

**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**

MAY 2007

**THIS ISSUE OF CHALICE IS
KINDLY SPONSORED BY
MAGARET BENNETT
IN MEMORY OF
WILLIAM AND EMILY HALLETT**

MINISTER'S LETTER



Dear Friends,

May 1st is the feast day of St Philip and St James, two of the apostles of whom not a great deal is known. In John's gospel, Philip is mentioned as one of the first disciples to be selected by Jesus and at the Feeding of the Five Thousand, Jesus asked Philip to find sufficient bread to feed the crowd. Philip, ever practical, replied that "two hundred silver pieces could not buy enough," and had to learn that when things seem to be impossible, God can find new ways forward. Tradition has it that Philip's subsequent ministry was in Phrygia, now a part of Turkey. He is thought to have died a martyr under Emperor Domitian, around AD 80 at Hierapolis in Phrygia by being crucified upside down. The remains of a church there dedicated to him have been identified. His relics were later transported to Rome, to the church of the Holy Apostles, where he has been venerated since AD 561.

This forms the only real connection between Philip and James, for James' remains were also brought to Rome and enshrined in the Church of the Holy Apostles along with those of Philip. This is the only reason why the two saints share a feast day in the Church calendar.

There are number of disciples named "James" in the New Testament. This James is James the Less (the younger), son of Alphaeus and Mary. Some scholars believe him to have been a half-brother of Jesus (and he was said to resemble Jesus in appearance) but others regard him as a first cousin. Later on, James became Bishop of Jerusalem for thirty years before he was martyred some time around AD 62 by being thrown from the pinnacle of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Pharisees, then stoned.

Most of us are called to be unsung disciples of Christ. Few of us will find our way into the history books, although like Philip and James, there may be something which people remember. Perhaps the most important thing about both Philip and James is that they kept the faith, even though they both lost their lives in a particularly brutal fashion through sticking to their beliefs

We're unlikely to be called upon to die for our beliefs or even to suffer physical torture for them (although this still happens to Christians in some parts of the world), but we are called to follow Jesus and to stick to our beliefs. The example of people like Philip and James helps us to do that.

Wishing you every blessing.

Andrew.

MINISTER'S HOLIDAY

The Minister will be on holiday during the early part of May, if you need any sort of help or pastoral care please contact the warden who will make the necessary arrangements.

The service on 6th May will be conducted by the warden.

DISCUSSION GROUP

As was mentioned in Chalice last month, a number of people have asked for the opportunity to get together occasionally during the week to talk about our worship, our faith, the Bible and how these things influence our lives and also to give ourselves some time together in a less formal setting than our Sunday service but where our minds are still focussed on the spiritual side of our lives. We will hold our first evening on Wednesday May 23rd at 7.30 pm and everyone is welcome. I've called it a "discussion evening" for want of a better title at this stage. That does not mean however that everyone who attends must discuss! If you want to come along and just sit and listen you will be most welcome.



WARDEN'S NOTES

A church means different things to different people. It can be a place of solitude, a place of togetherness, a place of sadness and a place of joy. It can uplift us and it can comfort us. In fact a church can be anything we want it to be.

Perhaps its most important role is to provide a place of love and togetherness. A place where we can all equally bring triumphs and failures, high points and low points and talk to people about them in the knowledge that we will be supported.

Over the years our church has supported many people in times of trouble. It has also served as a place of celebration and joy.

As I write these notes it would be easy for me to reminisce about all the good times I had both at Hob Hill and at church, at the same time I could easily go back to times attending funerals of family and friends.

As a family we are looking forward to Jennifer and Ian's wedding on Saturday, a time of joy for everybody. It will undoubtedly be a time of celebration but it will be tinged with sadness as I think of the people who won't be there in person to share the occasion.

This church has helped and supported me (and my family) and given me great joy for as long as I can remember and I hope it is in a position to do so for many years to come.

On Sunday mornings I look around our young people and my fervent hope is that they will still be able to worship in our church in fifty years time, that they will be married in church and Christen their children. I really hope that one of our young members of today becomes Warden one day.

Stalybridge Unitarian Church is an important place to many people, not all of them live locally and some are sadly, physically unable to join us at regular worship.

It is our duty to keep up the work begun by our forefathers, to maintain the honourable tradition of Unitarian Free Christianity in Stalybridge and to continue to provide a place of love for anyone who cares to walk through our doors.

Ken Howard

SECRETARY

It is with regret that the committee has accepted the resignation of Alan Swift as secretary. This is due to pressure of work. On your behalf I would like to thank Alan for seven years of wonderful service as your secretary, not only has he overseen the day to day business, he has also project managed three major projects (new heating, re-decoration and dry rot eradication). His expertise will be missed but Alan is prepared to stand as a committee member if elected at the AGM.

Beryl Plant has kindly agreed to be nominated as secretary and will take over from Alan (subject to approval at the AGM).

LADIES CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY (WOMEN'S LEAGUE)

The usual monthly tea will be held on Wednesday 2nd May commencing at 3.00pm. Mrs Edith Howard will be the hostess.

£1 A MONTH CLUB

Thank to everyone who has renewed their membership. There is still time to join!!!! 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. Congratulations to Alwin Murphy, last month's winner.

Beryl Bradbury

FUND RAISING AND SOCIAL GROUP



First of all, many thanks for all your donations to the Count Your Blessings effort. We have managed to collect £327.09p to date, but if anyone else feels they still want to make a donation, please feel free. Bill (or any committee member) would be pleased to accept your donation. It's not too late!

We shall be holding our usual Whist Drive on 4th May and again on 25th May. The 25th May one is instead of having one in June as there seems to be plenty of other commitments in June. This will be followed by one on 6th July. All are welcome, beginners and experts alike, and we always have a good laugh. Entry is £2.00 which includes refreshments, prizes and a raffle. Please come along – they start at 7.30 at church!

Our important event in June will be the Summer Fayre to be held on the 16th. The usual stalls will be held, ie Homebake, Tombola, Plants, Gifts and this year the Bric-a-brac stall is making a reappearance, so if anyone can help contribute to any of these stalls, please any committee member who will be able to tell you who is doing what. Cream teas will also be available as usual and a raffle and children's games will be there. Please note the date in your diary and tell as many friends as possible so we can have a good turn out.

I must confess now that we have been a little disappointed recently at the turn out at some events. We are obviously not providing the right kind of entertainment for you. If **anyone** has any ideas that they think we could use for fund raising, please let us know or come along to the next meeting. We need some feedback! Our next meeting will be held on 4th June at 7.15 at church.

Till next time, please get your thinking caps on and help us out with some new ideas.

Sue Howard

CHALICE EDITOR

I am sorry to have to tell you that Krystyna had to pull out of taking over as Chalice editor due to unforeseen circumstances. I am very pleased however to tell you that Rachel Plant very kindly said she would like to do it. As most of you will know, Rachel has a life time connection with Stalybridge Unitarian Church and I am sure with her knowledge of the church together with her enthusiasm of youth, she will bring a whole new magazine to you. We will be working hand in hand for a little while, but if anyone has any reason to contact Rachel, her contact details are at the front of Chalice. I have enjoyed doing Chalice over the last few years and will miss 'meeting' you all every month, but it did seem to be taking over more and more time, so thanks Rachel and the best of luck.

Sue Howard

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Gina Ullman who became the 64th President of Soroptimist International of Ashton-under-Lyne on April 17th. Soroptimist International is a movement for professional and business women which aims to give service to others. The Ashton-under-Lyne club is part of a world wide women's service organisation which undertakes programmes in such areas as education, social, environmental, health and human rights issues and to advance the status of women throughout the world. Soroptimists uphold the ideals of service to the community, high ethical standards in business and the professions, and are passionate about advancing the cause of women throughout the world.

During her year of office Gina will be raising money for her nominated charity which is the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund. We will have a number of opportunities to support Gina during the year, and we particularly look forward to welcoming the Soroptimists to church for a special service in December.

UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP

Leaders for May

6th: Ruth Mills
13th: Sue Howard
20th: Clare Bullock
27th: Ruth Mills

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 APRIL

6th Don Andrews
13th: Ken Howard
20th: Stuart Hinchliffe
27th: Tom Whitehead
3rd June Bill Atkin



ARTS & 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 .

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.

CHURCH FLOWERS FOR MAY

- 6th Mrs M. Sands in memory of Dorothy ad Joan
- 13th Table: Mr & Mrs Peter Bilingsly in memory of Mr and Mrs Tom Stokes.
Font: Mrs M. Sands & Mr & Mrs Curd in memory of Mr & Mrs Baker
- 20th Mrs M. Sands & Sally in memory of Mr & Mrs R Fotherby & Nigel
- 27th Mrs M. Sands & Sally in memory of Neville Sands



WEDDINGS

Jennifer Dawn Howard to Ian Stuart Price on Saturday 28th April, the Minister officiated.

We wish Jennifer and Ian a long and happy life together

FUNERALS

1 2th April Dorothy May Taylor aged 83 years. Service and committal at Dukinfield Crematorium, the Minister officiating. Dorothy was the sister of Gladys Drury and we send our sympathy to Gladys and to all of Dorothy's family and friends.

13th April Doris Lawton aged 83 years. Service and committal at Dukinfield Crematorium, the Minister officiating. Doris had been a member of the Christian Church, Mossley and for many years had been an adjudicator for the Arts and Crafts. We extend our sympathy to all her family and friends. The Minister conducted the service for Doris whilst The Rev Pat Shaw was away at the General Assembly meetings.

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	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

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY
WHIT SUNDAY PROCESSION
OF WITNESS SUNDAY 27TH May-
MEET AT CHURCH AT 1.30PM

SUMMER FAYRE
SATURDAY 16TH JUNE
FROM 2 TO 4 PM
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
BRING YOUR FRIENDS ALONG

MAY

Wed 2nd 3.00 pm Ladies Society Monthly Tea

Fri 4th 7.30pm Whist Drive

Sun 6th 11.00am Morning Service and UYPG.
12.00 pm A.G.M

Sun 13th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.

Sun 20th 11.00 am Morning Service and UYPG.

Wed 23rd 7.30 pm Discussion Evenin

Fri 25th 7.30pm Whist Drive

Sun 27th 1.30pm Whit Sunday Procession

WHIT SUNDAY

This year our procession of witness will take place on Sunday 27th May. Please meet at church at 1.30 pm. Please make every effort to attend as we want to show our strength to the people of Stalybridge.

Please note there is no morning service on this day.

If any fit young men would like to carry the banner please contact Alan Swift or Ken Howard

In the June edition of Chalice you will find a small donations envelope. Your donations will go towards paying the cost of Denton Brass Band who will be playing for us once again this year.

Please give generously and thank for your support. Please give your envelope/donation to any officer of the church