



Link Up!

Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great crowd of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Hebrews 12 : 1

Notices

Just a reminder that Suzie and Mike are away on holiday until Sunday 11th July. In her absence, don't be afraid to contact one of the deacons if you need to chat or need help with anything.

This week Nicola Cornes will be leading Wednesday Night In and we will be looking at Ephesians 2:11-22

Important Notice

We are now getting more people wanting to come to our Sunday services each week. Last Sunday I had to turn down some who wanted to book a place because we were full. Hopefully this won't be necessary for much longer, though we don't yet know what 'all restrictions will be lifted on 19th July actually means! It is important that you book your place each week by either emailing: -

office@longfleetbaptistchurch.co.uk

or by phoning our home number 01202 676708.

This can be done between Monday and Friday each week with bookings closing on Friday evening at 6pm. Please don't all wait until Friday to book, contact me earlier in the week if you can.



Dear church family,

I live in a household with three sports fans and so there aren't many days when there isn't someone watching sport on one of the four TVs we have. At this time of year it seems particularly dominant.

So, all of them like football (the Euros), some of them like watching the cricket (various test matches), some like watching tennis (Wimbledon), one likes watching cycling (The Tour de France and Giro d'Italia), one is a keen Formula 1 racing fan and if none of these are on then snooker, darts or even a bit of American football features on our screens. And wait for it—it's only a couple of weeks until the long awaited Olympics in Japan. I can't wait!

I'm not really a sports fan myself, though I do find myself getting caught up in some of the more significant tournaments like the Euros and Wimbledon. I'll probably watch some of the Olympics too.

What I have noticed about those who either watch matches and contests live or, more particularly, watch on TV is that everyone becomes an expert on how the

You Tube Reflection recommended for this week is:-

By Colin Norris the SCBA Regional Team Leader. Called 'Paddling into the Unknown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hF21Zk2DhcY>



Urgent Request from Poole Food Bank

The following items are needed by Poole Foodbank this week to enable them to give clients using the foodbank a balanced food parcel: -

Tins of meat—corned beef, chicken roll, ham etc

Tins of rice pudding or custard

Tins of fruit

Tins of vegetables—sweet corn, carrots, mixed veg, green beans. (they have tinned peas!)

Toilet Rolls

These can either be dropped into the foodbank collection points in supermarkets (on your way out after the checkout) or the foodbank bin in the Dolphin Centre (outside M & S). So if you are shopping this week think about buying just one or two extra items. There is still a great need

team or individuals in it could do better. Or how the coach or manager could have put together a better team. Most of these 'armchair experts' have never actually played any sport themselves.

Bud Wilkinson, an American football player and coach said in 1963 'Football is 22 people on the field who need a rest and 40,000 people in the stands who badly need the exercise'.

Some churches can be like this too. A few people exhausting themselves trying to do everything that needs doing while the majority watch from the sidelines. The writers of the New Testament used some sporting metaphors because sport was part of Roman society. Paul talks about training, finishing the race and gaining the prize in his various letters. The writer to the Hebrews also uses the metaphor of running the race that is set out for us, having put off the things that hinder us, by fixing our eyes on Jesus. He's not an 'armchair expert' because he's run the race before us. But those verses in Hebrews 12 are preceded by chapter 11 with the catalogue of great people of faith who are cheering us on in 'a great cloud of witnesses'. If you look at that list lots of them had their flaws, like we all have. Several of them only came into their main work for God when they were quite elderly too. They aren't spectators who haven't ever 'run the race' and we can learn from their example.

Can I encourage you to be in the race not watching from the sidelines in your Christian life.

Every blessing,

Janet

