

# CHALICE

**August and September 2025**



**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**

**This Issue of Chalice is Sponsored by:**  
**Mr & Mrs Bradbury**  
**IMO**  
**Beryl Bradbury**  
**1934 –2023**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

In recent weeks I have had several conversations about angels. Not usually a subject which crops up in conversation but for some reason the subject has been on more than one mind recently. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael are the three named biblical angels, depicted as messengers of God. Michael, which means "Who is like God?" is the protector of Israel and leader of the armies of God so Michael came to be regarded as the protector of Christians from the devil. Gabriel, which means "The strength of God" is, according to the Gospel of Luke the one who was sent by God to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus. Raphael, which means "The healing of God" is depicted in the book of Tobit as the one who restores sight to Tobit's eyes.

A basilica near Rome was dedicated in the fifth century in honour of Michael on September 30<sup>th</sup> with celebrations beginning on the eve of that day, with the result that September 29<sup>th</sup> came to be observed as a feast in honour of Michael and all angels. Throughout the Middle Ages many churches were dedicated to St Michael and All Angels including Ashton-under-Lyne and Mottram.

At first you may wonder what relevance all this can possibly have for rational Unitarians! Well, it obviously is of interest to some Unitarians but quite apart from that there is some real spiritual value in there as well. Just think for a while about the names of the three angels - "Who is like God?" "The strength of God" and "The healing of God." Also think about God's messengers today. We would not expect Michael to show us that there is no other like God, Gabriel to inspire us with the strength of God or Raphael to bring us the healing touch of God. So, who are God's messengers today?

Every blessing.

Andrew.

## WARDEN'S NOTES



Summer is a wonderful time for churchgoers to enjoy God's creation, deepen their faith, and strengthen community bonds.

We all have different reasons for enjoying summer. Personally, it is the cricket season that makes it special for me. The sound of leather on willow and the smell of freshly cut grass are things I love.

The recent hot weather was a double-edged sword, some liked it, and others hated it. I prefer sunny weather to rainy days and short daylight hours.

Some people like to travel abroad to find guaranteed sunshine, but that luxury is not available to everybody

We are lucky in Stalybridge to have Gorse Hall, Cheetham Park and Stamford Park on our doorstep. For the more adventurous and fitter amongst us we have Hobson Moor, "North Britain" and the foothills of the Pennines are only a stone's throw away.

Whatever you do over the summer, enjoy it as much as you possibly can, make memories, and thank God for all the beauty that we are able to see so close to our homes.

Ken



**Members of the UYPG displaying the books they received at the 163<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary & Sunday School Prize Giving Service**

## **PEOPLE**

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 they are in our prayers. We hope to see them soon.

## **CHILD SAFETY**

It is the responsibility of all of us to look after the children who attend our church and Sunday School and we want to ensure none of our children manage to escape the clutches of adults and run through the church gates and onto the road.

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

## **A MESSAGE FROM SUE SHAW**

Thank you to everyone here at Stalybridge for all your lovely sympathy cards, hugs and kind words over the last few weeks. Sue x

## **THE LATE MRS MARGARET HALLSWORTH**

We would like to thank Margaret and her family for leaving church a generous donation in her will.

## **WORK DAYS**

We need to spend some time in the church grounds and inside church to tidy up everywhere.

The committee has organised two work days on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 1pm on both days.

The more volunteers we have the more work we can get done. Please come along to help if you can.

## STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### Special Services and Events 2025

Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	11.00am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	12.30am	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	12.30pm	Christmas Lunch at Waggon and Horses
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	3.00pm	Christmas Party
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	3.30pm	Family Carol Service
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Christmas Day Service

### MEMORIAL GARDEN

The contract to extend The Memorial Garden has been given to PRO Gardens of Dukinfield (the original contractors). Work will start shortly. We also hope to turn the spare ground near the new wall into a wildflower area. Jackie and Graham Maher have kindly agreed to donate another bench in memory of Jack and Betty Bredbury.



**Entertainment by Denton Brass during the Whit Sunday Service**



**Time for a break during the Summer Fair**



**Delicious dining at the Italian Night**

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Forester Drive, Stalybridge, SK15 2DN



**SATURDAY**  
**9th AUGUST 2025**  
**FROM 2pm to 4pm**



**PROCEEDS IN AID  
OF THE CHRISTIE  
HOSPITAL**

**ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO  
"THE CHRISTIE CHARITY"**

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**SATURDAY 6th**  
**SEPTEMBER AT 7 pm.**  
**70s DISCO AND 70s FOOD**

**£15 each including a  
70s buffet supper  
Dig out your old flares,  
floral tops and denim!!**

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER**  
**FOLLOWING THE  
MORNING SERVICE**

**£5 per adult**

**Children free**

**Please put your name(s) on  
the list**

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**SATURDAY 4th OCTOBER**  
**10.30am TO 3.00pm**

**A DAY TO WATCH DEMONSTRATIONS.  
TRY IT YOURSELF.  
NEW IDEAS.**

**ENTRY £5 PER PERSON  
INCLUDING LUNCH  
Everybody welcome.**

## EDITORIAL

This year I will be 70 years old, or is it 70 years young? Life brings changes as we grow older; perhaps changing routines, health considerations, or missing loved ones. While acknowledging these realities, choosing a positive outlook remains a powerful tool for enriching our well-being. It's not about ignoring difficulties, but about focusing on the light that still shines brightly around us.

Us 'oldies' possess a unique advantage over youngsters: perspective. This hard-earned wisdom allows us to appreciate the present moment more deeply. We know the value of a quiet morning, a shared laugh, a blooming flower, or a cherished memory. We can focus on the abundance we have cultivated; rich experiences, enduring relationships, and the simple joys easily overlooked in our younger years. Consciously notice pleasant moments; a warm cup of tea, a kind word, a beautiful sunset.

Lets take a few minutes each day to reflect on specific things we're thankful for, big or small. Reach out. Share stories, offer encouragement, listen. Connection combats isolation and multiplies joy. Our smile and positive words can uplift someone else immeasurably.

Choosing positivity isn't just for ourselves, it radiates. Our calm presence, our appreciation for life, our resilience in the face of change; these inspire family, friends, and our entire community. We can demonstrate that life, at every stage, holds profound beauty and meaning.

Let us embrace the wisdom of our years. Focus on the blessings within reach, practice gratitude daily, and nurture connections. By cultivating a positive spirit, we enhance our own golden years and light the way for others. Choose to see the sunshine, it's always there, waiting to be noticed.

Regards, Jeff

### **My Treasure Chest**

My rubies are the petals of a dark red rose,  
My emeralds are the trees and meadows green,  
Sapphires are in the depth of the dark blue sea,  
And diamonds are stars twinkling in the sky just for me.  
Millions of crystals glimmer at my feet,  
As I walk through the early morning dew,  
All gold in the world is shining down on me.  
I'm a lucky one indeed, this treasure just for me.

Margaret Cottam

## FUND RAISING/SOCIAL SCENE

Well, how are we already halfway through the year?

Doesn't time fly when you're enjoying yourself!

Thanks to everyone for their support of, and hard work for, our **Summer Fair**. We managed to add just over **£1,000** to our coffers - excellent result.

The **Italian Night** proved a huge success. Thank you for supporting the event, it was such a fabulous evening. The food was sumptuous, the entertainment was brilliant and the whole evening was just the best. A huge thank you to **Emma, Jennifer & Nicola** for making it a wonderful night out. The bar staff were very professional, and the waiting-on staff were a delight. It will be a very hard act to follow.

### NEXT UP:

## CREAM TEA IN AID OF THE CHRISTIE

**SATURDAY AUGUST 9th - 2PM-PM**

Come and enjoy a fancy cream tea, bring a friend or two, and fill our donation box for this very worthy cause (**folding brass preferred!**) Have a bit of lunch, the savoury sort, before you come, don't have anything sweet, save yourselves for your binge starting at 2pm!

## 70'S NIGHT BUFFET AND DISCO PARTY

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6th - 7PM**

We'll try to emulate the success of the Italian Night somehow!

Brace yourselves for a trip down memory lane, rehearse all those 70's songs you know so well, come in 70's clobber if you're brave enough - I know there's a Bay City Roller in the making already! Please consider the risk factor of platform shoes in your 70's though! Plus -dungarees have consequences if you get the urge to use the facilities - you know what I mean! Wet fasteners I remember well!

Anyway, Jeff is on task gathering the fabulous music of the decade ready for you to singalong and bop to. There may be quizzing about the decade to jog your memory!

So, prepare yourselves for chicken/scampi in a basket and Black Forest Gateau, to name but a few. Pretend you're at Quaffers, Grays, Casablanca or Smokies!

All these delights for **£15**-sign up on the list on the notice board asap. I'm counting the chicken goujons already!

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL & LUNCH**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28th**

Enjoy our Harvest Festival Service at 11am, conducted by Ken, then stay for your lunch of soup, followed by crumble. Remember to sign up on the list so we have an idea of quantities to cater for - see poster for cost.

If you are able to bring contributions for our Harvest food-bank, these may be brought on Saturday morning, around 10.30am, or on Sunday morning before the service. Thank you for supporting this. The fresh produce table will be provided by the Committee as usual.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

### **CRAFT DAY**

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 4th 10.30AM-3PM.**

### **CONCERT EVENING**

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14th 7PM**

**KEVIN & JOY SIDDALL ON THE DNA OF BRITISH MUSICALS -FOOD/TALK/SONG/ -£10 PER TICKET**

### **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22nd 12.30 -3PM ISH**

**CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE WAGGON & HORSES**

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10th - WATCH OUT FOR BOOKING DETAILS/MENU**

Now for something completely different, as they say.

We would like to gather together a working party to get to grips with outdoor space.

So, all you gardeners out there, bring along your gardening gloves, trowels, rakes, hoes, secateurs, brushes and let's tidy up around our church building. I am reliably informed that you don't necessarily need to know the difference between a flower and a weed! Good job, I say!

This is happening on **Saturday August 2nd from 10am - 1pm.**

If the weather is rubbish, fear not.

Plan B is to sort/sift/clear cupboards and generally have a really good clean-up of the church inside, so you won't be able to avoid any joining in!

People willing to do a tip run with the resulting debris would be extremely welcome too. Now who doesn't love a trip to the tip! It's a fab day out!

A follow-up party is planned for **Saturday September 27th from 10am-1pm!**

Please come and join the Committee members who are willing to get this underway but need **HELP!** Thank you.

Hoping to see as many of you as possible at any, or all, of the above.

Margaret Barber



# FLOWERS FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2025

## August

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Vacant	(Please contact Julie if you wish her to purchase and arrange flowers on your behalf)
10 <sup>th</sup>	Lorraine Gleave	IMO All the Gleave & Williams Families
17 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Mavis Beaumont	IMO Mr Handel Beaumont
24 <sup>th</sup>	Mr & Mrs G. Spiby Ken & Sue Howard	IMO The Schofield Family (Altar) IMO Edith, Clarrie Howard & Steven (Font)
31 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret Cottam	Birthday Memories of her Mother and Father Annie & Jim Mosley

## September

7 <sup>th</sup>	Jacqueline Skeldon	IMO of Husband David
14 <sup>th</sup>	Hilda & George Brearley	IMO Hilda & James Hollingworth, Gladys & George Brearley & Daughter Caroline Tarr
21 <sup>st</sup>	Nicola and Hayley	IMO Grandma Mary Sheehan and Janet Tollitt
28 <sup>th</sup>	Wendy Maher	IMO of brother Peter Gowling

## MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

For the August and September services a varied selection of organ music will be played for your enjoyment by Barry .

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**A MUSICAL EVENING GIVEN  
BY JOY AND KEVIN SIDDALL**

**FRIDAY 14th  
NOVEMBER AT 7.00PM**

**ADMISSION BY  
TICKET ONLY**

**£10 EACH INCLUDING  
POTATO PIE SUPPER**

# 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>

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## Calendar August & September 2025

### AUGUST

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11am	Morning Service & UYPG conducted by Rev A R Parker
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service conducted by Margaret Barber
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup>		Craft Chat and Chill
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Ken Howard
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Derek Redeyoff
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Ken Howard

### SEPTEMBER

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	7.30pm	Combined Fund-Raising & Church Committee Meeting
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	11 am	Morning Service Conducted by Rev A R Parker
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2 -4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Jennifer Price
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev A R Parker
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	11am	HARVEST SERVICE conducted by Ken Howard