

# SPORTSREACH

AUTUMN PRAYER LETTER 2018



## SportsReach Austria Classics Tour 2018

### **'For this I have Jesus!'**

The last week of September saw 14 men come together from all over England and be joined by two Germans and travel to Tauernhof, Schladming, for the SportsReach Classics tour. What followed was **an amazing week** of fellowship, as from day one, men opened up and shared powerful testimonies, which encouraged the team and also challenged us all to go deeper in our walks with God. As we all shared in the first meeting, brief testimonies, prayer and communion, the time just flew by and as one said afterwards - *"that was the shortest 4 hour meeting I have ever been in!"* As men shared their journeys through life one thing became apparent - **'For this I have Jesus!'** His presence and faithfulness was the underlying truth in every person's story. We cried together, prayed together, laughed together and played football together as we sought to glorify Him in all that we did. It was a real joy to play football with the team (average age 51.9 years!) over the week and to use the times after the games to **share the good news about Jesus**. After one game, two men indicated that God had really spoken to them and **they wanted to know Him and be forgiven!** We pray that they may continue to grow closer to Him day by day. Another game gave us the opportunity to share openly with a team of 14 Afghanistan refugees. They listened attentively and were very keen to take any literature we had. In a world full of sadness and bad news, they were open to hear the greatest news. As we returned home, with a few aches and pains having played 5 games in as many days, we rejoiced in Him and resolute to walk closer with Him day by day and to share with others - 'For this I have Jesus!'

*Will*

#### **YORKSHIRE 3 PEAKS**



A huge thank you to all who took on the challenge to raise money for overseas funds!

#### **DIARY DATES 2019**

##### Weekend Away North

Knock, Appleby

8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

##### Weekend Away South

Elm Tree Farm, Ashford

22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> Feb

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

##### **FOOTBALL & NETBALL LEAGUES**

##### **Kenya Mission**

21<sup>st</sup> Oct - 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2018

##### **Nepal Mission**

8<sup>th</sup> Nov - 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2018

#### **NEW WORKER!**



We welcome Ruth Marsden as a Junior Staff Member! See enclosed leaflet.

## STAINES



Wow it was hot! Temperatures that reached a scorching high of 34.5 degrees over the week, the pitch was hard, dry and so brown, not a blade of green grass to be seen! In fact, someone seeing pictures posted on Facebook, messaged to ask if we were in Africa rather than in our usual green and cooler England.

Slight adjustments to the programme allowed us to ensure that the children were kept safe from the sun and as much use of the shade around the edge of the field were used during coaching times, with many essential water breaks included.

A great take up from the assemblies saw 72 young people enjoy a week full of football, netball, fun and faith as we learnt more about **'Following Him'** looking at the life of Peter.

Great to see young people engaging in discussion in Bible times and in the counselling groups, seeing lives changed as some trusted in Jesus, others going deeper in their walk, and also having a team of young coaches working with us, some of whom have come through the soccer and netball school and are now keen to share the gospel.

Another highlight of the week was when the coaches had an impromptu game of football at the end of the day - we asked some local teenagers to join us and then took the opportunity to share the gospel with them at the end! *Will*

## WRAY

We had another great year at Wray, our seventeenth SportsReach week! It's always a joy to work alongside the SportsReach team. It was a shame that we didn't have the numbers for netball, but we still had a great time with the soccer school.

We had more seniors than juniors and it's great to see, especially the young lads stepping out in faith, many having made commitments in previous years and to see how they are **growing in their walk with the Lord**. Some young girls were earnestly seeking God too.

Being in the evening, we are always pleased to see a number of parents staying around on the field and joining us for the meetings too. It is good to be able to spend time getting to know parents as well as the children and a great opportunity to share the week with them. We had a **packed chapel once again** to conclude the week with most children and parents attending. We continue to pray for all who we came into contact with, for seeds sown and that God would continue to work in their lives. Thanks to all at SportsReach and the coaches for all their hard work and commitment to make another successful event. Looking forward to next year! *Andrew*



## CLAPHAM

'This week is going way to fast', just one comment from a young footballer who was loving his first ever Soccer & Netball School. 50 children comprising of two great teams of netballers and a total of 6 football teams, playing sport in the picturesque North Yorkshire village of Austwick, supported by the folks at Bethel Chapel Clapham. A great mix of young and experienced coaches gave their time up voluntarily to **share Jesus with the children** and show them what an amazing creator God we follow and the difference he can make in their own lives. It was great to see children responding to the call of Jesus and also a thrill to see so many youngsters making their own stand as Christians.

A sunny Saturday brought many parents to watch the world cup games and a full church on Sunday, with Will sharing the Good News of Jesus and our need for a Saviour. **Lets keep praising God for opportunities to share.** *Sooty*

## SANDHURST

It's hard knowing where to start in describing SportsReach 2018! The excitement of the children is a good place because many faces reflected the sheer joy of participating. Some first timers started off nervously but soon they got into the swing of things. The parents also said repeatedly how their children had been looking forward to the event and how some had got out of bed early in the morning to put their sports kit on in readiness for action, hours before it was to start!

To see 22 coaches in **prayer and fellowship** at the beginning of the day seeking the Lord's blessing and praying for the children and parents was something really special. There was a healthy and biblical awareness that, without Jesus, they could not achieve anything of real value.

How wonderful to see over **150 attending the Sunday morning awards service**. An excellent message using the illustration of the recent cave rescue in Thailand presented the hearers with a clear picture of Jesus coming to rescue those who will believe the gospel from the darkness of sin and evil and deliver them into His glorious light. Roll on SportsReach 2019 DV. *Ken*



## ASHFORD

The first soccer and netball school at Mount Zion Church in Ashford proved to be a special and blessed time. 38 children attended and it was a joy and privilege to be involved in their lives for the week and to share with them the truths of the Bible and to point them to Jesus.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces, and so encouraging seeing the children responding to the coaching and improve both their skills and their knowledge of football and netball over the week. What was even more encouraging were the questions being asked in Bible times, and the attentive listening in the afternoon meetings.

Parents too were so appreciative and there were many positive comments about the week. Some of the children had been very nervous and unsure about coming, but because of the inclusive way of the SportsReach coaches, they were able to overcome their fears and **really enjoy the week**.

The final day was **full of joy and blessing**, with several children coming into Group 1 and two giving their lives to Christ. At the final awards presentation, Will spoke powerfully of Jesus being **the way, the truth and the life**, urging people to follow Him. We pray that there will be lasting fruit from all that was done, in the Lord's name and strength, over the week. *Lizzie*

## RIPON

What can we say except *Praise the Lord* for the reality of His Presence and the many answers to prayer throughout the SportsReach week. 60 plus children heard the good news of Jesus and it was a blessing to have such a good attendance at the Saturday event and the awards service on the Sunday. There were many opportunities to build relationships and some **great conversations with children and parents**.

We now have the task of following on from that and it's been a great encouragement to see a good number of the children come to our after school club on a Thursday. This gives us the on-going opportunity not only with them but also with their families.



We were encouraged at church last week as the speaker reminded us that we have the great responsibility of sowing the seed. What we're sowing are spiritual time bombs. It's our job to plant well....it's God's job to bring it to life. One day in His grace....the bomb will explode, the seed will grow and the glory will be God's. So, .....we continue to plant, pray and thank the Lord for the work of SportsReach and the many spiritual time bombs that were planted during that week.

*It's not by might nor by power, but by MY SPIRIT says the Lord of Hosts. Zech 4 v10 Helen*

### GREAT ECCLESTON



It was great once again to work alongside Great Eccleston Free Methodist Church for a week of sport, fun and faith! What a great week we had with 49 kids in total! A great group of children and coaches made it such an enjoyable week and it was a privilege to be able to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the children and also to show them what it means to follow Him. **Praise God for at least 3 children giving their hearts to Him** and deciding for themselves to start to follow! One of the coaches also had a very encouraging conversation with two young girls who came the year before and had both made commitments that year - they knew that they had prayed and asked Jesus into their hearts but they wanted to make sure that they were really following Him. And through the conversation that was had these two girls became great friends over the week and can now hopefully **encourage each other in their faith**. It was amazing to see God work in these young lives and we pray on that God will continue to bless all the children that came along that week! *Ruth*

### CARNFORTH

Around 55-60 wonderful children were present each day to enjoy the soccer and netball, along with many coaches and volunteers from the church. I have to say what a great team we had; it was a real **pleasure to be involved!**

Each day got better and better with new skills learned and most importantly, many seeds sown into these young lives about how Jesus transforms lives. At least 2 children that I know of made first time commitments to God!!

On the Saturday, the weather was glorious and many crowds of friends and family members attended the **World Cup Finals**. The senior football was particularly exciting as Graham's team, who were the favourites all week, were winning 1-0 with only seconds left, only for the Oranges to equalise in the dying seconds. With the game deep into extra time, the Oranges grabbed another goal to take the title! Their coach was so proud of each and every one of them!

Coaches v Parents football and netball matches took place after the presentation to cap a brilliant day!

The **church was packed on Sunday** with almost every child from the week in attendance, some even changed travel plans to attend! John gave a fantastic testimony of how God has worked amazingly in his own life. Praise God for a very special week of ministry. *Taz*



### BODENSEEHOF SOCCER CAMP

At the end of a busy summer of soccer and netball schools, a tired group of coaches headed to Germany for the final soccer camp of the year, at **Bodenseehof Bible School, Fishbach**. And what a week it was! 24 youths came together for 7 days of football, fun and faith, from different backgrounds and walks of life.

We again shared the '**Follow Him**' theme, and had some great German coaches joining us to interact with the young people on and off the pitch! There was a really special atmosphere throughout the week. Friendships were renewed from last year's camp, and new friendships formed. But the greatest thrill was to see 12 of these young guys **commit or re-commit their lives to God!** They were hungry for the Word of God, had many questions, and many counselling and follow-up forms were completed. I had the privilege of praying with one young lad to receive Christ, what a special moment! Pray for another lad who is really seeking. **Praise God, and pray for next year's camp** - for more numbers, but especially for a return of these lads and that we will see them going on with the Lord! *Sue*