



Sarah's message

It's all a matter of perspective...

The 'beautiful game', or '22 men chasing a bag of wind'? The Football World Cup straddles the months of June and July. I'm writing this the day after England's first game (well done, heroic Spurs player, Harry Kane!) but by July, the England Squad may have returned home with their tails between their legs. Alternatively, they may have proceeded out of the group stage and into the knockout rounds. I'm not trusting any of the media offered pundits or novelty animals to accurately suggest this early on how well England might do, or who the eventual winners will be.

There is no doubt that major sporting events have an impact; domestic violence rises when England lose, more women and children are trafficked for sexual use/abuse in the run up to large sporty gatherings like the World Cup or Olympics. Big events can be bad news. However, the same events often see evangelistic efforts to reach fans and serve them in their difficulties (there is a global sports chaplaincy network, for example). People are seen at their best – who can forget one Brownlee brother helping the other over the line in the Olympic triathlon? Spectators are inspired to raise their own fitness or take up a new activity. Crowds often treat each other with generosity and grace. Big events can be good news. It's all a matter of perspective.

The belief in an all-powerful, all-knowing, ever present God can seem like bad news if you know you don't always get things right, or if you've done things that make you feel ashamed or embarrassed. It's bad news, if you think God's plan is to watch and then punish you. The belief in an all-powerful, all-knowing and ever present God can seem like very good news if you know you don't always get things right, or if you've done things that make you feel ashamed or embarrassed. It's good news, if you think God's plan is to watch and then rescue you. It's all a matter of perspective.

Rev.Sarah Bingham

SUMMER OF EVENTS IN JULY

Saturday 7th July:

**St Matthew's Community and family fun day
10:30am —3:30pm**

**A day of entertainment including, tea and cakes stalls, bouncy castle, fun and craft activities, BBQ, Face painting and much more.
St Matthew's Close, Walsall**

Wednesday 11th July:

**Delves Baptist Community Church
Summer celebration BBQ evening all welcome
at 6pm — 8pm Bell Lane Walsall , WS5 4PU**

Friday 20th July :

**Mend-It Volunteers appreciation day.
11am—2pm An opportunity to say thank you to all the regularly volunteers who support the Mend-It project each week and to give and show them appreciation for their work.**

Sunday 22nd July:

BMS Home Mission service with guest Gemma Leadley, who moved to Bangladesh in December 2013. Her ministry overseas is working in Dhaka as a teacher. Directly after the service, 'Bring & Share Lunch' celebration In the hall. An opportunity for the congregation to socialise, share different food and drinks cuisines, all are very welcome!

Saturday 28th July:

**Mend-It Fun day in partnership with the TMO
12noon - 4pm.**

volunteers required:

Support people to help ether half day or all day.

Marshalls to supervise activities

BBQ Chef's required x4

Home made Cakes donations for sale

Support to serve tea & coffee in the kitchen.

Please see volunteers and donations list on the board in the hall, or alternatively see Kayon, Natalie, Maxine or Robert, Thanks.

