



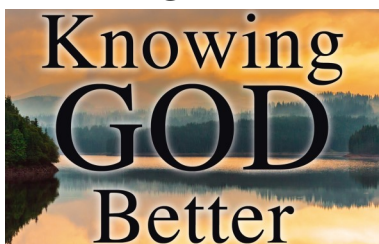
St Margaret's Church

Together we aim to:
Worship God, Proclaim Jesus,
Grow in the Spirit

In Contact

Know God Better 2 : In Prayer Luke 11: 1-13

18th October



We can get to know God better through Jesus' teaching on prayer. We have many images of Jesus in the Bible and we often depict the Holy Spirit as a rushing wind, but what about God Himself?

God is the Perfect Father (verses 2-4):

Jesus taught his disciples what is probably the most famous prayer of all time.

His prayer begins, *'Father, hallowed be your name'*. For some people referring to God as 'Father' can be problematic because they see God as being vast and almighty and the term 'Father' or 'Daddy' (as Jesus used) is far too intimate for them. Others have a problem with the father figure because of problems with their own fathers, perhaps their father was abusive, or he may have been absent.

We must never forget that God is 'God Almighty' but Jesus wants us to learn to know God as our Father because that is how God wants us to think of him. We are children of God; Romans 8: 16-17 tells us that the Holy Spirit *'...bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.'* So although God is 'God Almighty', we are His children and we can call him 'Our Father'.

As we pray the Lord's prayer, as we honour and revere his name, as we ask for our needs to be met, as we seek His forgiveness of the things we get wrong, as we notice just how much he is protecting us from evil, we will discover a new intimacy and a new knowledge of God, our perfect father.

After introducing God Almighty as our Father in this passage, Jesus now describes God in a different way:

God is the Perfect Friend (verse 5-10):

This is not any old friend. He's the sort of friend that we feel we can wake up in the middle of the night and we can bang on his door knowing that he is the only one who can help us and we can have confidence that he will. Jesus teaches us that we can be persistent in our prayers to God, he tells us to ask and to seek and to knock, and implicit in this is a sense that we are to keep on praying, persistently.

The final 'F' is:

God is the Perfect Philanthropist (verses 11-13):

OK, it's not really an 'F' but it fits in with what Jesus is teaching!

A philanthropist is someone who does good deeds or gives good gifts for the welfare of others out of his or her wealth. Many of the great philanthropists of the 19th Century were people like Lord Egerton who gave his land so that our own church of St Margaret's could be built.

He wants us to know that God is the giver of good gifts and his greatest gift to us, the gift that he most wants us to receive (verse 13), is the Holy Spirit, God Himself, who He gives to all who ask Him.



Peter Miller

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Bible Verse for 2020:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better. Ephesians 1: 17



Daily Hope is a free phone line which offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line.

APCM 2020:

Our APCM will be on Sunday 18th October at 11.30am (after the morning service). We have 2 vacancies for Warden, 3 vacancies for Deanery Synod and 3 vacancies for PCC. The nominations we have so far are:

Warden: Mark Stansfield, Jane Franklin

Deanery Synod: Andrew Foulkes,

PCC: Angela Stansfield, Ruth Miller. Peter Miller, Debbie Foulkes

Services at St Margaret's:

Today we will 'live stream' our service from St Margaret's. As we continue with our sermon theme of 'Knowing God Better', this week Peter Miller will be looking at getting to know God better through our prayer times.

Looking ahead:

1st November, All Saints Day: we will be welcoming Steph O'Hanlon as she joins us as our new Children and Families Worker.

8th November, Remembrance Sunday: we will take time to remember those who gave their lives so that we could live in peace.

October 18th to 24th **Please Pray for:**

- ◆ People living in Jersey Close, Alexandra Drive & Roseleigh Avenue.
- ◆ Steph as she prepares to move here and start on 1st November.
- ◆ Right people to be appointed as wardens, PCC members and Deanery Representatives.
- ◆ Preparation of Experience Christmas as a video resource for local schools.
- ◆ Courage for Christian believers in Yemen, many having to keep their faith secret.
- ◆ Duke's study periods and supervision to be helpful for him.
- ◆ TearFund's Men's Fitness Groups in Jordan to resume soon & find a new manager.

Television & Radio this week:

BBC 1 10.30am: Sunday Morning Live

2.00pm Songs of Praise, Aled Jones visits Cheddar Gorge in Somerset to hear the origins of the hymn Rock of Ages, inspired by a rock set into the striking local landscape.

BBC Radio 4 - 8.10am Sunday Worship: A celebration of the eucharist, live from Croydon Minster, on the Feast of St Luke, patron saint of physicians. The preacher is Bishop Precious Omuku.

Sunday Evening 8 o'clock:

Pray for our church family and join them in breaking of bread.



Help is available if you need it: **Call 0800 234 6123**

Monday to Friday: 9am to 5pm & Saturday: 10am to 2pm