

CLIFF COLLEGE

FESTIVAL 2023 **CONCEPT DOCUMENT**

What is Cliff College:

Cliff College is a Methodist evangelical learning community which is rooted in God's Word and Spirit for the purpose of equipping God's people for practical ministry and cutting-edge missional engagement. Our emphasis as a College and as a community is on discipleship – both personal, as we pursue God in our individual faith journeys, and social, as we seek to offer Christ to the world and maintain our historic motto 'Christ for all – All for Christ'.

What is Cliff Festival:

Cliff Festival has been an important part of Cliff College's timetable for many years. It has been through a variety of changes and has been known by different names but, fundamentally, its purpose remains the same. We gather as the church to worship, pray, learn and encounter the Spirit of the living God. The Cliff College site, in the heart of the beautiful Peak District, has been soaked in prayer and worship for over 100 years, and this holy ground is where we come together in the presence of the God who transforms lives and commissions disciples.

Cliff Festival is a broad gathering of Christians from across denominations and backgrounds. Like Cliff College itself, its roots are in evangelical Methodism and we are proud of the distinctive Wesleyan heritage which underpins Festival – but over the years Christians from all churches, countries and traditions have joined us to worship and encounter God together, both online and in person.

Cliff Festival now takes place at Cliff College on the second bank holiday weekend of May. It attracts between 800 and 1200 onsite attendees across four days, along with around 200 people who view our livestreamed content during the event.

Cliff's students and staff are an important part of the construction, planning and execution of Cliff Festival, along with over 100 volunteers and contributors who lead and assist with children's work, youth work, prayer ministry, worship, stewardship, teaching and much more. Festival currently has two partners who contribute to the Cliff Festival programme: The Methodist Church and All We Can.

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Festival aims to:

- Be a space where people will encounter, be filled, inspired, taught and transformed by the Spirit of God.
- Be a space to learn and grow in our faith through bible teaching, seminars, activities and conversations.
- Be a warm and welcoming worship community to those from church and non-church backgrounds, including those who are not yet Christians.
- Provide interesting and fun opportunities for all generations to engage in worship and learning, together and apart.
- Deliver activities appropriate for all ages, with age-specific sessions for children, teenagers and adults across the weekend.
- Be accessible to and cater for different levels of physical and learning abilities, as well as different learning and worship styles.
- Deliver a programme that is both accessible in person and online, with opportunities for both platforms to join in community.
- Have a different themed focus for each year that is relevant to life and faith.
- Offer opportunities to partners and key contributors to collaborate in the planning and delivery of the event.
- Be an affordable event with free access to children and young people under the age of 18.
- Be an eco-friendly event with clear and measurable goals for becoming a more sustainable site.
- Be a platform to show the work that the College does throughout the year and an opportunity for people to explore the beautiful Cliff College site.