

Get Ready for the Games!

Ideas to put your church at the heart of the community as we look forward to the Olympic Games

DATES OF THE 2012 GAMES

Olympics 27 July to 12 August

Paralympics 29 August to 9 September

ESSENTIAL WEBSITES FOR YOUR CHURCH:

Morethangold.org.uk

Racebeforeus.org.uk

More Than Gold's fast-moving DVD, 'Get Ready to Run,' helps churches see the potential of the Games and their part in it.

There are two versions –

Church version (3 mins 39 secs) for services, home groups, etc, to open eyes to the opportunities the Games offer. Leaders version (6 mins 24 secs) with extra background and advice on the next steps.

Download from the website

From the Diocesan Evangelism Task Group

Be Ahead of the Games.....

The hosting of the Olympic Games in the UK gives churches a once in a lifetime opportunity to embrace the games and serve local communities in new and creative ways. Through hosting events and using our facilities, our churches can be 'on show' and others can learn more from us about being followers of Jesus Christ.

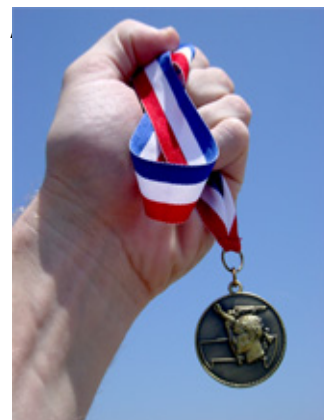
This newsletter offers you ideas and points you to organisations dedicated to helping churches make the most of the build up to the Olympic Games. There are two special Higher Sports events in the Richmond and Leeds archdeaconries to which you are invited (**see overleaf**).

When you have planned an event in your parish or deanery, let us know so we can pass on ideas to other parishes!

By far the best way for a church to get going, is to **appoint your own Gold Champion**, who can be a channel of information and receive support and ideas from More Than Gold. Why not register today?

Outreach—Hospitality—Service

These are the opportunities which the Olympic Games give us in 2012.



Things to do.....

- **Recruit a Gold champion**
- **Form a small committee**
- **Check the two websites**
- **Talk to churches in your area and deanery**
- **Start planning!**

A-Z OF IDEAS - from Adopt a Country to sports Quizzes!



The 'race before us' website has lots of ideas on how churches can mark the Olympics—organize a Big Screen, show Chariots of Fire, themed services, parish sporting events, torch route refreshments, special art events on an Olympic theme, flower festival, design a flag, raising disability awareness during the

Paralympics and doing a disability audit.....

Get ready for the Wensleydale Games 17 March 2012!



© Copyright Gordon Hatton and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

Wensleydale Games will be for primary age youngsters representing churches and schools in the deanery. Mixed teams of 5 will compete in seven different activities during the afternoon of March 17th on Crakehall Green. At the completion of the Games 'Higher Sports' certificates will be presented to all competitors by Henry Olonga ex international cricketer who will also speak about his Christian faith. Representatives from other churches and schools in the Diocese are welcome to come and view this model outreach activity run by Higher Sports and then consider running it in their own parish in the lead up to London 2012 . More details from Bryan Mason Email: bryan@highersports.lccnet.co.uk

**Watch out for the
Garforth Games
on 24 March 2012
more details to follow**

More ideas

- Use these Olympic values in your teaching and reflecting:
Friendship, Courage, Determination, Excellence, Equality, Respect, Inspiration
- The Olympic Torch will pass through much of our diocese –24 June in Leeds— offer stewards from your church
- Find the sporting metaphors in the Bible and see how they relate to our growth as Christians
- Drama opportunities : Saltmine, Riding Lights, Lantern Lights and Act4 have produced original drama to help churches make the most of the 2012 Games—see their websites
- See the help which Higher Games and Higher Sports can provide:
www.highersports.org
- BEWARE!! DON'T USE ANY OF THE London 2012 logos or copyrighted protected names in your own publicity!

This newsletter has been produced by the Evangelism Task Group, chaired by Bishop James.

Please send any queries or news of your events to

Adrian Alker Director of Mission Resourcing

Email:

Adrian.Alker@riponleeds-diocese.org.uk