



Fun with Albanian
Refugees in France

Great Eccleston FMC
Champions Cup Winners



Netball selfie at Carnforth!



Summer 2017

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life' John 3:16

SPORTSREACH

Reaching the world for Christ through sport

BELIEVE...

Over 200 children attended Easter soccer and netball schools!

It's always exciting for us at Easter...and very busy! A new season of soccer and netball schools means new leaflets, booklets, certificates, messages, t-shirts, coaching drills, school assemblies...and lots of kids signing up! Thank you for praying for all of the above – we have seen God's hand upon it all, and we have seen children (and assistant coaches!) respond and 'believe' for themselves the Good News!

In amongst all of this, we also had football cup finals and league meal and the netball league cup, followed by tours to Austria and France. I hope you are encouraged as you read the reports of what God continues to do as an answer to your prayers. *Please pray on!*



'Believe' Bible time at Carnforth

Coaches' Interview



Brixworth

Summer Soccer and Netball Schools

26-30 July Staines

2-6 Aug Wray

9-13 Aug Clapham

16-20 Aug Sandhurst

23-27 Aug Gt Eccleston

23-27 Aug Ripon

2-9 Sept Bodensee-
hof, Germany



Coaches' Award time at the end of the day at Battle, in brilliant sunshine!

Please continue to pray for soccer and netball schools, and for the preparation for the leagues starting in September

Battle – By Anna Snalam



Very special Bible Times!

As always Battle Soccer School was one of the highlights of my year so far! The Church there (Battle Baptist) are always welcoming and from relationships built over the years we always know we will have a great time both with the kids and the coaches. This year was the first time I was coaching football rather than netball at Battle and my junior team **amazed and encouraged me** throughout the week. On the

pitch they worked tirelessly, listening to instruction and encouraging each other and the opposition throughout. A highlight of the week was coaching one lad with disabilities and seeing him enjoy the football and hearing his carer, Mum and Gran say they were amazed at how well he had settled in, and that it was the first time he had ever played football alongside his own age group! In Bible times I have never had so many questions and children keen to input. There were many days we didn't even get the Bible booklet open or past discussing the memory verse and what it means to us. A team of 8 lads, Christians and non-Christians together all discussing how **the Bible has impacted their lives** and sharing testimonies together... they were very special times!

This year is my 7th year coaching at Soccer and Netball Schools and I look forward to the Easter, May half term and summer holidays all year round because of them! Being able to share the Good News of Jesus with people of all abilities, backgrounds and ages (especially during the Sunday Awards Services) is a massive privilege, and **very special**. Being a part of the Soccer and Netball Schools has helped *my faith* grow over the years as well as my friendships. So much time is spent in prayer and fellowship with brothers and sisters. Each morning the coaches' devotions always inspire and deepen my faith, it has often been in these that Gospel truths (some I have had head knowledge of all my life) have really struck me and sunk into my heart. It touches me in so many ways being able to be a volunteer with SportsReach, and I am **so grateful** that God has let me be a part of the work and blessed me richly with the friendships made along the way!

Coaches at the Sunday Awards Service at Battle



Anna having fun with the coaches at Caton!



Battle senior red team



SportsReach 'Amarillo' song!



World Cup Finals @ Carnforth



Message of life!



Children asking for Bibles



Senior netball @ Caton – serious stuff!!



Willing helpers queuing for lunch



Brixworth, Northampton

During the Easter holidays, Brixworth Community Church hosted SportsReach to help run their *first ever* Soccer and Netball School. Yes, you guessed it, **it was a great success!!**

40 kids, mainly in football, attended and all of them had just the most amazing time.

A couple of children came to faith during the week, but the experience *spoke just as powerfully* to the adult leaders and helpers. **One became a Christian**, another recommitted their life to Christ and yet another has started a netball team in the village!

The school in which the Church meet each Sunday has recently extended its hall and on Easter Sunday the space was **completely full** with the families of the children attending the celebration service. Our huge thanks to all those at SportsReach for their efforts in and for Christ.

Many blessings, Andy Lloyd-Williams (Pastor)

Please pray for all those (over 20!) who committed their lives to God at soccer and netball schools...

And there's more...!

Carnforth

This is where it all began, 25 years ago. And now, Carnforth High School is a venue for a church, Christian football league and outreach soccer and netball schools...and it started with a prayer from Graham Stamford, our founder.

Almost 100 children gathered for what was to be a very blessed week. Blessed with good weather, great coaches, enthusiastic kids...but most of all, with the privilege of seeing lives **transformed by the power of the Gospel** – what could be better!

Standing at the front of a packed sports hall at the end of a busy week, and seeing the concentration on peoples' faces as the gospel was faithfully shared to parents and kids, was a great climax to a great week. **We had to re-stock our Bible supply** after the first day, as kids flocked to the front for them. We had to round up more coaches for counseling because so many kids had stayed indoors instead of going out to play, so that they could learn more of Jesus. And a personal highlight for me was seeing my daughter Ruth *lead 5 girls to the Lord* (she had twisted my arm to let her be a coach for the week instead of revising for her 'A' levels – I think she made the right call!) At the beginning of the week, we **asked God for great things**, and we **received great things**. The excitement on children's faces after they accepted Christ as Saviour, and the conversations which followed, brought a tear to the eye. This is what it is all about – the sport was great, but nothing surpasses seeing the *miracle of salvation*! Glory to God!! *Sue*

Stowmarket, Suffolk

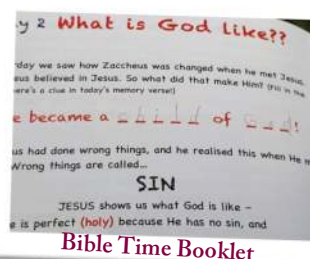
It was a glorious week of football, fun and faith deep in the beautiful Suffolk countryside for this our fourth year hosted by **Faith Mission**.

We had 26 youngsters and so divided into juniors and seniors. In the World Cup finals on the last day, both sections ended all square over their matches and so the inevitable penalties! Again, nothing could separate the teams so we had 'sudden death' in both categories- a thrilling finale to the week's football!

The **Parents versus Coaches** match was a very close affair also with a 4-4 final score ensuring that at the barbecue, everyone would be happy! It also gave me chance to speak to the parents about how they felt regarding the message of Jesus that I shared before the match and it was great to have many conversations and hear different viewpoints. It was also encouraging that so many would engage in conversation about spiritual matters.

The highlight of the week for me though, responding to the Bible teaching throughout the week, was the fact that two youngsters both **gave their lives to Jesus**, wanting to be forgiven for their sins and receiving Jesus into their hearts. Their sincerity was so warming to my heart.

Wonderful weather, wonderful hosts, wonderful venue, wonderful salvation! **Thank you Lord!** *Tim Slater*



'Reactions' at Stowmarket



CATON SOCCER AND NETBALL SCHOOL – *Amelia Preece*

At May half term we held a SportsReach Soccer and Netball School. Over 100 children, a team of coaches, assistant coaches and helpers all had a fantastic time. We had so many netballers that we had to make a new court on the grass so we could split them into senior and junior. New children attended, children who had been many times before, Church children, non Church children, those who had played sport for years and those new to it but all had a fantastic time. It was great to see the school field/playground and our new court full of children enjoying their sport, learning new skills and looking into God's word. Once again we saw answers to our prayers and we were blessed with great weather. On the Sunday morning it was great to see the Church full of children and their families and friends. Will shared a clear gospel message and we all enjoyed lunch together. A busy but definitely worthwhile week – **thank you SportsReach!**

Netball, netball, netball!

Tournament day, long awaited, much anticipated. 24th June... 34 teams, 11 umpires, 5 courts, **almost 100 matches**, over 400 people, perfect weather... The day was covered in prayer, which was very evident from the atmosphere, and the response to the Gospel. Dave Lawson from Westhouse gave a particularly clear message when all were gathered at noon for the morning awards. The biggest single SportsReach event of the year did not disappoint. Sore muscles and tired bodies...but hearts rejoicing in the Gospel and **the goodness of God! Praise Him!**

Netball t-shirts sported by Quernmore Comets and Stars, many of whom participated in the Caton

netball school

Junior winners Quernmore Comets



Action in the sports hall...



Lunchtime Gospel Presentation



Mission field for a day!



Prayer points...

Thank you so much for being a part of the team, and for your faithful prayers. Here are a few pointers for the summer months...

NETBALL TOURNAMENT KENT Sat 1st July

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES and SOCCER AND NETBALL SCHOOLS...

...and plenty of them! Pray for record numbers of kids to sign up for summer soccer and netball schools, and a deep impact as the message is shared.

TOURS...

- Germany Classics 30th June-4th July. 4 matches against varied teams including a team of Muslim refugees. Pray for safety as we travel to Stuttgart and on to Erolsheim and the surrounding area; for good team spirit and sharing times, safety in play, open hearts to the gospel, and for the church to be encouraged.
- Austria Classics 23rd-30th Sept. A week's outreach in the beautiful Dachstein Valley, playing football, sharing Christ. Pray for outreach and in-reach, to be the best yet!

GERMANY SOCCER CAMP, BODENSEEHOF...

A week at the Bible school near Friedrichshafen, southern Germany, with a group of teenagers – loads of football, Bible teaching, and a lot of fun! Please pray for a good number of German youngsters to sign up, and that it would be a fruitful week.

FOOTBALL AND NETBALL LEAGUES...

Please pray for teams over the summer that they will have increasing numbers of players and also for managers to take up leadership where needed.

PRAY FOR SALVATION AND GOD TO BE GLORIFIED!

Cup Winners Garstang Diamonds

Austria

Sharing in Austria



A refugee praying



Spectators at Mitterberg



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