

CHALICE

October and November 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 Spiby

IMO

The Schofield Family

And

Mr & Mrs Brooks

IMO

Mr & Mrs H. Bullock Snr.

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends

This October marks the 610th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt and the 40th anniversary of the death of Orson Welles. At first glance, there doesn't seem to be much that they have in common - one a muddy battlefield in northern France, the other the passing of a great twentieth-century storyteller. Yet both touch on questions of faith, human frailty, and the search for meaning.

The Battle of Agincourt, fought on 25 October 1415, St. Crispin's Day, is remembered in part for its military improbability - the outnumbered English archers breaking the might of French chivalry. At the time the victory was seen as providential, a reminder that "the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong" (Ecclesiastes 9:11). It remains a story of humility turned to triumph, where weakness became strength and glory was tempered with gratitude to God.

Orson Welles, who died on 10 October 1985, spent his career probing the weaknesses of humanity through theatre and film. His works, from *Citizen Kane* to his Shakespearean interpretations, often revealed the corruption of pride, the fleeting nature of power, and the tragic cost of self-deception. Welles explored the same themes that echo through Agincourt: the hollowness of earthly grandeur and the need for something greater than ambition or vanity.

Together, these anniversaries remind us of the paradox that victory can be found in weakness, and that art and memory are most valuable when they point beyond themselves. Agincourt reminds us that God's strength is made perfect in frailty; Welles reminds us that unchecked pride leads to ruin. Both urge us, in faith and humility, to measure life not by power won or lost, but by truth, service, and love.

Every blessing,

Andrew

WARDEN'S NOTES



This month I just want to share this with you.

The Greatest Commandment

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Ken

COMMUNION SERVICES

The next Communion service will be on Sunday 2nd November at 10.15 am. Thereafter, there will be a Communion service every other month at 10.15 am on the first Sunday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Anyone who finds this form of worship helpful is welcome to attend and to receive the bread and wine.

SCATTERING OF ASHES

The family of Margaret Hallsworth, together with Rev Andrew Parker will scatter her ashes in the Memorial Garden following the morning service on Sunday 5th October. Members of the congregation may join the family if they so wish.

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.

Cenotaph and observe the two minutes silence at the proper time?

CHRISTMAS FAIR

This will be held on **Saturday 22nd 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.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT FUND RAISING EVENT.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

This will be held in church on Saturday 13th 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.

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Special Services and Events 2025

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday 9 th November | 10.45am | Remembrance Sunday Service |
| Saturday 22 nd November | 12.30am | Christmas Fair |
| Wednesday 10 th December | 12.30pm | Christmas Lunch at Waggon and Horses |
| Saturday 13 th December | 3.00pm | Christmas Party |
| Sunday 21 st December | 3.30pm | Family Carol Service |
| Thursday 25 th December | 11.00am | Christmas Day Service |

MEMORIAL GARDEN

The extension is now complete. Please take the time to have a look. We would like to thank Jackie and Graham Maher for donating the new bench in memory of Jack and Betty Bredbury.

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.

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 LUNCH

This will be held at The Waggon and Horses, Stalybridge on Wednesday 10th December at 12.30 pm.

Please look at the detailed information on the notice board.

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

This will be held on Sunday 21st December at 3.30pm pm. 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.

THANKS

Thank you to everyone who's continuing to pass on their used stamps for Willow Wood Hospice, and their mini jam jars, regular jam jars, and kitchen roll tubes for the girls of 40th Ashton Brownies. All donations are gratefully received.

Jennifer Penn

TOTS IN MOTION

Songs, music and fun every Friday between 10:30 and 11:45 for under 5's. Come and enjoy a warm, friendly session. No need to book! £2.50 per family including refreshments.

'Stalybridge Unitarian Church, Forester Drive, SK15 2DN'



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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.

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



SERVICE ON SUNDAY

9th NOVEMBER 2025

AT 10.45am

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY

JENNIFER PRICE

ORGANIST—BARRY SHAW

ALL WELCOME

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS

MUSIC

CONCERT BY

DENTON BRASS

FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER

AT 7.30 PM

**£10 PER PERSON
(CHILDREN £5)**

PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME ON THE LIST



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

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Forester Drive, Stalybridge



SATURDAY

22nd NOVEMBER 2025

FROM 12.30 TO 2.30pm



ALL WELCOME

STALYBRIDGE UNITARIAN FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Forester Drive, SK15 2DN



SUNDAY 21st

DECEMBER 2025

AT 3.30pm

Service conducted by

Rev Andrew Parker

Organist: Barry Shaw

EVERYBODY WELCOME

EDITORIAL

I recently read an article published by the Mayo Clinic entitled 'What Laughter Can Do For You' and I thought for this edition of the Chalice I would share some of the key points. Although a good sense of humour can't cure all ailments, data is mounting about the positive things laughter can do.

SHORT TERM BENEFITS.... When you start to laugh, it doesn't just lighten your load mentally, it actually induces physical changes in your body. Laughter can:

Stimulate many organs. Laughter enhances your intake of oxygen-rich air, stimulates your heart, lung and muscles and increases the endorphins that are released by your brain.

Activate & relieve your stress response. A rollicking laugh fires up and then cools down your stress response and it can increase and decrease your heart rate and blood pressure. The result? A good, relaxed feeling.

Soothe tension. Laughter can also stimulate circulation and aid muscle relaxation, both of which can help reduce some of the physical symptoms of stress.

LONG TERM BENEFITS.... Laughter isn't a quick pick-me-up, it is also good for you over the long term. Laughter can:

Improve your immune system. Negative thoughts can result in chemical reactions that affect your body by bringing more stress into your system and decreasing your immunity. By contrast, humorous thoughts can actually release neuropeptides that help to fight stress.

Relieve pain. Laughter may ease pain by causing the body to produce its own natural painkillers.

Increase personal satisfaction. Laughter can also make it easier to cope with difficult situations. It also helps you connect with people.

Improve your mood. Many people experience depression, sometimes due to chronic illness, Laughter can help you lessen your depression and anxiety and may make you feel happier.

Soothe tension. Laughter can also stimulate circulation and aid muscle relaxation, both of which can help reduce some of the physical symptoms of stress.

So get your tickling sticks out and keep smiling.

Jeff

CHOIR STALLS

At the last Church Committee Meeting a discussion took place with regard to removing the choir stalls to open up the area in what we call The Chancel. This would allow more room for special occasions such as marriages, blessings, baptisms, funerals and memorials. The choir stalls are not part of the original structure but were fitted much later. (See photos below). If you have any views on this that you would like to share, please speak to any member of the Church Committee.



This photo was taken in 1920. This is the original lay out of what we now call The Chancel, with the organ in the chancel area along with a raised choir pew. The eagle eyed among you will notice the obvious comparison with the layout at Old Chapel

This photo was taken in 1970. The Chancel, organ and choir stalls are as they are now. The pews were removed in 1985, due to the closure of Hob Hill School. The marble Greenwood font was moved at the same time. The pews were laid out without a central aisle, but with two side aisles.



FUND RAISING/SOCIAL SCENE

Hello everyone. Grateful thanks to all of you who came along to support our Christie Cream Tea. Wendy and I took an amazing £550 along to the Christie from our efforts. WOW!

Our 70s Night went down really well too, an astounding £335 for our own coffers. Thanks to all who came along and enjoyed the fun, all the fab gear that was on show, the nerve it took to pull it off, and photographic evidence to prove we did it! The team who decorated, catered and DJ'd are so glad you had a good time. Just a safety warning for the future - don't be having to check your chips and goujons in the oven whilst wearing a sequinned top!!!!

COMING SOON: CRAFT DAY - SATURDAY OCTOBER 4 - 10.30am - 3pm(ish)

Come & join those arty/crafty people amongst us for a time of fun, chat & food, all for £5.

Sign up on the notice board if you haven't done so already.

THE DNA OF BRITISH MUSICALS EVENING - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14 - 7pm

Come along for a supper of meat & potato/cheese & onion pie, followed by entertainment from Kevin & Joy Siddall all about those musicals we know and love - or maybe you will be introduced to them and want to see them. Please book your ticket, £10, via any member of the Committee. It is ticket only so we can cover our costs appropriately. Still sign up on the list on the notice board, your ticket will be provided when we have them - and when you've coughed up your tenner!!!

CHRISTMAS FAIR - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 - 12.30pm - 3.30pm(ish)

Bring your friends along for the usual Christmas butty and mince pie, have a look around the stalls, buy your raffle tickets, and generally catch up with old friends.

We would welcome any contributions for the raffle, adult/children's tombolas and the home bake stall. Wendy will have her crafts stall so be thinking who you could buy a gift for from her treasure trove.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES: DENTON BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT- FRIDAY DECEMBER 5-7.30pm

Watch the notice board for further information. Sign up when you see the poster, bring your friends and enjoy the lovely Christmassy sound a Brass Band can bring to the party! A brew and sweet treat are in the pipeline.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH - WEDNES- DAY DECEMBER 10 - 12.30pm tbc

The date is booked; we are waiting for the menu to come through. Jean Seymour will be chasing you up when she has it, so watch out! Thanks to Jean for organising this on our behalf once again.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY - SATURDAY DE- CEMBER 13—3PM

Watch the Chalice and notice board for further information nearer the time.

Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts. Come and join us when you can. Social gatherings bring us all closer together to help us build on the work our Church and Sunday School can offer.

Margaret Barber



**Taking a break during the
garden & church cleanup**



Disco Inferno!

FLOWERS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025

October

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 5 th | Anne Howarth | IMO her Mum Shirley, Sister Jane and Aunt Kathleen |
| 12 th | Jenny Jones | IMO Husband Joe and Sister Janice |
| 19 th | Brenda & Sheila | IMO Anne Holden on her birthday |
| 26 th | Mrs Jean Thomas | IMO Alice, Constance & Jack Somerfield |

November

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 nd | Vacant | |
| 9 th | Barbara Brown | IMO of her Mum & Dad |
| 16 th | Mr & Mrs Ken Howard | IMO Miss Margaret Hitchen |
| 23 rd | Brenda & Sheila | IMO Anne Holden |
| 30 th | Margaret Cottam | Birthday memories of my Sister Renee Mosley on 12th December |

MUSIC DURING THE SERVICE

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

TOGETHERNESS

There they were, an elderly couple,
Walking in front of me,
Holding hands, keeping in step,
Silently speaking of their love and devotion,
Being there for each other,
In the walk of life,
Togetherness is a jewel, beyond any price.

Margaret Cottam

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 2025

OCTOBER

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday 2 nd | 2-4pm | Craft Chat and Chill |
| Friday 3 rd | 10.30am | Tots in Motion |
| Saturday 4 th | 10.30 to 3pm | CRAFT DAY |
| Sunday 5 th | 11am | Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev Andrew Parker |
| Sunday 5 th | 12.15pm | Scattering of Ashes – Mrs Margaret Hallsworth |
| Thursday 9 th | 2-4pm | Craft Chat and Chill |
| Friday 10 th | 10.30am | Tots in Motion |
| Sunday 12 th | 11am | Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Margaret Barber |
| Thursday 16 th | 2-4pm | Craft, Chat and Chill |
| Friday 17 th | 10.30am | Tots in Motion |
| Sunday 19 th | 11am | Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Ken Howard |
| Thursday 23 rd | 2-4pm | Craft Chat and Chill |
| Friday 24 th | 10.30am | Tots in Motion |
| Sunday 26 th | 11am | Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Margaret Barber |

NOVEMBER

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday 2 nd | 11 am | Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev Andrew Parker |
| Thursday 6 th | 2-4pm | Craft Chat and Chill |
| Friday 7 th | 10.30am | Tots in Motion |
| Sunday 9 th | 10.45am | REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE conducted by Jennifer Price |
| Monday 10 th | 7.30pm | Combined Fund-Raising & Church Committee Meeting |
| Thursday 13 th | 2 -4 pm | Craft, Chat and Chill |
| Friday 14 th | 10.30am | Tots in Motion |
| Friday 14 th | 7pm | CONCERT EVENING – The DNA of British Musicals Kevin and Joy Siddall |
| Sunday 16 th | 11am | Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Rev Andrew Parker |
| Thursday 20 th | 2-4pm | Craft Chat and Chill cancelled due to Christmas Fair |
| Friday 21 st | 10.30am | Tots in Motion cancelled due to Christmas Fair |
| Saturday 22 nd | 12.30 to 3pm | CHRISTMAS FAIR |
| Sunday 23 rd | 11am | Morning Service and UYPG conducted by Margaret Barber |
| Thursday 27 th | 2-4pm | Craft, Chat and Chill |
| Friday 28 th | 10.30am | Tots in Motion |
| Sunday 30 th | 11am | First Sunday of Advent service conducted by Ken Howard |