



The Thanksgiving for Sport Service

Resources for recognising and celebrating the sportspeople in our communities and all that sport provides in enriching our lives.



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford



Contents

- 01//Introduction
- 02//Sermon Topics and Outlines
- 03//Prayers
- 04//Litanies
- 05//Scripture
- 06//Quotes
- 07//Hymns and Songs
- 08//Visual Aids

Opening words...

Mia Hamm, the American football player, once commented, *"I am building a fire, and every-day I train, I add more fuel. At just the right moment, I light the match."*

There are times when unique opportunities present themselves. The London Olympics this Summer, offers one of those occasions to the church, as God brings all nations to our doors, when we are able to celebrate sporting talent, perseverance, healthy competition and international relationships. There is much to celebrate.

The Thanksgiving for Sport service is a great way for all of us to engage with the Olympics; a time to thank God for Sport, and to demonstrate the church's relevance. I commend to you this valuable resource as a practical way of engaging with mission and sport, a time for the church in 2012 to light the match.

+ Rt. Revd Stephen Cottrell
Bishop of Chelmsford

The Thanksgiving for Sport Service...

One third of the UK population plays some form of sport or is a member of a sport club and even more watch or follow Sport. Traditionally churches have not engaged or interacted with this part of the community.

The Olympic and Paralympic Games provide a unique opportunity for you to interact with the sport clubs in your area, offering you the chance to build lasting relationships with people you may have never got to know otherwise. Not only is this interaction proving the church's relevance in the lives of those who participate in sport, but it enables the church to have a point of interest to build upon in the future; it is the church meeting people where they already are. It is likely that many of our church members will be members of these clubs, or associated with them through family.

One way of opening our churches to the sports community is to plan 'Celebration of Sport Event'

Plan a short 15 min service aimed at local clubs, gyms, and sports men, women and children. Invite local sport clubs dressed in their kit to come to the service. As a church, thank God for sport, the clubs, and all that sport teaches and adds to the lives of those who participate, as well as for all the clubs contribute to the community.

Make a day of it invite Clubs to bring information/displays with them about their activities, history, events, joining and membership, which can be displayed in church for the weekend. This is a great post Games follow up event and can easily be incorporated into your harvest focus.

The aim of this invitation is to build relationships with the clubs, ones that go on well beyond the end of the Games. They can lead to whole families coming to church, strengthen and deepen relationships with those of other faiths, and provide a chaplaincy for the clubs in the future.

For those communities within the church that don't participate in sport, there are many ways to use the Olympics as a conduit for community outreach. The Olympics is more than just athletics; it is about healthy competition and bringing together people from all religions and nationalities. Host a board game tournament for the senior community in your church. Celebrate the spirit of the Games by hosting an international dinner, where members of the community prepare and share food from their different cultures.

These are just some of the ways the church can benefit from having a real interaction with the Olympics. Don't miss out on the opportunity to take advantage of this exciting time. With all eyes on London in the coming months, the church should be a visible presence making an impact on sport and all those who participate.

Canon Duncan Green

One way of opening our churches to the sports community is to plan 'Celebration of Sport Event'

02



Ideas to build relationship...

01

Offer a 'Thank you' to local sport clubs – ask is their anyway we as a church can help you?

02

We appreciate what you do in the community – how can we serve you? Bereavement, chaplaincy, festivals, sports clubs, etc.

03

Consider in what ways do sport and Christian faith require similar attitudes – commitment, passion, hard work, desire to overcome obstacles, etc.

Sermon Topics and Outlines

Use any of these topics as a starting point to recognising and appreciating all that sport means for those involved.

01//Putting a smile on God's face

For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory. Psalm 149:4

- In the film Chariots of Fire Eric Liddell is heard to say in response to his sisters questioning about his commitment to the mission field that when he runs he feels a smile on the face of God.
- Whether or not Eric Liddell really said those words the sentiments behind them should encourage all who express their God given sporting abilities.
- What a great encouragement it is to think that God might be smiling with pleasure when we express ourselves through sport
- We may be able to understand something of the kind of joy Eric Liddell is suggesting God feels when we think about how we feel when watching someone we love do the things they enjoy and that can put a smile on our face and a warm glow in our hearts

Sports ability to affect our the whole of our lives

- One of the self-evident things about sport is its ability to help us grow and mature as people as we participate in it at whatever level.
- We can learn how to strive for a goal, commit ourselves to something, learn about sacrifice, how to live with success and failure, learn how to get up and start again, how to work in a team, how to rely on others, and much more.
- All of what it means to be human is encapsulated in sport
- Whilst we may not all attain a gold medal or prized trophy most can know the joy of being able to compete at some level

I think God puts a smile on our face too

- Whilst competing isn't free of challenges and may involve blood, sweat and tears, there will certainly be times when we have a broad smile on our face because we are competing, and sharing, and progressing, and growing, and doing that which we enjoy most.
- In this way it could be said that God is not only smiling at us but has also put a smile on our face and we and God share a smile together.
- Knowing that shared joy is something worth remembering and saying 'thank you' to God.

Conclusion

- Can lead into a time of prayer of thanksgiving or a hymn or song of thanksgiving
- Can lead into a testimony from a sportsperson

Supplied by Revd Peter Allen

02//Wearing God's Kit

One of the things I like about the Christian faith is that God says he has a special garment for us. "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness..." (Isa 61:10)

God doesn't just pick a person and expect them to get on with life. No. Like a caring coach, He does things to affirm every Christian that they belong to His team. Listen to the language God uses... 'and arrayed me in'... This is the language of someone who is proud of what He has done. Proud of His work. God is well pleased with us and as such wants to bless us in every possible way.

God has a special garment - a robe of righteousness - awaiting all those who trust in Him. It's not a used robe. It's not a soiled robe. It's a perfect robe that identifies us as a part of His team. When we believe on Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour it's as if God reaches out and by washing away all our sins says, "There, now look at you. You stand before me completely clean and spotless - righteous."

In professional football these days many players have their names stitched across the back. How great it is to know that God knows each of our names by heart. In John 3: we read the words of Jesus, "He calls His sheep by name." Calling someone by their name shows a friendship, a relationship, an intimacy. God knows each one of us by name - not by sight, not by our actions or deeds, but by name. Day by day he calls out our name and invites us into His presence to get to know Him.

In football 15 years ago, a number had a special significance. It usually meant that you had a specific position to play, a specific role on the team. While it doesn't necessarily apply today, the image is still a very appropriate one. When we become a member of God's team, it's not without purpose. God doesn't think to Himself, "Oh Oh - Jonny's now a Christian. What am I going to do with Him." No that is the farthest thing from the truth. God does have a plan and a purpose for you to play on His team. He has a special role that only you can fulfill. And it's not something He just threw together on the spur of the moment. No - before you were even born, God knew what was in store for you. (Psalm 139) You might find that hard to believe - even I do - but that is what the Bible teaches.

Most every sporting team has some kind of a logo, a crest, an emblem that they use to represent them. They plaster it everywhere - on publications, clothing, stationary, etc. Wearing a logo does two things - it provides a sense of belonging and identification - when you wear a team's logo it demonstrates who you represent, who you play for, who you have committed yourself to. Secondly, in a professional sense it symbolises who owns you, who has the rights to you as a player. Eph 1:13 "You were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit..." God's logo/crest for us as Christians is the Holy Spirit. Having the Holy Spirit in our lives identifies who we belong to, who we as people represent.

Of course, every shirt must have a colour. One of my favourite shirts is one that is red at the top and as it goes down gradually fades into all white. I like this as it is a wonderful picture of the cross. As Christ hung on the cross, his blood was shed so that we might know forgiveness of sins and purity in our lives, the red of Christ's blood brought in the white purity of a life forgiven of sin.

Added to that many teams now have team sponsors - businesses that put resources, finances into a team to help the team. When we are on God's team, all the riches of heaven—the riches of His hands are behind us. God has so much that He wants to pour into our lives, to invest in our daily activities and the talents and callings we may have in life. He's right there behind us letting us know that He can supply every need, make the impossible possible, give us strength when we feel weak, give us wisdom when we may be confused, help us to forgive when we might want to hate - the resources to make our lives one that will be pleasing to Him.

There we have it - God's special garment. Next time you see a footy shirt, or even pull on a footy shirt, take a moment to think about these things and remember that God has a special shirt for us as members of His team.

Idea: Be sure to bring a sport top to the service to use as a prop throughout the talk - demonstrating the different parts of the shirt as the talk prompts!

Matt Oliver, Ambassadors in Sport

03//The Flat Ball

The flat ball - though it may be brand new, unused, clean - it cannot fulfil the purpose for which it was made. Something significant is missing - air. The ball can be filled with water, stones, dirt - many different things, but it would not be all that useful.

Only one thing could make a flat ball useful, fit for purpose - air.

The empty ball is a bit like our lives. For purpose and significance we can pursue all kinds of things - fame, fortune, intellect, the pleasures of life. These are all good things if kept in balance and order in our lives.

But ultimately there is a God shaped hole in each of our lives that only God can fill. Just like the air in the ball, we can't see it, can't touch it, and yet we see the difference it can make.

God was the one who created you and He created you so that He could live inside you. He won't force himself on you - but you can let Him into your life, and as you do He will shape you and mould you and grow you so that the life you live is one of great purpose, of great significance, of deep satisfaction - even in the midst of struggles.

Do you want a life out of control and out of balance - like juggling an empty ball? Or a life in control, full of purpose, full of significance under the control of the Master creator?

Matt Oliver, Ambassadors in Sport

Idea: Be sure to bring a flat ball and pump to use throughout the sermon!



04//Team Jesus

Situation Week before England match vs. Sweden Or _____ vs. _____

This week picked up a Newspaper (Hold up Daily paper) ... and read this article.
First of all - Who is this? (Show picture of (Manager))

The article was relating to the squad (Manager) had chosen to represent (Team) in the next match(es) or for a tournament. Over the next week there will be much speculation as to the final eleven he will put out on the field.

It's interesting to note that when (Manager) picked his team, he's picking from the very best English football has to offer. These guys are at the top of the game, making the big money, earning all the plaudits, etc. Their every move and word will be evaluated and assessed by the press.

Manager has got these guys aside for a week during which he will be installing in the team tactics by which he wants them to play, viewing video's re: strengths and weaknesses of the opposition, and working them on the practice field to stay fit and sharp. Essentially, the players will be learning from the Manager how he wants them to play.

This article reminds me a lot of Jesus. Not long after he entered into the public world, He picked a very special team. Any guesses who that team might be? Disciples. How many of them were there? 12. Yeah, that's right. Let me read the list to you.

(READ Mark 3: 14—19. Could also read The calling of Levi (Mark 2:13,14) or other passages)

The one thing that strikes me as being very different is that while (Manager) was picking the elite, Jesus was picking ordinary people. (Manager) picked the best of the best. Jesus picked ordinary everyday people: 4 fisherman, a tax collector, a freedom-fighter.

To me, if I was wanting to pick a team that would overturn the world, and make an impact in this world, I'd want men and women who were army generals, politicians, wise businessmen, intelligent thinkers.

But Jesus wasn't so interested in that.

Do you know the key thing Jesus was looking for in getting members for His team?

Vs 14 "....that they might be with Him"

Jesus is simply looking for people that want to be with Him. To learn from Him, to follow Him, to live by the things He taught. (Just like the Manager taking the team away into training camp).

Isn't that encouraging.....

We don't have to be the best or the greatest or the most popular or the most wealthy to be a friend of Jesus.

We simply need to be ourselves and he can take us and make us what he wants us to be.

We want to strive to be the very best we can in all that we do - sports, music, studies, job, etc, but it is important to realize that Jesus loves us, accepts us and chooses us simply as we are.

He took 12 men and made a massive impact on the world.

He can take our lives and make an impact in the world too.

Matt Oliver, Ambassadors in Sport

Idea: Don't forget to pick up a newspaper this week to find out what the big matches are and to use throughout the sermon as a prop.

05//Five Great Olympic Moments

01

Eric Liddell's 400m

One of the greatest Christian figures of the 20th Century also happens to be one of Scotland's finest Olympians. Eric Liddell's gold medal winning 400 metres run in the 1924 Games is one of the greatest performances in Olympic history, but his faith and devotion to the poor are just as inspirational.

02

Jesse Owens vs Hitler

In 1936, Nazi Germany hosted the Olympic Games, which Hitler saw as the perfect opportunity to prove his theory that the Aryan race was superior. No one had given Jess Owens the script. The black athlete from Alabama smashed the opposition to win four track and field gold medals. Hitler was said to be furious.

03

Derek Redmond's heroic finish

Derek Redmond's career had been blighted by injury, yet he went to the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona as a genuine British medal hope. In the semi-final of the 400 metres, disaster struck - Redmond's hamstring tore. After writhing on the floor in pain, he got up and tried to finish, eventually helped by his Dad, Jim. The stadium erupted as he finally crossed the line.

04

Cathy Freeman takes gold for the Aborigines

The defining image of the 2000 Sydney Olympic was 400 metre runner Cathy Freeman picking up gold in her distinctive hooded running suit being only the second Aboriginal person to win gold, and doing it in Sydney as the world watched was a special moment for her and all Aborigines.

05

Usain Bolt's record breaking sprints

Less emotive than the other great moments, Bolt makes the list thanks to his supreme performances at Beijing 2008. He obliterated the opposition to win gold in the 100 metres, 200 metres, and the 4x100 relay - setting new World records in all three. Bolt looks like the untouchable sprinter of his generation.

From the article "Games Changers" in Christianity Magazine written by Andy Walton.

Prayers

A Prayer for Those Involved in Sports

O God, you gave us bodies- as well as minds and hearts- with which to praise and worship you.

Our sports and exercises are a fitting use of gifts and talents you have given us.

Bless our workouts and the games we play, and those with whom we exercise or compete.

Give us strength, endurance, courage and agility as we compete or train.

Keep us safe and healthy as we celebrate our physical and mental skills in sport.

(from Marquette University)

A prayer in preparation for the 2012 Games

Eternal God,
Giver of joy and source of all strength, we pray for those who prepare for the London Olympic and Paralympic games.
For the competitors training for the Games and their loved ones,
For the many thousands who will support them, And for the Churches and others who are organising special events and who will welcome many people from many nations.
In a world where many are rejected and abused, we pray for a spirit of tolerance and acceptance, of humility and respect and for the health and safety of all.
May we at the last be led towards the love of Christ who is more than gold, today and forever.
Amen.

A prayer for use during the Olympic and Paralympic Games

God our Creator,
we pray for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. We give thanks for the privilege of hosting them and the thrill of watching them; and we pray for all who are taking part. Give them courage and strength, wisdom and generosity. Make us warm in our welcome and generous in our hospitality. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our friend.
Amen.

A prayer for people who will travel

God, our Protector,
whose Son travelled to Bethlehem as a refugee and walked the streets of Jerusalem as a pilgrim, we pray for all who travel to London for the games: for competitors and coaches, cleaners and caterers; for umpires and judges, city guides and security guards; for audiences and volunteers. Grant them safe travel and journeys filled with enriching encounter.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our teacher and our guide.
Amen.

A prayer for London

Gracious God,
we pray for London*
welcoming the people of the world to the Olympic Games.
We give thanks for its long history and dazzling diversity offering a warm embrace to many. Grant enrichment and friendship to all who visit and receive hospitality here, that the world may be sustained in its journey towards tolerance, understanding and peace.
Amen.
*The word 'London' may be replaced with 'our city'

A prayer before a competitive event

Almighty God,
you created humanity in your image and delight in our talent, skill and flair: give us grace to celebrate the achievements of our fellow men and women. Give determination and equity to competitors, gratitude and charm to winners, grace and mercy to those who do not come first, and thankfulness and admiration to observers; that in all our best efforts your creation may be glorified.
Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, help these athletes to be your friends and witnesses to your love. Help them to put the same effort into personal asceticism that they do into sports; help them to achieve a harmonious and cohesive unity of body and soul. May they be sound models to imitate for all who admire them. Help them always be athletes of the spirit, to win your inestimable prize: an imperishable crown that lasts forever. Amen!

(John Paul II)

Pray to Play Fair in the Game of Life

Dear Lord, in the struggle that goes on through life, we ask for a field that is fair, a chance that is equal with all the strife, the courage to strive to dare; and if we should win, let it be by the code, with our faith and our honour held high; and if we should lose, let us stand by the road and cheer as the winners go by.

(Knut Rockne)

A Collect for the sixth Sunday after Trinity

Creator God,
you made us all in your image:
may we discern you in all that we see,
and serve you in all that we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Taken from Common Worship: Collects and Post Communion Prayers, ©, The Archbishops' Council 2004

A Collect for the thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Taken from Common Worship: Collects and Post Communion Prayers, ©, The Archbishops' Council 2004

An Act of Praise (based on Psalm 145)

The following may be used as a dialogue between the minister and congregation:

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised:
there is no end to his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your power.

All creation praises you, Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

They declare the glory of your kingdom and tell of your mighty power.

My mouth shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Let every living thing bless his holy name for ever and ever.

Taken from Psalm and Canticles , p.124 New Patterns for Worship, copyright ©, The Archbishops' Council 2002

Verses from Psalm 8

Lord our God,
the whole world tells the greatness of your name.
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Even the babble of infants
declares your strength,
your power to halt the enemy and avenger.
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

I see your handiwork in the heavens:
the moon and the stars you set in place.
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

What is humankind that you remember them,
the human race that you care for them?
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

You treat them like gods,
dressing them in glory and splendour.
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

You give them charge of the earth,
laying all at their feet:
cattle and sheep, wild beasts,
birds of the sky, fish of the sea,
every swimming creature.
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

Lord our God,
the whole world tells the greatness of your name.
Your glory reaches beyond the stars.

The ICEL (International Commission on English in the Liturgy) translation, with a response taken from Psalm and Canticles , p.124 New Patterns for Worship, copyright ©, The Archbishops' Council 2002



Litanies

A Litany at the time of the London Olympic Games

(Let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.)

For the peace that comes from God alone,
and for the unity of all peoples,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the nations of the world, and for all its leaders,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For every athlete,
for each team
and for all who train and support them,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the city of London,
and for all venues that will host events,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all who have planned the games,
visionaries and constructors,
financiers and funders,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all who will support the Games,
for those with public roles
and all those who will work unseen,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For all visitors, travellers and tourists,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us,
and for the wisdom and will to conserve it,
let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

Let us commend ourselves, and one another,
and all our life, to God.

Silence is kept.

For yours is the majesty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
now and for ever.
Amen.

The following is suitable for use as an ending to the Prayers or as a liturgical ending to A Service of the Word.

Though many, we form one body in Christ.
We belong to one another.
By God's grace we have different gifts.
We will use them in faith.
Rejoice in hope, stand firm in trouble,
be constant in prayer.
Filled with his Spirit we will serve the Lord.

Taken from Action and movement, Words for dedication,
p.285 New Patterns for Worship, copyright ©, The Archbishops' Council 2002

04

05

Scripture

Offering hospitality

Genesis 18.1-8; 1 Kings 17.8-16;
Mark 6.34-44; John 6.1-14; 3 John: 5-8

Receiving a prize

Ecclesiastes 9.11; Matthew 13.44-53;
Colossians 3.23-24; 2 Timothy 4.7-8

Running the race

Hebrews 12.1-2; Hebrews 12.11-14;
Acts 20.24; 1 Corinthians 9.24-27;
Galatians 5.7; Philippians 3.13-14;
2 Timothy 2.5-7

Encouraging others

Proverbs 27.17; Colossians 3.15-17

Using the body to glorify God

1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Colossians 2:6-7

Drawing strength from God

Psalms 105.4; Isaiah 40:29-31; Isaiah 41.10;
Philippians 4.6; Philippians 4.13

Being a witness

Colossians 1:18-20; Colossians 4:2-6



Quotes

"Our 'Olympic lens' must focus on ways to maximise God's great mission of love to the world."

The Rt Revd David Hawkins, Bishop of Barking

"God gives talent; work transforms talent into genius."

Anna Pavlova

"Evangelism and the church's engagement with the community works most effectively when there is a common issue of interest. The issue of interest in 2012 will be the Olympics and Paralympics whether people are into sport or not! The nation will be taken over by Olympic fever and most especially in our boroughs near to the Olympic venues.

"This is an opportunity for our churches to make a distinctive contribution in service, witness and community action. It will be good to have something global to celebrate in our own communities. The key values of the Olympic movement are values we can celebrate and enhance with the message of the gospel."

The Rt Revd David Hawkins, Bishop of Barking

"Beloved young athletes, your profession as athletes offers you, among other things, also the opportunity to improve your own personal spiritual state. Called as you are frequently to engage in your competitions in the midst of nature, amid the marvels of the mountains, seas, fields and slopes, you are in the best position to perceive the value of simple and immediate things, the call to goodness, the dissatisfaction with one's insufficiency, and to meditate on the authentic values that are the basis of human life..."

"These are virtues that harmonize well with the Christian spirit because they demand a capacity for self-control, self-denial, sacrifice and humility, and therefore an attitude of gratefulness to God, who is the giver of every good and therefore also the giver of the necessary physical and intellectual talents."

Beloved Young Athletes: Pope John Paul II, on Nov. 24, 1984, spoke to European Olympians who had participated in L.A. Games.

"Sports are not merely the exercise of muscles, but the school of moral values and of training in courage, in perseverance, and in overcoming laziness and carelessness. There is no doubt that these values are of greatest interest for the formation of a personality which considers sports not an end in itself but as a means to total and harmonious physical, moral and social development."

06

"Circumstances may cause interruptions and delays, but never lose sight of your goal. Prepare yourself in every way you can by increasing your knowledge and adding to your experience, so that you can make the most of opportunity when it occurs."

Mario Andretti

Pope John Paul II, for whom football was a passion in his youth, explained that the Church "considers sports as an instrument of education when it fosters high human and spiritual ideals; when it forms youth in an integral way in values such as loyalty, perseverance, friendship, solidarity and peace."

"Surmounting differences of cultures and ideologies, sports offers an ideal occasion for dialogue and understanding among peoples, for building the desired civilization of love," the Pope added.

The Holy Father...appealed "to put into practice these values, based on the dignity of the human person, in face of possible interests that might darken the nobility of sports itself."

With the tensions facing us in the church and in the world today we should rejoice in God's call to us, both in our diversity and in our common life, to remember our primary responsibility 'together to make Christ visible' in word and deed.

Archbishop John Sentamu from "Archbishop of York on Being Anglican"



Hymns & Songs

All incorporate a sport theme or motif

All in all

All that I am, all that I do

Be thou my vision

Beauty for brokenness (Sing Glory 263)

Chasing by Charlie Hall

Come to be our hope, Lord Jesus (Sing Glory 273)

Fight the good fight (Common Praise 423)

Forever by Chris Tomlin

He Leadeth Me

Here from all nations, all tongues and all peoples
(Common Praise 462)

Here I am, wholly available

In Christ there is no east or west (Common Praise 477)

Into Marvelous Light by Charlie Hall

Jesus Christ is waiting (Sing Glory 624)

Jesus, good above all other (Common Praise 487)

Let the Peace of God Reign

Let us run with perseverance (Spring Harvest Praise 1997 83)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided
(Common Praise 81)

Lord, the light of your love is shining (Common Praise 513)

Mighty to Save by Hillsong

O Lord, the clouds are gathering (Sing Glory 255)

Our God by Chris Tomlin

Run by Hillsong

Running by Klaus Kuehn

Tell all the world of Jesus (Sing Glory 608)

We are called to stand together (Sing Glory 607)

We bring you, Lord, our prayer and praise (Common Praise 611)

We'll walk the land (Sing Glory 617)

07



08

Visuals

Athletes in Action 'The Prize: Chasing the Dream' found on YouTube

Part 1: <http://youtu.be/cc0vijxXWvU>

Part 2: <http://youtu.be/mjbohNrhHMVc>

Part 3: <http://youtu.be/xcNi3Td5L8c>

Christians in Sport offers a pub-style quiz, with questions based on the world's major sporting events. It is a great, cringe-free way to invite those who play or watch sport to a church outreach event. The evening includes six quiz rounds with an Olympic theme, a meal half way through (do it yourself or bring in fish and chips) and a 10 minute evangelistic talk. To book, visit <http://www.christiansinsport.org.uk>

More than Gold is the Christian response to the Olympic and Paralympic Game. Visit www.morethangold.org.uk to find out how you can engage with the Games, as well as discover a wealth of printed and electronic resources designed to aid your plans.

Eric Liddell was a Christian missionary and athlete who inspired the 1981 film Chariots of Fire. Liddell's inspiring story from his time competing at the 1924 Summer Olympics is a brilliant way to merge matters of faith and sport. For children, Torchlighters - The Eric Liddell Story DVD is available from More than Gold Resources at <http://www.morethangoldresources.org.uk>





Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

Design www.jharts.co.uk



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

