

I wonder what dreams you might carry in your heart (apart from an England World Cup victory of course)? What dreams have we once entertained which now with the passage of years and burden of responsibilities have become buried in the stuff of life. Perhaps it's time to dream again, to reawaken the flicker and start to pray; 'Lord, what might be..'

We can all become hardened old cynics, but perhaps it's time to shake off the disappointments of the past and dare to hope, dare to dream once more what could be possible in the hands of Almighty God. What's your dream?

Meet God Find Life Make Friends

By now I hope you are all aware of our new strapline. Actually it is not that new – it has been on our main Welcome board for the last 12 years but we are now making it more prominent as an expression that identifies who we are as a church.

Meet God. People meet with God in various ways. Some might encounter him through challenging and difficult seasons of their lives, others through times of great joy and celebration and others through the very ordinary and often boring routine of daily life. But mostly people are going to encounter Jesus in us. As we bear witness to Him in our normal everyday lives, we hold out to the people we meet, the people we talk to, the people we work with, the opportunity to encounter Jesus for themselves. Whether we are aware of it or not the Holy Spirit is alive in each one of us and we bear witness to the risen Christ through what we do or say and how we do it or say it.

Find Life. Jesus said; 'I have come that they might have Life and have it to the full' John 10:10. Jesus is the source of Life (John 1:3). Of course we know that our life in Jesus doesn't mean we are free of troubles, but what it does do is help us see things from a different perspective and know that God is guiding us, watching over us, encouraging us and providing for us. 'See I have engraved you on the palms of my hands' (Isaiah 49:6).

Make Friends. We all need friends. We all need those with whom we can share life. Part of 'life in all its fullness' means the church is a place of enriching community where friendships can be made, life experiences shared and support and encouragement offered. That's why we have Life Groups. These are places to find friends with whom we can share life together.

Stephen



Vicar's Letter – July 2018 Three Lions on a Shirt – Chasing a Dream!

Dear Friends,

Love it or hate, you can't escape the fact that football fever has swept the nation. A new, young, largely untried England team has captured the attention of even those who have become hardened old cynics when it comes to England's chances in major international events. To the uninitiated even the name Harry Kane (that's the England Captain for any who have resolved to keep their TVs turned off in protest) is quickly becoming a household name.

What started out with low expectations borne of past England performance (dismal at best!) is producing a growing momentum to dream what might only recently have been considered an impossibility. The success of 1966 keeps the flicker of 'what could be' alive even though it is so long ago before most of us were born (sadly not me!).

Looking back to the glory days is not just for England football fans, it happens in every sphere of life. Parents look back to the time when the children were small, innocent and family life was all encompassing. Historians look back to a time when the country had power, influence and economic wealth. Even the church can look back to a time when people attended, pews were full, Sunday schools were overflowing and we were known as a Christian country.

I think it was Billy Graham who was being interviewed on his first London Crusade to Haringay. When asked by a cynical reporter if by his actions he had put the cause of the church back 200 years, he replied with the words, 'Then I've failed. My intention was to put the church back 2000 years'.

Remembering the past

The people of Israel were often encouraged to look back to remember God's faithfulness to them in times past to strengthen them for the present trials. We too when going through seasons of challenge need to be reminded of how God has been with us on previous journeys in order to reinforce our faith to know he will continue to walk with us into the future, come what may. Yes we look back to the cross and the resurrection of Jesus as our great hope and look forward to when he comes again with power and in great glory to claim for himself his own. Looking back inspires us to look ahead with dreams of what might be.

(Continued on reverse side)