

Diary for September

Mondays 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

2-4pm Monday Together in the Church room. Activities, fellowship and refreshments. All welcome.

Tuesday 10th

7.30pm Lectio Divina (on Microsoft Teams)

Sunday 15th HOLY CROSS DAY

6.30pm Choral Evensong with the Knutsford Deanery Choir. The recently-appointed Archdeacon of Macclesfield, Revd Jane Proudfoot, will be preaching.

Thursday 19th

2pm Mothers' Union

Saturday 21st

10-12.30pm **COFFEE MORNING** at the Vicarage. Plant Sale *Challenge 50 (Church Funds)*

Wednesday 25th

11am-12pm Coffee, Clean and Garden. Monthly session for tackling odd jobs around the church and grounds. All welcome!

Throughout September the Mothers' Union appeal for donations for **KidsBank** will continue. Please refer to the August newsletter or notice boards in church for info on the items requested.

St Cross Newsletter September 2024

**Vicar: Revd Paul Deakin,
St Cross Vicarage, Mobberley Road, Knutsford
WA16 8EL**

Tel. No. 01565 640702

email: revdpauldeakin@gmail.com

Web address: www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk



One of our Readers writes...

Olympic Fever

Did you watch the Olympics on TV last month ? Did you cheer for your favourite athlete? Perhaps you were inspired by feats of great sportsmanship and discipline. The Paralympics, which are just getting underway, are truly amazing. Many athletes and para athletes will tell you that to be an Olympian takes dedication, self-sacrifice and a single-mindedness to succeed. The prize is a medal - gold, silver or bronze - and a place in the history books. Some Olympians will tell you that the medals are a motivator; many more will tell you it's about taking part and the feeling of accomplishment; others will say that what they remember most of all is the companions they encounter along the way.

There are many references in the Bible regarding sport and being a good athlete. Here is one of my favourites:

2 Timothy 4:7 – Finishing the Race

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

St Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy from prison in Rome where he knew he was facing impending death. Given the circumstances, the letter to Timothy is even more extraordinary for its messages of encouragement and wisdom to the younger disciple.

Paul had learned that living a spiritual life and maturing in the Christian faith, did not depend on his own ability, wisdom, intelligence or efforts, but on the power of the indwelling Spirit of Christ, working in him and living through him. This verse is therefore not just about physical endurance but also about maintaining our faith and integrity throughout life's challenges.

It is 100 years since the Olympics took place in Paris in 1924. One of the most memorable stories of that Olympics was that of Eric Liddell who was played by Ian Charleson in the 1981 film "Chariots of Fire". Liddell was a devout Christian and talented sprint runner. However, he refused to take part in the preliminary round of the 100-metre race because it was taking place on a Sunday. Instead of taking part in the race, he preached in a Scottish church community in Paris. He decided to run a different discipline and ran in the 400 metres. Running this distance should have required different race tactics but Liddell ran it as a sprint, winning the gold medal and setting a new world record at 47.6 seconds. Perhaps what you may not know is that Eric Liddell went on to be a Christian missionary in China from 1925 until his death in 1945. In 1943 invading

Japanese troops took over the mission station where Eric was based, and he was interned at the Weihsien Internment Camp. In the camp he busied himself by helping the elderly, teaching Bible classes at the camp school, arranging games, and teaching science to the children, who referred to him as Uncle Eric. Eric died on 21 February 1945, five months before liberation, from an inoperable brain tumour, with overwork and malnourishment hastening death. Here is a modern-day example of someone who fought the good fight, finished the race and kept faith.

In this day and age, it is so easy to listen to the currents of the world...to let our journeys of faith slip away into mediocrity. It is so easy to lose sight of what is truly important...to become self-absorbed...to forget our fellow life companions' needs...to forget God. 2 Timothy 4:7 reminds us of what is required of us: to have faith. God travels with us; we don't face the fight or the race on our own. To have kept the faith is the biggest challenge we face... but also the greatest prize.

Allison Whiteley, Lay Minister and Associate Director of Technology at the International Olympic Committee.

