

Letter from the Minister

Sandpipers, Southampton Road, Hythe SO45 5AA
Tel: Office 023 8084 5008
& Home 023 8020 7868



Dear Friends,

*This month the magazine letter has been written by our Church Secretary, Richard Hall.
Thank you Richard.*

With best wishes for the month ahead.

Eddie

How's your summer been? What summer, you may ask! Summer for many means time away from normal routines, a time to relax and re-charge and for mecricket! I can hear groans from some of you, but I really enjoy watching a good game of cricket. This summer it's the Ashes, when England play Australia in five Test Matches. As in any sport, the players need to be in good form to be included in the team. That means significant periods of preparation through training and practice as individuals and as a team.

The prize for the winning Ashes team is a little urn about 15cm (6 ins) high(!), supposedly containing the ashes of a cricket bail from a match long ago. Each team's goal is to be the best and win the prize and they strive hard to try to achieve that. As Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians only one team gets that top prize and this is a prize that fades and with it a record that is soon surpassed.

The prize for us as Christians is faith in God that comes to us through the gospel of Jesus Christ, and this is a prize that once seized will last forever, as it was won for us by Jesus. So once we've got this prize does it mean that we don't need to do any more training? No, far from it! Our task now is to aim to retain our fitness in Christ so that we too may pass on the good news to others. It seems that the more we come to understand about the love and grace of God through Jesus Christ the more there is yet to discover - how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3 v18).

There's opportunity for more training from September as we continue with the 'Holy Habits' Homegroup series through the autumn, which will be looking at Eating Together, Gladness and Generosity, Worship, and making more Disciples. Not to be missed! – so if you're not yet part of a Homegroup speak to Jan Sherlock, Eddie or one of the elders.

There's also an eight-week Bible Society course looking at how the key events, books and characters of the bible all fit together to help us see the big picture and how it applies to our lives. This is on Thursday mornings at 10.30 am starting on 12th September. Speak to Jytta James about this.

There are lots of other opportunities, in small groups or individually, when we can further our training in Christ and through that, to know how much we really need to give thanks to God.

Richard Hall