefit of belonging to a church community and I hope that we will all do our best to support each other through difficult times.

My thanks go to everyone who helps in any way to keep our church community vibrant and active. We live in difficult times for churches! We have to recognise that. Finance and membership are things which will be ongoing concerns for the foreseeable future, but here at Stalybridge we are better placed than many churches to deal with these.

We can look forward to the future with confidence that the cause of our liberal Christian faith is alive and well here in Stalybridge.

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew

## A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

A smile it is a funny thing  
It wrinkles up your face  
And when it's gone you never find  
It's secret hiding place  
But far more wonderful it is  
To see what a smile can do  
You smile at one—he smiles at you  
And so one smile makes two



## WARDEN'S NOTES



The current buzzwords seem to be “green”, “global warming” and “carbon footprint”. As usual when a new topic takes over the political world everyone jumps on the bandwagon (it took politicians quite a long time to realise that money could be made from it). I find it very difficult to take it too seriously, not because I don't care, but because I firmly believe that the sun is the boss and it will do just what it wants. When I was at school in the sixties we were told that an ice age was on the way. Where has it gone?

If anybody else mentions my carbon footprint to me I am afraid they may get my footprint in a place they would not like very much.

As I sit here writing these notes I am more than happy just to look at the greenery in my garden. Every year this happens, the grass grows faster than ever, the trees are a beautiful colour, the blue tits are feeding the young in their nesting box, the squirrels are pinching all the peanuts and the tadpoles in the pond are getting fatter and fatter. Everything in the garden really is lovely.

Of course we can't be allowed to enjoy these simple pleasures any more, someone somewhere has to put a damper on it. Someone at the Chelsea Flower Show told me this morning that some of the plants in my garden are “dangerous” because they require too much water. Because of this global warming there will not be enough water to keep my thirsty plants alive, I just hope that the first to go is the bindweed and the dandelions! (By the way it has just started raining).

The best way to go is to ignore most of these scare mongering tactics, it is only another way of faceless people trying to control us. We ordinary people have to continue to live a decent life where enjoyment of our surroundings is one of the time-honoured methods of keeping us happy. We must give thanks for the seasons and the way they never fail to surprise us and give us immense pleasure.

At this time of new growth let us also look to our church and concentrate on helping that to grow, let's try to persuade colleagues and friend to join us for worship.

An hour of worship is a guaranteed time of reflection and peace. If more people join in Free Christian worship then the world will be a better place.

Ken Howard

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



The usual monthly tea will be held on Wednesday 13th June commencing at 3.00pm. Mrs Kathleen Spiby will be the hostess.

## **£1 A MONTH CLUB**

Congratulations to Olwin Murphy who has won last month's prize.

I can be contacted on 0161 344 0942 or at 45 Church Street, Dukinfield, SK16 4PR.

Beryl Bradbury

## **FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP**



We are now approaching summertime and that brings with it the Summer Fayre which is to be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm till 4pm. We are trying to do a bit of 'catch up' this year as last year's event, if you remember, had to be cancelled at the last minute, due to the dry rot problem. We need the support from all of you, firstly in helping provide goods for the stalls, especially the Home Bake stall and the Tombola stall as well as the Plant stall. If you cannot manage that, please come along with as many people as possible, and spend your money. Cream teas will be served as usual and there will be a gift stall and a bric a brac stall so spend on as well as a raffle.

Whilst it is till summer, we hope to arrange an evening trip out on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July, so please look out for the notice on the board in church for further details.

There will not be a Whist Drive during June due to a congested month! To make up for this we actually held two Whist Drives in May, one at the beginning and one at the end, and the next one will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Please come along, you don't have to be experts and you can have a good laugh as well as the chance to win a prize. It starts at 7.30 at church and all the welcome.

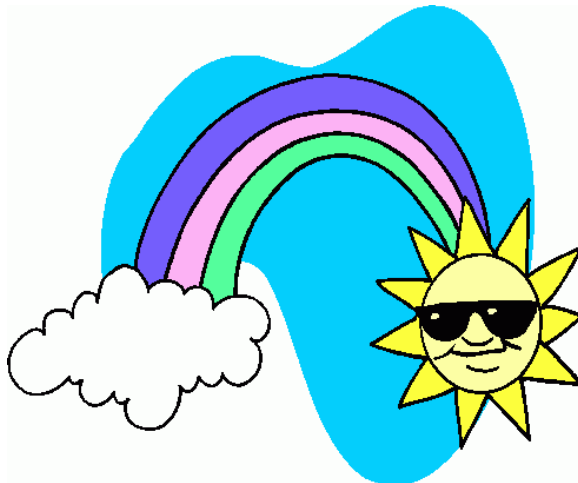
We still need people to come forward with some suggestions as to what you want to do in the way of fund raising events. The turn out has been fairly low recently, so we need to know what you want to do. Please either come to our next meeting or tell a committee member what you want to see done. Our next meeting will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7.15 pm before the main committee meeting.

Sue Howard

# WEEKEND AT HUCKLOW

29th June—1st July

Please see Margaret Andrews for details



## Notice

Church will be closed on Sunday 1st July due to the Hucklow trip.

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

### Leaders for June

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Sue Howard
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Ruth Mills
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Clare Bullock
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Sue Howard

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.

## **STEWARDS FOR JUNE**

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bill Atkin
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Don Andrews
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Ken Howard
- 24<sup>th</sup>: Stuart Hinchliffe
- 1<sup>st</sup> July: Tom Whitehead

## CHURCH FLOWERS FOR JUNE



- 3rd            Table: Miss Brenda Hallatt in memory of Mr & Mrs W. Hallatt  
                  Font: Mrs Gladys Drury
- 10th           Mrs Wendy Maher in memory of Mr & Mrs L. Gowling & Peter
- 17th           Mrs Edith Cooper in memory of Mr David Griffiths
- 24th           Table: Mr Brian Oliver in memory of the Oliver family  
                  Font: Mrs Marjorie Mather in memory of John

## NCUSSU DELEGATES MEETING

This meeting will be held at Old Chapel in Dukinfield at 7.30pm on 19th June



## ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBITION

Congratulations to all who entered the Arts and Crafts. We won the Challenge vase with an average mark of just over 75%. This was a really good effort by everyone involved. Special congratulations must go to all members of The Unitarian Young People's Group who made some wonderful group entries.

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

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	2 pm	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



# JUNE

Sun 3rd 11.00am Morning Service and UYPG

Mon 4th 7.15pm Fund Raising & Social Affairs Group Meeting  
8.00pm Committee Meeting

Sun 10th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.

Wed 13th 3.00 pm Ladies Society Monthly Tea

Sat 16th 2.00pm Summer Fayre

Sun 17th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.

Sun 24th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.