

# Welcome to the Chapel In the Valley

JESUS HAS TOLD THIS CHURCH TO GO AND MAKE  
DISCIPLES AND TEACH THEM TO OBEY HIM.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021



This Sunday at 11.00 am ...

... we will meet online and in limited numbers in church.

This Sunday - *Clare*

Please note...

In addition and as usual we will have our online prayer meeting on  
Sunday morning at 9.30 am

## What's ahead.

- Wednesday 23rd June - Nathan Lawrence
- Sunday 27th June - Cliff
- Sunday 4th July - Cliff
- Sunday 11th July - Clare
- Sunday 18th July - Cliff

## Praying for church.

This Sunday (20<sup>th</sup>), after our morning worship, there will be an opportunity to gather (socially distanced of course), to share our thoughts, ideas, and especially prayer. God willing this will take place outside! Why not bring a drink and a sandwich?

In addition, church will be available for prayer all week. Feel free to contact Cliff/Judith if you need access.

## LET US PRAY...

- With worship for our great God.
- For the Good News hospital in Madagascar and for the Malagasy medical staff.
- For all those working in and supporting overseas mission.
- For those known to us who are sick or sorrowful
- For the continuing work on the church garden and the well-being of our garden constructor.
- For continued guidance on the way ahead as we near a possible end to lock-down restrictions.

## This coming week on Zoom

### Monday

Prayer meeting at 10.00 am

### Tuesday

Jill's Bible study at 7.30 pm

### Wednesday

An evening (online), with Nathan. We are pleased that Nathan Lawrence, on furlough from The Good News Hospital in Madagascar and a colleague of Lesley will be sharing with us over Zoom at 7.00 pm.

### Thursday

Chat Café - on holiday for a while

*If you would like a Zoom invitation to any of our activities, please get in touch.*

## We need you.

As we look forward to the Summer holidays, it would be lovely if anyone would consider writing a short piece for our news sheet.

It could be something that inspires you or challenges you or simply a piece you have enjoyed reading or listening to.

## Luke 15:11-32 - The Parable of the Lost Son

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

<sup>13</sup> "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. <sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

<sup>20</sup> "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. [a],

<sup>22</sup> "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, <sup>26</sup> and he asked one of the servants what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

<sup>28</sup> "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, <sup>29</sup> but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. <sup>30</sup> Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'

<sup>31</sup> "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"

I waited patiently...

... and still - Closed doors - everywhere.

Do you sometimes find that prayer isn't always all that you hope it would be?

Are there times when you seem to be surrounded by unanswered questions, about problems that need to be solved, issues that remain unresolved, and relationships that resist repair?

I'm in the process this week of listening to the account of Elijah and his confronting the prophets of Baal, and how he mocks them for the 'sleeping and unavailable' gods, and how he calls upon Jehovah to demonstrate His power and might - which He does.

And then I come back to my own condition and wonder why this isn't my experience.

There must have been dozens of books written about unanswered prayer and an equal number with remedies – so what's so difficult?

So many seemingly easy answers – more faith, more trust, more repentance, more prayer, more humility – all of which I'm sure is true – and yet?

I have no answer except that, like King David in the Old Testament (e.g. Psalm 4) and Paul in the New (Acts 16) where else should I put my trust?

We've taken the opportunity to join in prayer this weekend over the future of worship, both personal and corporate in Griffydham and perhaps we don't know where we go from here or what we are to be called into – and we don't like that, for it smacks of uncertainty.

But it's only our uncertainty, not God's – so we wait and we pray.

As I enter prayer now, I pause to be still;

to breathe slowly;

to re-centre my scattered senses upon the presence of God. (Lectio365)

Gov.UK Guidance - Places of worship

You can attend places of worship for a service. However, you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble. You should maintain strict social distancing at all times.

You should follow the [national guidance on the safe use of places of worship](#).

Around Rudyard Lake