

CHALICE

April and May 2024



**STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**

And

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
(A Free Christian Congregation)
Forester Drive, Stalybridge**

**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 North Cheshire Unitarian Sunday
School Union.**

A member of The Unitarian Christian Association.

THE CHALICE

**STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN
CHURCH MAGAZINE**

**TO ASSEMBLE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD, TO
HEAR THE WORD OF GOD PREACHED &
EXPOUNDED & FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE
CHRISTIAN RELIGION ACCORDING TO THE
TRADITION KNOWN AS LIBERAL CHRISTIANITY**

WARDEN'S NOTES



Our congregation continues to grow slowly but surely, it was wonderful to see that sixty-four people attended the Palm Sunday Service, this figure included fourteen children. Generally speaking, attendances across all faiths and all denominations are in decline; it's satisfying that we seem to be bucking the trend.

Many things and many people are responsible for this success story. Personally, I think the way we organise our worship, social events and other activities help to foster a feeling of togetherness and enjoyment. We centre our work around our Sunday acts of Unitarian Free Christian worship, but we realise that people also need to meet on less formal occasions than this.

Going to church is not supposed to be an ordeal, it is a simple act of worship that does not need to be over-complicated. A church, however, must be able to describe its ethos to the wider community. All people have to know what we stand for as Stalybridge Unitarian Free Christians.

Thank you everybody for your support of Stalybridge Unitarian Free Christian Church. Later this year we celebrate the 162nd Anniversary of the establishment of Unitarianism in Stalybridge.

This work **MUST** continue and we must continue to grow.

Ken Howard

PEOPLE

We are sad to report that Denis Walker (the nephew of Clare Bullock) died on 25th March. We would like to offer our condolences to all the family.

Some of our members are unable to be with us as often usual due to illness and/or medical treatment. We would like them to know that we are thinking of them, and we hope to see them soon.

ARTS AND CRAFTS 2024

Thanks to everybody who entered The Arts & Crafts Exhibition. This year we have 188 entries, 10 more than last year. The big day of the exhibition is on Saturday 11th May at Old Chapel, Dukinfield. Please come along to support the work of The North Cheshire Unitarian Sunday School Union.

CHILD SAFETY

It is the responsibility of all of us to look after the children who attend our church and Sunday School. Recently one of our children managed to escape the clutches of adults and ran through the gates and across the road without looking.

For various reasons the gates cannot be padlocked (In case of fire etc). To avoid this happening again we will ensure that the gates are closed, with both downbolts in place and latched properly, just before the start of the service. If you arrive late, please ensure you close the gates properly before you enter church.

N.C.U.S.S.U. ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION MAY 11th 2024

If anyone would be able to assist Lynn Skeldon with the refreshments at Dukinfield Old Chapel between the hours of 11a.m. and 3p.m., please have a word with Lynn or myself, then we can cobble together a rota.

If you can spare just 30 minutes that would really help, if it fits in with your own performance times during the day.

Everyone can bring their own lunch, then enjoy cake and a cuppa from our pop-up cafe!

Pot collectors, Washer-uppers, Brewer-uppers welcome!

Thank you in advance for your help.

Margaret Barber

Secretary NCUSSU



MINISTER/PULPIT SUPPLY

Thanks to everyone who attended the candidating service of Rev Andrew Parker. It was, in my opinion, a great example of Andrew's faith and commitment. The Extraordinary General Meeting to approve Andrew's appointment as our Minister will be held on Sunday 21st April immediately after the morning Service.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the congregation will take place on Sunday 26th May after the morning service. The information and Nomination Sheet will shortly be pinned on the notice board.



FAREWELL TO LEN AND SUE

Members of the UYPG present a card signed by the children and the congregation during the final service presented by Len and Sue.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WHIT SUNDAY SERVICE
SUNDAY 19th MAY AT 2PM

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY REV ANDREW PARKER
ACCOMPANIED BY DENTON BRASS.

OUTDOOR IF WEATHER IS SUITABLE

NO MORNING SERVICE ON THIS DAY

OLD CHAPEL (UNITARIAN) DUKINFIELD

**REV ANDREW PARKER IS GIVING
THREE TALKS ABOUT
EUROPEAN ROYALTY**

**Tuesday 9th April
at 7.30pm**

THE ROYAL HOUSES OF EUROPE

**Tuesday 11th June
at 7.30pm**

CROWN JEWELS & REGALIA OF EUROPE

**Tuesday 13th August
at 7.30pm**

EUROPEAN CORONATIONS AND INAUGURATIONS

**£5 EACH EVENING INCLUDING A BUFFET
SUPPER (numbers required for catering)**

GOOD FRIDAY WALK



Ready for the Good Friday Walk around Dovestone Reservoir

EDITORIAL

The last few weeks have been tough for me, I've had a bad case of man flu. Man flu differs from what females catch as the male version has adverse non-medical symptoms such as morbid self-pity, an increase in bad temper and a reluctance to carry out any form of housework. You ladies don't know how lucky you are. However, some relief can be found by sympathy, (only the sincere kind) and the regular provision of cups of tea.

One of the symptoms I've had is a problem with my hearing and although that has been a bonus when the grandchildren have visited it has caused difficulties when watching television. After much fighting with my dearly beloved with the volume control on the TV remote I decided to enable subtitles on the television. This worked fine when watching pre-recorded programmes such as Tipping Point and Emmerdale but didn't work as well when watching the News as the words appear several seconds behind the action and overlap the following news item because the stenographer can't keep up with the speaker. Very confusing. Watching the recent news has been particularly grim. The conflict in Gaza continues with the death toll rising each day; the war in Ukraine has escalated with increased bombing; the Baltimore bridge has collapsed; a terrorist attack has been carried out at a Moscow theatre and more revelations have been revealed in the post office debacle to name just a few of the headlines. In midst all this bad news I found one uplifting news item that I would like to share with you and although stricken with the dreaded 'man flu', it still made me smile.

'A wildlife rescue that took in what was thought was a baby hedgehog found it was actually caring for a bobble from a hat. It was brought to the Lower Moss Nature Reserve and Wildlife Hospital by a well-meaning rescuer last week. On arrival they discovered the hoglet was in fact a "faux furry friend", a volunteer for the animal charity said. Our hearts melted'.



Sometimes if we look hard enough, we can see the sunshine peeking through the clouds.

Stay safe, Jeff

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Special Services and Events 2024

Thursday 2 nd May	ALL DAY	Local Council Elections Church used as Polling Station
Saturday 11 th May	ALL DAY	Arts and Crafts Exhibition Old Chapel
Sunday 19 th May	2pm	Whit Sunday Service with Denton Brass
Sunday 26 th May	12.15pm	Stalybridge Unitarian Free Christian Church Annual General Meeting
Saturday 15 th June	2pm	Summer Fair
Sunday 7 th July	11am	162nd Anniversary Service and UYPG Prize Giving
Sunday 29 th September	11am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 10 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Saturday 16 th November	12.30am	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 11 th December	12.30pm	Christmas Lunch TBA
Saturday 14 th December	3pm	Christmas Party
Sunday 22 nd December	3.30pm	Family Carol Service
Wednesday 25 th December	11am	Christmas Day Service

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on 21st April immediately after the morning service. The only item on the agenda will be the appointment of Rev Andrew Parker as our Minister.

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 21st APRIL
2024 AT 12.15pm

AGENDA

The committee resolution to approve the appointment of Rev Andrew Robert Parker as the Minister of Stalybridge Unitarian Free Christian church

According to our constitution this resolution can be approved by a simple majority.

Every Thursday



CHALICE SUBSCRIPTION

Thanks to those people who have sent their subscription to continue receiving The Chalice magazine. If you have an email address you can receive your copy for free, please let me know if you would prefer this. The cost of a posted copy is £10 and if you wish to sponsor a copy it's a further £10.

Please let me know if you still require your copy of Chalice.

My email address is: wendy.maher47@gmail.com

FOLK NIGHT AND SINGALONG

A fantastic evening of music, song and comedy was held in February with the amazing Irwin Lewis and Friends. Our thanks go out to the group who refused a fee so instead the church made a donation to their favourite charity.



TOTS IN MOTION

This group for toddlers operates in church every Friday from 10.30 to 11.45am. All toddlers are welcome.



A poster for 'TOTS IN MOTION' featuring a title box at the top, three callout boxes for 'Songs', 'Movement', and 'Fun', a row of cartoon children, and a text box with event details.

TOTS IN MOTION

Songs Movement Fun

Every Friday, 10:30 - 11:45, for under 5s
Stalybridge Unitarian Church,
Forester Drive, SK15 2DN.
Come and enjoy a warm, friendly session.
No need to book!
£2.50 per family including refreshments

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

Moss and Nicola each selected eight pieces of music, a book and a luxury item based on the BBC Radio 4 program Desert Island Discs during a fun evening at church in March.



FLOWERS FOR APRIL AND MAY 2024

April

7 th	Maggie Lomas	IMO Bill & Margaret Atkin
14 th	Lynn Skeldon	IMO Mum & Dad and Brother Roger
21 st	Jacqueline, Joanne, Judy & Steven	IMO of their Mum Dorothy Baron
28 th	Emma Skeldon & Nicola Tan	IMO Mrs Dorothy Skeldon

May

5 th	Margaret Barber	IMO of Edith, Hughie and Alan Barber
12 th	Mrs Alison Lambe & Mrs Victoria Firmstone	IMO Mr & Mrs Derek Clayton
19 th	Jacqueline & Caroline	IMO Jack & Betty Bredbury
26 th	Julie & Jeff Sheehan	IMO Mr & Mrs Briggs

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

April

7 th	Moderato E Minor	Scarlatti
14 th	Andante in C	Mozart
21 st	Air Water Music	Handel
28 th	Ballade	Grieg

May

5 th	Legend	Eldridge
12 th	Pavana Antico	E. Thiman
19 th	WHIT	
26 th	Cantilène	Harker

CALENDAR

SPECIAL SERVICES
As announced in "Chalice"

UNITARIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S GROUP
11.00am Every Sunday

COMBINED FUND-RAISING & CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETING
7.30pm As announced in "Chalice"

THE CHURCH IS TO BE FOUND ON FORESTER DRIVE
STALYBRIDGE

ALL ARE WELCOME

Our Website is:

<https://stalybridgeunitarianfreechristianchurch.com>

Cover illustration is reproduced with the kind permission
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Calendar April & May 2024

APRIL

Thursday 4 th	2pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 5 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 7 th	11 am	Favourite Hymns Service conducted by Ken Howard
Thursday 11 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 12 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 14 th	11am	Morning Service & UYPG conducted by Ken Howard
Thursday 18 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 19 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 21 st	11 am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Jennifer Price
Sunday 21 st	12.15pm	Extraordinary General Meeting of the Congregation
Thursday 25 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 26 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Friday 26 th	7.30pm	SILENT DISCO etc
Sunday 28 th	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Margaret Barber

MAY

Thursday 2 nd	ALL DAY	Church used as Polling Station
Friday 3 rd	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 5 th	11 am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by
Thursday 9 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 10 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Saturday 11 th	ALL DAY	ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION AT OLD CHAPEL
Sunday 12 th	11am	Morning service & UYPG conducted by Ken Howard
Monday 13 th	7.30pm	Church Committee and Fund-Raising Meeting
Thursday 16 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 17 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 19 th	2 pm	WHIT SUNDAY SERVICE with Denton Brass Conducted by Rev Andrew Parker
Thursday 23 rd	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 24 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 26 th	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev Francis Elliot-Wright
Sunday 26 th	12.15pm	Annual General Meeting of the Congregation
Thursday 30 th	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 31 st	10.30am	Tots in Motion