



Link Up!

‘Run in such a way as to get the prize.’ 1 Corinthians 9: 24

For the rest of July

On Sunday 21st July we will be looking at Acts 10 – Peter & Cornelius

And on Sunday 28th July, we will be looking at Acts 12 – Peter & the death of King Agrippa.

Looking forward to August

On Sunday 4th August we will be holding our monthly Prayer Service and Communion will be part of that service

Ken will be on holiday from 8th August until 21st August inclusive. So,

On Sunday 11th August we have John Good from Ocean Church coming to lead our worship.

And on Sunday 18th August we have Rev Derek Stringer coming to lead our worship.



It’s been a good summer for anyone who loves sport this year. We’ve had the European Championship for Football Fans. Wimbledon for Tennis aficionados and we’ve still got the Olympics to look forward to. Living in a household where each of us likes different sports, I’ve watched a bit of everything over the years.

This year, in particular, I’ve been following England’s progress in the Euros, which is not a good thing for anyone of a nervous disposition! They started off as favourites to win the competition with high expectations and a lot of pressure on them to perform. Their early matches were a bit scrappy and a disappointment. Even I became an armchair pundit. As a result, some of the players came in for quite a bit of criticism. This came from commentators, sports pundits, and fans.

Looking forward to August

Then from Monday 19th August until Friday 30th August our long-awaited Annex Demolition will be taking place. The building will be out of bounds for the whole of that period.

Ken and the Deacons have decided that rather than arrange something to replace our Sunday service on **25th August** we will not meet as a church leaving everyone to make their own arrangements for either worshipping elsewhere on that Sunday or just having a 'day of rest' at home.

Pastoral Care

Please do continue to remember those from our congregation who are unwell or confined to their homes. Perhaps, if you get the chance over the summer weeks, you could give someone you haven't seen for a while a phone call and find out how they are or even meet up.

The person who came in for the most criticism was Gareth Southgate. Why hadn't he included certain players in his squad? Why was he playing some players in positions that weren't their usual positions? Why wasn't he bringing on substitutes earlier in the game like some of the other managers? You could really see how easy it is for those who don't have to do a job to think they could do it better.

Then on Saturday 6th July, when England played a lot better and eventually won the match with a nail-biting penalty shootout, the same pundits who had been criticising Gareth for his choices and decisions suddenly started to think perhaps he'd got it right after all.

Now some of you are wondering what on earth all that has to do with us as Christians. There are lots of scripture verses that are similes about the Christian's life being like an athlete's. Hebrews 12 talks about running the race. In 2 Timothy 2, Paul urges the Timothy to stick to the things he has been taught like an athlete sticking to his training. Then in 1 Corinthians 9, Paul says that, in order to receive the final prize from God, he has to be self-disciplined. So, as part of Jesus' team we need to make sure that we keep in shape through prayer, studying and knowing our Bibles and working together with the others in the team. Maybe some of us will be asked to play a role that is out of our comfort zone, like some of the England team have been, but we need to trust that our 'manager' Jesus knows what is best for us and his work and that the Holy Spirit can enable us to do what God wants.

Finally, perhaps some of us, when we look around at the world and what is happening in it; or we are going through some tough times in our own lives, wonder 'What is God doing about this?' Or 'Why doesn't He intervene to change that situation?'. That's the time when we have to remind ourselves that His plans for us and the world are perfect, and because He is in control we can trust Him.

Janet Matterface