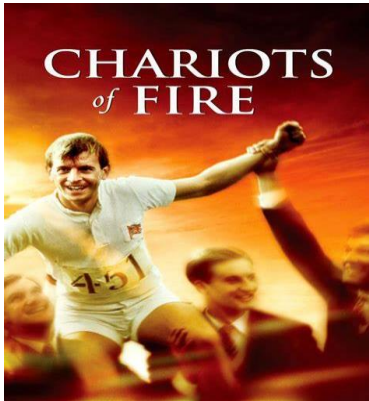


## Newsletter No 76 – July and August 2024. ‘Growing as Christians, Growing as a Church’

### ‘He that honours me, I will honour’

In a few weeks’ time the world will celebrate the 33<sup>rd</sup> Olympic Games in Paris. One hundred years ago exactly the Olympic Games were also held in Paris in 1924. One of the abiding memories of those games is the participation of



Eric Liddell, a Scottish athlete and Rugby Union international but also a devout Christian. His story was immortalised in the 1981 Oscar winning film, ‘Chariots of Fire’.

Liddell was born in 1902 in Northern China. His parents were Scottish Christian Missionaries working in China. From the age of six he attended a boarding school in south London and whilst there Eric Liddell developed into an outstanding sportsman and was named athlete of the year as well as being captain of the schools Rugby and Cricket teams. He then studied at Edinburgh University and became known as the fastest runner in Scotland and people began to predict that he would become an Olympic Champion, but he used his increasing popularity to talk about his Christian

faith attracting many people to meetings.

Liddell was selected to run for Great Britain at the Paris games and was one of the favourites to win the 100 metres but there was one problem, the final was to be held on a Sunday. As a devout Christian, Liddell followed the Old Testament command to keep the Sabbath Day holy and therefore he made his decision that he would not race on a Sunday and therefore withdrew from the event.

Having withdrawn himself from the 100 metres there were still events Eric Liddell could enter that did not conflict with his Christian convictions. Although he was a good all-round Athlete who had good times for the 400 metres race, he was not considered to be good enough to win that race, but he was determined to be the best he could be and so trained hard for the race.



On the morning of the 400 metres final, he was handed a note from one of the team masseurs on which was written a message, it read: “In the old book (the Bible) it says: ‘He that honours me I will honour.’ Wishing you the best of success always.” Eric Liddell recognised the verse from the book of I Samuel 2:30 in the Bible and was greatly encouraged that someone else other than his coach believed that he could win. Liddell

was drawn in lane eight, the outside lane. The 400 metres race is a one lap race where the runners remain in their lane for the whole race so whoever is running in lane eight cannot see how close the other competitors are. In the 400 metres, runners normally race around the first bend, then coast down the back straight before sprinting down the home straight.

Knowing he had no other option, Liddell decided that he had to set off quickly and treat the whole race as a sprint. He sprinted the first two hundred metres and just kept on going, holding off American Athletes who were favourites for the race. In winning, Eric Liddell broke both the Olympic and World records. **‘He that honours me, I will honour’.**

### Prayer points for the Summer.

- Pray for those who will be elected to political office this week that they will serve the wider community with both honesty and integrity.
- Let us not forget in our prayers those who are no longer able to join us in fellowship. Amongst others remember Enid Hart, Marjorie Stockton, Irene Roney, Mike and Anita Lynsky, Roger and Lillian Hazeldine, Sandra and Lionel Mathias, Dylis Hancock, Pat Weaver, Graham Welborn. Remembering also those who have moved from the district, Dorothy Gamble and Ron Banks.
- Pray how we as a church may be more engaging with our local community.
- Pray for the Annual Meeting of the Independent Methodist Connexion that takes place on the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup>- 28<sup>th</sup> July at Haddock and for our delegate Brenda.

**Pulpit dates and other meetings for July and August 2024**



**July**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Peter Marsden including Sacrament.

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Rob Brooks

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30 – Susan McArthur.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 19.30 Deacon’s Meeting – Fellowship Room.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Fellowship Led Worship

**August**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Alan Harrison (Stubshaw Cross IM Church, Wigan)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> at 19.30 – Church Council Meeting – Fellowship Room.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Susan McArthur

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Rob Brooks

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 – Michael Pollard (Mill Lane IM Church, Leigh).

**Safeguarding Training. Message from the Church Safeguarding Officer – Diane Bennett.**



*Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and that is why we need a short course about this, especially if you visit people. We need to recognise and respond appropriately to matters that may arise concerning safeguarding.*

*In September I will be hosting a short session, about safeguarding, only one session is needed. Possible dates will be a Tuesday afternoon in September. I will announce dates and I am prepared to do a few sessions that suit people, so no one is left out. Please let me know if you have any preference for this and in July, I will have date, or dates sorted.*

**Birthdays – July.** 2<sup>nd</sup> – Glenys Reynolds (80<sup>th</sup>), 12<sup>th</sup> – Pat Weaver (96) 21<sup>st</sup> – Anne Pridden, 22<sup>nd</sup> – John Sutton (80<sup>th</sup>), Leslie Baguley, 24<sup>th</sup> – Roger Hazeldine, 25<sup>th</sup> Sandra Mathias, 26<sup>th</sup> Allyson Ashcroft, 27<sup>th</sup> - Bill Banks, 30<sup>th</sup> – Joyce Meredith, 31<sup>st</sup> – Ron Banks. **August.** 3<sup>rd</sup> – Godfrey Gwilliam, 11<sup>th</sup> – Anita Lynsky, 21<sup>st</sup> – Lillian Hazeldine

**Wedding Anniversary.** July 15<sup>th</sup> – Ken and Betty Rowland celebrate their 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Weekday Activities**

**It is with great sadness that we must announce that the Ladies Keep Fit Group has had to close.** This is a group that has been in existence for the best part of forty years. Joyce Meredith who has led the group for so many years now finds it impossible to continue because of her own mobility concerns. Unfortunately, no one else in the group has felt able to step up to take over. The church would like to express its thanks and appreciation to Joyce for all the years of dedication in organising the group.



The closure of the Ladies Keep Fit Group follows the demise of ‘Coffee and Conversation’ and so we as a church offer little opportunity in the week for members of the congregation to meet or engage with the immediate local community. In planning for the Autumn, the Church Council are attempting to gauge the level of support for the following. Please indicate the events that might interest you, cut off the strip below and leave in the offertory plate.

Weekly Afternoon Tea \_\_\_\_ Monthly Afternoon Tea \_\_\_\_ Monthly Film Afternoon \_\_\_\_

Craft and Natter Session \_\_\_\_ Book Club \_\_\_\_ Afternoon Quiz \_\_\_\_ Keep Fit Group \_\_\_\_

Indoor Games Afternoon \_\_\_\_ Occasional Charity Afternoon Teas \_\_\_\_

Other Ideas \_\_\_\_\_

**The next Newsletter will be the September Issue.**