

# CHALICE

June and July 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:**

**Barbara Brown**

**IMO**

**Mr & Mrs R. Brown**

**and**

**Mr & Mrs Brooks**

**IMO**

**Mr & Mrs E. Caton**

## MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

I was reading the other day about a place in the middle of the island of Sri Lanka where ancient palaces and temples were discovered a few years ago. They had been built about two thousand years ago and belonged to a Ceylonese empire which some historians think was as great as the empires of Greece and Rome. Yet until a few years ago very few people even knew that this society had ever existed. The jungle had overgrown all the remains of what had once been bustling towns and they were forgotten.

It is thought that a disease such as cholera killed most of the inhabitants and the others scattered to other settlements or perhaps they were invaded by enemies who took the people off into slavery. Some however think that there is a simpler reason. Maybe the people simply became complacent and they failed to notice the ever encroaching jungle and inevitably, the day came when it had been allowed to go too far and the jungle had taken over.

It is a salutary tale. Those with gardens know just how quickly they can get out of control and in these difficult days for local authorities we can see how quickly the areas where we live can start to look untidy and uncared for. The same goes for many other situations in life. It is only by constant vigilance that things are kept in good order and that can apply to our personal and spiritual lives, our communities, our country and even to our churches and chapels. We must never take anything for granted!

Every blessing,

Andrew

## WARDEN'S NOTES



We will celebrate our 163<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary at our service on 6<sup>th</sup> July. 163 years seems a long time, but time moves very quickly. We have a lot to thank our founders for, if you have never read “The Growing of the Seed” now is a good time to do so. It details the first 100 years of our existence. Copies are available in church

Let us remember that we are not just a gathering of people, but a family united in faith. Though life may bring challenges, we stand strong because we stand together.

We are called to encourage one another, to lift each other up, and to offer help whenever and wherever we can.

Let's all remember that life is better when we don't take ourselves too seriously. Worship and care with joy, love with laughter, and trust that even during the most difficult times, we can still rely on the message of Jesus to strengthen us.

Ken

## MARGARET HALLSWORTH

The funeral of Margaret Hallsworth took place in church on 12<sup>th</sup> May. Rev Andrew Parker officiated. Margaret was an extremely hard worker, and she was extremely resilient. She was a long-term Sunday School and Church committee member and a former President of the NCUSSU. Her Eccles Cakes were legendary. Along with Edith Howard she provided cricket teas for many seasons. The original idea for The Memorial Garden came from Margaret. She was in charge of the church Flower Rota for many years. She was a stalwart fund raiser for Willow Wood Hospice. Margaret will be sorely missed by her family and her many friends.

## **LEN ELIAS**

The funeral of Mr Len Elia took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Dean Row Unitarian Chapel. Together with his wife Sue, Len did a wonderful job at Stalybridge during his term as our Lay Person in Charge. The commitment and generosity shown to our church by Len and Sue was something we will always be grateful for. We offer our condolences to Sue, the family, and all Len's friends.

## **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.

## **NICOLA TANN**

Congratulations to Nicola Tann who has recently been sworn in as Judge. The swearing in took place at Bradford Crown Court where Nicola took the Judicial Oath and was sworn in by Mr Justice Cobb. All the family were invited to attend. The children were allowed to sit on "The Bench" and even tried on the wigs!!

## **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.

## STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### Special services and events 2025

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	2pm	Whit Sunday Service with Denton Brass
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	2-4pm	Summer Fair
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	11am	163rd Anniversary Service and UYPG Prize Giving
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	11am	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 pm	Christmas Party
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	3.30pm	Family Carol Service
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	11am	Christmas Day Service

### THE WAY

I hold out my hands and part the way,  
There lies before me,  
The distant misty Isles,  
Mountains hiding valleys, rivers and streams,  
Tall trees stand sentinel,  
Giving cover to birds,  
Singing sweet songs,  
It is all there before me,  
I only have to reach out my hands,  
And part the way.

Margaret Cottam

## ARTS & CRAFTS 2025

Congratulations everybody for all your efforts getting all those entries prepared for the Arts & Crafts Exhibition – 213 of them in total!

It matters not if you won anything, though it is nice if you do. The Exhibition would be nothing if it was just winners, the displays would be uninspiring. We need variety, it's the spice of life!

And what a display we had. It looked great, it smelt great, it sounded great!

The overall points win for us to retain the Shield was 304, 139 of which were gained by our Sunday School children, hence retaining the Primary Award. They would actually have won the Shield on their own merit - FYI!!! No adult input needed at all!!!

Aren't we so very lucky to have them amongst us, they are a truly delightful, talented group of youngsters. We must look after them for as long as we are able. Thanks to their parents for bringing them along as often as possible and for energising the Sunday School and Church with their enthusiasm.

Special congratulations to Charlotte Tann – she won the Jubilee Award with the most points gained in Class C- 27!, and she won the Joyce Archer Rose Bowl for the highest mark in Floral Decoration- 97%. Well done Charlotte.

Rosie Green can also swagger around for some time to come, being the only person to gain 100% this year. This was for her Sewing entry, which the adjudicator, who is a dressmaker, could find no fault with at all! She was so impressed with the skill and care that had been shown in the work. Well done Rosie.

The best bit was the weather. Yet again we had a gorgeous day, which made everything so much more pleasant. The children sounded to be having a lovely time in the sun, whilst some of us were inside and really feeling quite cool! You are such a welcoming group of children, you look out for each other and draw in other children to enjoy your fun from our other Sunday Schools. So very thoughtful and kind. Thank you.

Thanks to Jennifer in particular for all her hard work in our Sunday School to help you attain such high standards in your work, but also nurturing your thoughtfulness and care for every one around you.



Thank you too for making my day complete by being there at the end in such numbers. After faffing with the printer, which decided to throw a hissy fit from time to time, not helpful when certificates need printing immediately, it was lovely to see so many faces there, and to be able to have a bit of fun to conclude what can be a very tiring day for one who's just had a zero birthday!!!

**CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!**

Margaret Barber



**Champions!**



**Easter Sunday Egg Hunt**

## EDITORIAL

Summer is the warmest season of the year, bringing longer days, bright sunshine, and a sense of freedom. For many, it is a time for relaxation, travel, and outdoor activities. Schools close for a 6 weeks break (not sure if that's good news or bad news), families go on holidays, and people enjoy beaches, picnics, and barbecues. The season is filled with the sounds of laughter, splashing water, and chirping birds.

Nature thrives in summer, with trees full of green leaves and gardens blooming with colourful flowers. This year has been particularly good and Julie is very proud of the poppies that are flourishing in our front garden. Farmers work hard under the sun growing crops that will later feed communities. Summer nights are magical, with stars shining brightly in the clear sky.

However, summer also brings challenges, such as extreme heat and droughts in some regions. Staying hydrated and protecting oneself from the sun is important. Despite this, the season remains a favourite for myself and many others because of its joyful energy.

Whether sitting in the garden, walking in the park, or simply enjoying an ice cream cornet, summer creates lasting memories. It is a time to slow down, appreciate nature, and make the most of life's simple pleasures so let's enjoy it while we can.

Stay safe,

Jeff



**Enjoying the Good Friday Walk**

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



## WHIT SUNDAY SERVICE

The service will be held outdoors  
if the weather is suitable.

**SUNDAY 8th JUNE**  
**at 2 pm**

Service conducted by  
**KEN HOWARD**

Music provided by Denton Brass

**ALL WELCOME**  
Tea and cakes to follow.

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**163rd ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**PRIZE-GIVING**  
**SUNDAY 6th JULY 2025 AT**  
**11am**

**SERVICE CONDUCTED BY**  
**REV ANDREW PARKER**  
**ORGANIST—BARRY SHAW**

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Forester Drive, Stalybridge



**SATURDAY 14th JUNE**  
**FROM 2 PM TO 4 PM**  
**SOMETHING FOR**  
**ALL THE FAMILY**  
**ALL WELCOME**

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



*Cream Tea*

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



**PROCEEDS IN AID**  
**OF THE CHRISTIE**  
**HOSPITAL**

**£6 per person**  
Including a free raffle ticket.

EAST CHESHIRE UNION OF UNITARIAN AND FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**AND SONGS OF PRAISE SERVICE**  
**SATURDAY 12TH JULY AT**  
**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME**

#### PROGRAMME

9.30am 16 seater minibus leaves from Old Chapel  
Dukinfield (Provided by ECU)  
11am—12.30pm Annual General Meeting  
12.30 pm to 1.30 pm Lunch (provided)  
1.30pm Songs of Praise Service  
3pm Departure

If you wish to book a seat on  
the bus please inform Rev  
Andrew Parker or Ken Howard.

## FUND RAISING/SOCIAL SCENE

A healthy(in number!) group of us went walking up to Werneth Low on Good Friday starting off at the Rising Moon on Matley Lane, returning there a few hours later for refreshments. Thanks to Jennifer, Ian, Alfie and Ben for having trampled that way during Covid, allowing us to follow in your footsteps on another very enjoyable walk. I think we came back healthier! £95 was raised in sponsorship money-well done everyone.

The V.E Day Service and lunch went down very well. Thanks to Jennifer for the lovely, thoughtful service she gave us, before we all enjoyed the Jacob's Table Lunch. Everyone donated something and enjoyed a wide variety of tucker! Thank you all for your help and contributions. It made a lovely occasion.

**COMING UP NEXT!!! SHOULD ALREADY BE IN YOUR DIARY!!!**

### **SUMMER FAIR - SATURDAY JUNE 14 - 2PM-4PM**

Contributions welcome for the Raffle, Bottle Tombola, Adult/Children's Tombola and Home Bake Stall. Wendy will have her crafts to sell, and a cream tea will be available to refresh you! Children's activities will be somewhere! Please come and support this effort if you can.

### **ITALIAN NIGHT - BOOK A TABLE FOR DINNER -**

**\*PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE\* - SATURDAY JUNE 28 - 7PM**

Watch out for the poster on the notice board with booking details and menu-it's all being decided as we speak!

### **FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**CREAM TEA IN AID OF THE CHRISTIE - SATURDAY AUGUST 9 - 2PM-4PM**

**70'S NIGHT BUFFET AND PARTY - SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 - 7PM tbc**

Thanks to everyone for their continuing support for our events and special thanks to the people who make them happen. Remember - if you have any fund-raising ideas, speak up, let us know, you make it happen if you would like to. We'll be happy to accommodate you!

Margaret Barber



# Lay Worship Leadership Foundation Course Autumn 2025



NOW FREE TO EAST CHESHIRE UNION MEMBERS!

Are you inspired to lead Unitarian services with your unique voice, need help with leading, or want to improve the quality of your worship leadership?

For more info, contact us at:  
[Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk](mailto:Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk)

**Unitarian College**

Growing our faith from the inside



[www.unitarian-college.org.uk](http://www.unitarian-college.org.uk)

Our online zoom course will be led by experienced Unitarian Ministers and lay people, covering the following topics: Exploring the theology of worship and elements of a Unitarian service Writing sermons and addresses Choosing hymns and music Improving creative storytelling for all ages The course will be held via eight, 2-hour online zoom modules (19:00-21:15) on the following dates: 17th Sept 24th Sept 1st Oct 8th Oct 15th Oct 2 week break 5th Nov 12th Nov 19th Nov 2 week break 6th Dec Final Assessment & next steps Members of East Cheshire Union congregations can register for this course free of charge.

To find out more, please contact Unitarian College at:

[Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk](mailto:Admin@unitarian-college.org.uk) [www.unitarian-college.org.uk](http://www.unitarian-college.org.uk)

## FLOWERS FOR JUNE AND JULY 2025

### June

1 <sup>st</sup>	TABLE Miss Brenda Hallatt FONT Mrs Jean Thomas	IMO Mr & Mrs W. Hallatt IMO Mrs Gladys Drury & Mr & Mrs Owen Stokes
8 <sup>th</sup>	Lynn Caton	IMO Mr & Mrs Harold Bullock Senior
15 <sup>th</sup>	Kevan & Sue Simister	IMO Albert & Norah Simister
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Barbara Weltman & Vivien Hall	IMO Matthew, Betty Hall, Muriel Dawson, Wendy Inman & Bob Hall
29 <sup>th</sup>	Chris, Amanda & Alison	IMO Their Mum & Dad Vic & Margaret Hallsworth

### July

6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Eileen Thompson	IMO Her Daughter Tricia
13 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Bennett	IMO William (Bill) & Mary Emily Hallatt
20 <sup>th</sup>	George & Hilda Brearley	IMO Daughter Caroline Tarr's Birthday
27 <sup>th</sup>	Amanda Allen & Mattie Pugh	IMO Mr Trefor Pugh

## MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

For the June and July services I will be playing a varied selection of tunes that I hope you will all enjoy.

Best regards,

Barry



# 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 June & July 2025

## JUNE

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	11am	Morning Service & UYPG conducted by Rev A R Parker
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	WHIT SUNDAY Service with Denton Brass conducted by Ken Howard. <b>Please note NO MORNING SERVICE</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>		Preparation for Summer Fair
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Preparation for Summer Fair
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>		Whit Friday Band Contests
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	SUMMER FAIR
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev A R Parker.
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Francis Elliot-Wright
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Italian Night
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Margaret Barber

## JULY

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	11am	<b>163<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY SERVICE &amp; SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING.</b> <b>Conducted by Rev A R Parker</b>
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup>	2 -4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	ECU AGM	and Songs of Praise at Newcastle-under-Lyme
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Jennifer Price
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Combined Fund-Raising & Church Committee Meeting
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft Chat and Chill
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev A R Parker
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup>	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Morning Service conducted by Francis Elliot-Wright
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup>	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill