



# SportsReach

Summer  
2021

Reaching the world for Christ through sport

Dear friends,

**It was fantastic to be back running soccer schools!!** Half-term, 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> June, saw us sharing Jesus at soccer camps at Horsforth (Emmanuel Baptist Church) and Stowmarket (Faith Mission) – and it was great!! Our theme – **‘In the beginning...God!’** We looked at **creation, crossing the line (sin), bridging the gap (Jesus) and making the choice.** Several children came to faith in Jesus, and we had amazing times both on and off the field. We were blessed with good weather which meant that we could be outside most of the time, cutting down on the need for masks, and giving more opportunity to chat with parents.



**From Aneta, Horsforth...** “The team at Emmanuel Baptist really enjoyed hosting SportsReach during the June half term. We had 30 children sign up to attend the week. The Lord blessed us with such lovely weather! As a newly employed youth worker, I had heard good things about SportsReach but hadn’t experienced it first-hand yet, so was prayerfully looking forward to the week. John did a brilliant job with preparing our hearts each morning to look to our Lord Jesus before the children arrived. The days were set up well and the children were skilfully trained. I was amazed at the improvements that the children showed in just a day! We had some shy children that went from being quite timid to really going for it by the end! However, although impressive – that wasn’t the best bit! The team led Bible studies and the children seemed to really engage and even the adult volunteers (myself included!) took stuff away from Bible time. The testimonies were great at showing everyone how Jesus works in our hearts and lives. The best bit was we had four children profess faith in Christ Jesus! That was quite an emotional day for me personally – **how amazing to see the Lord at work!** On Saturday afternoon, Sue shared her testimony with the families that attended the picnic and explained a bit more about what their children had been doing during the week. The coaches vs parents football game was very popular though I won't mention the score! We finished the week with **awards on Sunday morning.** This really helped to draw the families into church and to hear the clear gospel presentation from Will. It was such a good week and I’ve had a parent feedback that they wish SportsReach could come more than once a year. **Thank you, team,** for all your hard work and for **glorifying Jesus through this ministry.**”

**Tim Slater, SportsReach Associate Worker...** “A glorious week deep in the **Suffolk** countryside as we shared the good news of Jesus (and football coaching!) with 27 youngsters. Covid restrictions meant that numbers and ages were limited with double that amount attending there two years ago. However, **much fun was had** and the time there was equally enjoyed by the 13 coaches! In the groups, four youngsters expressed a desire to either know more about inviting Jesus into their lives or actually making that commitment, as two of them did! **Praise God!** Fifteen others joined another group in wanting to know more about developing their walk with God. Praise God for those also! **Roll on next year!**”

### 11 aside

The season finished well, with every team getting a few games, and some good finals! Thanks to all involved, and please continue to pray for all who heard the Word, and praise God for those who committed their lives to Him! Pray for teams as they continue to have friendly matches in the run up to the new season...

### 5 aside

All 8 teams played each week, some great fun matches which finished with Newbigginers coming out on top. Thanks again to all involved and to all who came along each Wednesday to share some powerful Gospel messages.

### Summer soccer and netball schools

9 – 11 July	Staines
21 – 24 July	Wray
28 July – 1 Aug	Ripon
4 – 8 Aug	Clapham
11 – 15 Aug	Sandhurst
25 – 28 Aug	Carnforth
5 – 11 Sept	Bodenseehof Soccer Camp, Germany (subject to Covid restrictions)



Thank you so much for your prayers and continued support, we couldn’t do this without you! Please do get in touch if you would like us to come and share about the ministry, or if you are interested in holding a SportsReach event in your area.

**In Christ, Will, Sue and all at SportsReach**

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