

Welcome to the Chapel In the Valley



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

Sunday 18th October 2020

Our programme for this Sunday

This Sunday ...We are using Zoom to meet online
on Sunday morning at 9.30 am for a prayer meeting,
and 11.00 am for an act of worship.

This morning - A word about church

If you are able to join with us from your home we'd love to see you; so... if you
have not received an invitation and would like one,
please email us at civ.griffydam@gmail.com

In addition, this Sunday (18th), we will be seeking to admit a limited
number of worshippers into church for a combined 'live' and Zoom time of
worship at 11.00 am. Anyone who would like to come along needs to contact
us beforehand.

Needless to say, all of the Covid-19 regulations must be followed.

The coming week

On Monday evening we will be having our prayer meeting on Zoom at 7.30
pm. Please contact us if you would like to make a request or join in.

Please continue to be patient as there are many challenges lying ahead as
we seek to be of best service to God and each other.

Prayer of Approach

Creator God, who formed us from dust, breathe in me again.

Give me a new imagination to perceive greater possibilities today.

Lectio 365

LET US PRAY...

- With worship for our great God
- For our friends and neighbours - for the continuous improvement of Craig and for the family Nicholls; For Lisa M; for Rob and Elaine; for Elizabeth and Jim as Elizabeth continues her treatment, for all of those who are dear to us personally.
- With thanks for our continued desire to worship and pray together.
- For our friends at Mandritsara
- For all of our youth both at home and studying away, and for the safety of all of our students and staff at school and colleges.
- For those we know who find themselves threatened by job losses
- With awareness of God's grace and then with grateful thanks for answered prayer
- For wisdom as we see churches around us opening - that we might make the right decisions for all of our possible start-ups, and for each of our local churches as each seeks to make right decisions.

Prayer

Lord, as we consider how to operate as a church
in the face of this pandemic,
grant us wisdom, direction and unity of purpose
in our desire to bring assurance,
peace and eternal hope to those around us.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

Ezra 3: 1-3 & 7-13

Rebuilding the Altar

EZRA 3 ¹When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem. ²Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God. ³Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the LORD, both the morning and evening sacrifices...

Rebuilding the Temple

⁷Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and gave food and drink and olive oil to the people of Sidon and Tyre, so that they would bring cedar logs by sea from Lebanon to Joppa, as authorized by Cyrus king of Persia.

⁸In the second month of the second year after their arrival at the house of God in Jerusalem, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, Joshua son of Jozadak and the rest of the people (the priests and the Levites and all who had returned from the captivity to Jerusalem) began the work. They appointed Levites twenty years old and older to supervise the building of the house of the LORD. ⁹Joshua and his sons and brothers and Kadmiel and his sons (descendants of Hodaviah) and the sons of Henadad and their sons and brothers—all Levites—joined together in supervising those working on the house of God.

¹⁰When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel. ¹¹With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD:

“He is good; his love toward Israel endures forever.”

And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. ¹²But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. ¹³No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.

It's a man thing.

Some events in this past week have caused me to think about gender. Not (you may be relieved to read) in the physiological sense. Rather in the sense of how our minds work.

With what I realize is a sweeping generalization, it seems to me that, when it comes to using new technologies, men have a limitless and unbounded knowledge of every mechanical or electronic piece of apparatus known to mankind, thereby rendering redundant the need to consult any form of instruction manual (which is probably hidden away on some obscure website anyway).

Consequently, any difficulties we may have in putting together these technologies emanate, not from our lack of comprehension or patience, but from the fact that there must have been some flaw in the manufacturing process to start with.

And that set me wondering about what is perhaps the most important instruction manual of the lot, the Word of God, the Bible.

So, we've started on the road to seeking to know more about God, and now we're stuck with a question. What choices do we have?

Well, we could 'phone a friend'. Or we could find a book (and there are plenty of those about). Or we could just guess.

But how about we pick up (or download, or browse - whichever technological genre we find ourselves in) - a Bible?

But ok, I've done that, now what?

And here's the point. I know that some people have, from time to time opened their Bibles at random and have a passage of scripture 'illuminated' before them.

But can I suggest, that it is only as we spend time systematically, and preferably along with other like-minded individuals, reading, discussing and praying through the scriptures that real understanding will come.

So, as we continue in our self-assured means of intuitively knowing everything there is to know about how to build our next flat-pack set of bookshelves, we make an exception with the real concerns of life, set aside our manly confidence and get together with others around the best manual in the world.