



Fri 23 –
Mon 26
May

HOLINESS CALLING



CLIFF FESTIVAL

20
25



As I sit here reflecting, I am keenly aware that I am approaching my final Festival as Principal of Cliff College. Over the years, I have had the privilege of overseeing eight Festivals as Principal and participating in many more before that. Each one has been a unique and transformative moment where people have encountered God in profound ways.

As I considered possible themes for this, my final Festival, one stood out above the rest: 'Holiness Calling.' This theme draws us back to the very foundation of our mission, offers a radical and countercultural challenge for discipleship in today's world, and inspires us to look forward with hope and anticipation for what God wants to accomplish in and through us in the years ahead.

In our Charisms statement, as a College, we find the following statement:

We are a community which seeks a life of prayer, with a particular emphasis on holiness and the Spirit filled life. This reflects our roots in the Wesleyan tradition, and shapes our understanding of our defining characteristic: evangelism and mission. We want our theological training to fuel our prayer and

worship – and our prayer and worship to inspire our theological training. We encourage students to be involved in leading the various community times of worship during their time at the College in order to share the gifts that God has given them, and to be an active part of a local church.

Festival remains a vital part of the life and ministry of Cliff College. Over the years, countless thousands have found faith, been renewed in their faith, heard a call to ministry and mission, and been challenged to embrace a life of holiness.

Jane Cooper's testimony, shared during an interview with John Wesley, beautifully captures this transformative power: 'I saw Jesus altogether lovely,' she said, 'and I knew he was mine in all his offices. And, glory be to him, he now reigns in my heart without a rival.' Jane was one of hundreds who were part of a revival where the holiness Wesley had preached for decades was now being claimed as a lived experience. Holiness was being born out of life-changing encounters with the Lord.

Generations of Christians would soon be inspired by the prospect of such gracious and powerful

encounters with Christ—encounters that resulted in him reigning fully in their hearts. Holiness became a vision of authentic faith, dynamically centred on Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Variations of this vision gave birth to movements like the Salvation Army and the Keswick Convention, and ignited the Welsh Revival. Individuals captured by such a vision included Samuel Chadwick, and a host of other former Principals of Cliff College. For them holiness called! A Spirit-filled life which made their hearts cry, 'all for Christ!' would also mean 'Christ for all.'

At Festival 25, we'll see how Isaiah the prophet encountered the Lord high and lifted up. Isaiah's experience was devastating yet transformative. With his heart cleansed, he found within that encounter a call to go, as his heart said, 'here am I, send me.'

ASHLEY COOPER

Join us at Festival 25 (May 23-26) as we encounter the same God who continues to call us to holiness and mission today. For more information, visit www.cliffcollege.ac.uk/cliff-festival.

