

CHALICE

October and November 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

This Issue of Chalice is Sponsored by:
Barbara Weltman
IMO
Matthew, Bob Hall, Betty Hall and Muriel
Dawson

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

This time of year is significant for many faith traditions, marked by important religious observances that offer opportunities for reflection, community, and spiritual renewal. Here at Stalybridge we end September with our Harvest Festival which is not just a quaint Victorian tradition but an opportunity for us to reflect on what it means to live in connection with the earth and with each other. The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi which is on 4th October celebrates the saint known for his devotion to peace, nature, and the poor and this feast is often accompanied by animal blessings in recognition of Francis' love for all creatures.

For Jewish communities, the month of October often includes Sukkot, a joyous harvest festival that recalls the Israelites' 40 years in the wilderness. This year, Sukkot begins on 16th October and ends on 23rd October and is marked by the building of temporary shelters (sukkahs) to remind Jews of the fragility and impermanence of life.

In Islam, October may coincide with the observance of Mawlid al-Nabi, the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated on different dates depending on the Islamic calendar. This year, Mawlid falls on 17th October. It is a time for Muslims to reflect on the Prophet's life and teachings through prayer, storytelling, and communal gatherings.

For Hindus, October often brings the celebration of Navaratri, a nine-night festival dedicated to the goddess Durga, signifying the triumph of good over evil. This year, Navaratri begins on 2nd October and culminates in Dussehra on 12th October, a day that celebrates the victory of Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana.

All these October observances are another reminder of the spiritual richness and diversity found across faith traditions in our own community and across the world.

Every blessing,

Andrew.

WARDEN'S NOTES



“CARPE DIEM”, roughly translated means “seize the day” and is regularly used as a motto for schools and other institutions. The originator of the saying was a Roman who was actually referring to harvesting, I suppose the closest we come to it in English is “make hay while the sun shines”.

Unfortunately, “Carpe Diem” has come to mean seize the day and forget about the future, which was not the original intention.

Of course, we have to live in the moment, but we must never forget other times, both good and bad.

Our church and Sunday School has a history we should all be proud of.

Our present is blessed with an active and multi-generational congregation. But we must not get complacent, church attendance can go up and down and we have to be aware of that.

The future is also in our hands, it is our duty to ensure that our church remains available for future generations to use for the worship of God (as stated on our Trust Deed) and to meet socially.

It is, in my opinion, vital that we look to the future, so that our church continues to provide Unitarians and Free Christians in Stalybridge with a place to call home.

Ken Howard

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. 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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Remembrance Sunday Service will be held on Sunday 10th November. The service will be conducted by Jennifer Price. Can we ask that members of the congregation be seated by 10.45am at the latest so that we are able to join the service at The Cenotaph and observe the two minutes silence at the proper time.

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Remembrance
Sunday

SERVICE ON SUNDAY
10th NOVEMBER 2024
AT 10.45am

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY
JENNIFER PRICE
ORGANIST—BARRY SHAW

ALL WELCOME

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Forester Drive, SK15 2DN



**Family
Carol Service**

SUNDAY 22nd
DECEMBER 2024
AT 3.30pm

Service conducted by
Rev Andrew Parker
Organist: Barry Shaw

EVERYBODY WELCOME

JUVENILE MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

Anybody under the age of 16 can become a juvenile member of church. The certificates to recognise this will be presented during the Family Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December. If you wish your children to be a member of church, please see Jennifer.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

This will be held on **Saturday 16th November from 12.30pm to 2.30pm**. All the usual stalls will be available and there will be something for everyone.

This is one of our biggest fund-raising events of the year and needs the support of everyone to make it a success.



An entertaining Pantomime Talk by Christine Cheetham, long-time producer of the pantomimes at Dukinfield Old Chapel

A FAIRY TALE

Mr Moon leaned out of his window, watching the scene below in the forest. Tonight was a very special night and he must make sure his moonlight was shining its brightest. It was the fairy princess's birthday; she had a birthday only once in every 10 years so of course everything had to be just right.

Down below deep in the forest all the Elves and Pixies were dancing away, round and round they twirled dancing to the sounds of music from the Grasshopper orchestra. Mr Rabbit the conductor had been rehearsing the orchestra for weeks and tonight everyone was playing their very best.

Her Highness, Princess Fairy Bluebell sat on her throne of pearls and wore her most beautiful gown of silver blue lace threaded with moonbeams and she was wearing her coronet of stars.

The Bluebell Fairy choir were singing their most lovely melodies and all the woodland animals were enchanted with the music, the dancing and the singing. Even the forest trees had entwined their branches together and were swaying in time to the music. Mr Moon caught his special shooting star in his hand and gently laid the star to rest on the forest floor. The Bluebell Fairies all gasped in delight as the Star Prince stepped out and made his way to the Princess Fairy Bluebell to wish her a happy birthday. What a lovely sight they made as they danced together, the Fairy choir sang more sweetly, the Grasshopper orchestra played more magnificently and the Elves and Pixies stood around and clapped their hands as the Fairy couple waltzed round and round.

The dancing and singing lasted all night long and just as the morning sun was beginning to rise, her highness thanked all the Elves and Pixies and Bluebell Fairy choir not forgetting the Grasshopper orchestra for giving her such a wonderful birthday party. Just before the Star Prince stepped back into his shooting star, he knelt down before the Fairy Princess and kissed each dainty fingertip. Then he climbed upon his shooting star and streaked back across the heavens to Mr Moon. Everyone waved goodbye and the Princess Fairy Bluebell went up the fairy staircase back to her Royal castle. Mr Moon closed the window and went to his bed dreaming of the lovely things that had happened in the forest that night.

He was so tired he forgot to say "goodnight".

Margaret Cottam

EDITORIAL

Welcome.

Well did you enjoy the summer? You may have had an afternoon nap and missed it. Apparently, according to Met Office statistics the UK has had its coolest summer since 2015 and although we had some heatwaves and bursts of hot weather, these were fairly short-lived and conditions across the whole three summer months were pretty unsettled. And as usual the weather for us in the North of England was even more miserable than for those in the South. It's a good job we're hardy folk.

It's now Autumn and the days are getting shorter, the nights longer and the weather colder and damper. It's that time of the year to try and find where you hid the hot water bottles in May and arrange a bank loan for the next heating bill, however, don't despair there is lots of church events to look forward to!

Firstly, on October 4th there is a special edition of Desert Island Discs starring the Rev. Andrew Parker and Margaret Barber as the two victims, I mean participants. I'm reliably informed Andrew hasn't chosen any Rap or Death Metal music for his favourite tunes however can you guess what book he's chosen to take with him to the desert Island? Have you guessed? Who knows we may be in for a surprise. I'm hoping Margaret will choose Agadoo as one of her memorable songs and entertain us by singing it whilst performing the dance. That alone would be worth the admission cost.

On October 19th Wendy has organised another craft day. It always amazes me what talent the congregation and their friends have. However, you don't need to be a Kirstie Allsopp or Stacey Solomon wannabe to attend, even if you can't sew a button on a pair of trousers you will still be welcome and guaranteed to have a great time learning new crafts and/or having a good natter with other like-minded people.

On November 16th we have the Christmas Fair which is always a enjoyable way to spend money to support our church and get you in a jolly mood.

And after all that fun we have Christmas and New Year to look forward to; but more about that in the next edition of the Chalice.

Stay safe,

Jeff

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Special Services and Events 2024

Sunday 10 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday Service
Saturday 16 th November	12.30am	Christmas Fair
Friday 6 th December	7.30pm	Denton Brass Band Concert
Thursday 12 th December	12.30pm	Christmas Lunch at Waggon and Horses
Saturday 14 th December	3pm	Christmas Party
Sunday 22 nd December	3.30pm	Family Carol Service
Wednesday 25 th December	11am	Christmas Day Service

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be held in church on Saturday 14th December starting at 3pm. Come along to eat and have a fun time. We hope Father Christmas will be able to visit us to distribute presents.

UYPG Members – Free. Visiting children £5. Adults £6. Please put your names on the notice on the board.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This will be held at The Waggon and Horses, Stalybridge on Thursday 12th December at 12.30pm.

Please look at the detailed information on the notice board.

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

This will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 3.30pm. It will consist of readings and carols and be conducted by Rev Andrew Parker.

During the service the UYPG members will be presented with their Juvenile Membership Certificates.

This is a very special service and I urge as many people as possible to attend.

BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE

Work will be undertaken to remove the overhanging tree on Richmond Close.

A MESSAGE FROM SUE HOWARD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and wishes following my recent spell in hospital. Everyday when Ken came to visit me, he brought a card or message from someone and I really appreciated them. Tameside (or any hospital) is no place to be for any length of time and as I was getting more fed up by the day, Ken would come with a card or message from someone and I immediately felt a lot better knowing that I was being thought about. I also appreciated your visits, books and magazines that came my way. I know its no fun visiting people in hospital so thanks to your efforts, my stay was made more bearable.

I really missed seeing people every Sunday at Church but got all the action from Ken or Jennifer and was so happy to be allowed home a couple of weeks ago and even to be able to get to church to see everybody. Please accept my sincere thanks - its so good to know we have such a lovely group of thoughtful and generous people at our church - I would have struggled without you all. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANKYOU.

Sue

CRAFT GROUP

The Thursday craft group are holding a crafting day on Saturday 19th October. We will be starting at 10.30am and there will be lunch included and all materials provided. We will finish about 3.00pm.

The cost will be £5. If you would like to come and join us please let me know on 0161 338 8174 or 0781 677 5500. We will need names for catering and also materials. Hope to see you soon.



STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Craft Day

SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER
10.30am TO 3.00pm

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

ENTRY £5 PER PERSON
INCLUDING LUNCH

Everybody welcome.

FUND RAISING/SOCIAL EVENTS

Hello everybody! Time for the update on our social scene.

The Pantomime talk by Christine Cheetham and the quiz organised by Ken, plus interval ice-creams, were enjoyed by those present - Oh yes they were!

Thanks to Christine for taking the time to bring along lots of interesting items from Panto times at Dukinfield Old Chapel, to add to her potted history of the beginnings of pantomime globally, locally, through to her own involvement. Let's hope it can carry on whenever and wherever it can-it's a tradition we should be proud of.

We will probably be enjoying our Harvest Festival Service and Lunch when this is published - so enjoy!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: PLEASE SUPPORT WHATEVER YOU CAN

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4th, 7.30pm

DESERT ISLAND DISCS with Rev. Andrew Parker, castaway, somewhere! He will now be having second thoughts about being stranded, as his companion will be Margaret Barber!

Poor Andrew, send out your SOS NOW!! Move to another island while you have chance! Anyway - we need numbers for catering purposes, so please put your names on the notice or you'll not get your meat and potato/cheese and onion pie!

Bring along your friends for an entertaining evening!

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



FRIDAY 4th OCTOBER
AT 7.30pm

REV ANDREW PARKER AND ANOTHER
MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION WILL SELECT
EIGHT PIECES OF MUSIC, A BOOK AND A
LUXURY ITEM
(as on the BBC Radio 4 programme).

A POTATO PIE/CHEESE & ONION PIE SUPPER
WILL BE SERVED,

ADULTS £6 CHILDREN £2, PLEASE PUT YOUR
NAME ON THE LIST.

CRAFT DAY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 19th, 10.30am-3pm

Wendy has ideas in the pipeline to keep you busy on this day, so come and try your hand at whatever she has ready for you to make, enjoy the company of others, a welcome brew and lunch at half-time! Sign up NOW!

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16th, 12.30pm - 2.30pm/3pm

Raffles, tombolas, crafts, home bake, café. Come along, bring your friends.

Ideas for other stalls/children's activities welcome, space permitting.

DENTON BRASS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FRIDAY DECEMBER 6th, 7.30pm

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE WAGGON AND HORSES

THURSDAY DECEMBER 12th, 12.30pm

MENUS/SLIPS FOR MENU CHOICE ARE ON THE NOTICE BOARD

PLEASE FILL ONE IN ASAP, deposit of £5pp, £27 for 2 courses, £32 for 3courses

It has been lovely to have Sue Howard back with us, even though she couldn't resist checking up that we had left the kitchen clean and tidy after the Pantomime Evening!!!

Just kidding Sue, we're trying our best to emulate your talents, you're a tough act to follow.

Stay strong.

Margaret Barber

FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024

October

6th Anne Howarth

IMO her Mum Shirley, Daughter Jane and Sister Kathleen

13th Jenny Jones

IMO Husband Joe and Sister Janice

20th Brenda & Sheila

IMO Anne Holden on her Birthday

27th Mrs Jean Thomas

IMO Alice, Constance & Jack Somerfield

November

3rd Vacant

10th Barbara Brown

IMO of her Mum & Dad

17th Mr & Mrs Ken Howard

IMO Miss Margaret Hitchen

24th Brenda & Sheila

IMO Anne Holden

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

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

Best regards, Barry



Members of the UYPG enjoying Sunday in church

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 October & November 2024

OCTOBER

Friday 4 th	7.30pm	Desert Island Discs
Sunday 6 th	11 am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev Andrew Parker
Thursday 10 th	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 11 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 13 th	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Ken Howard
Thursday 17 th	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 18 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Saturday 19 th	10.30am-3pm	CRAFT DAY
Sunday 20 th	11 am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Margaret Barber
Thursday 24 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 25 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 27 th	2am	British Summer Time ends, clocks go back one hour
Sunday 27 th	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Francis Elliot-Wright
Thursday 31 st	2-4pm	Craft, Chat and Chill

NOVEMBER

Friday 1 st	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 3 rd	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev Andrew Parker
Thursday 7 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 8 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 10 th	11am	Remembrance Sunday Service and UYPG conducted by Jennifer Price
Monday 11 th	7.30pm	Church Committee and Fund-Raising Meeting
Thursday 14 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 15 th		NO Tots in Motion (due to Christmas Fair)
Saturday 16 th	12.30-2.30pm	CHRISTMAS FAIR
Sunday 17 th	11am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev Andrew Parker
Thursday 21 st	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 22 nd	10.30am	Tots in Motion
Sunday 24 th	11 am	Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Francis Elliot-Wright
Thursday 28 th	2-4 pm	Craft, Chat and Chill
Friday 29 th	10.30am	Tots in Motion