

PULLING TOGETHER

Three of the greatest events known to humanity all happen in July. Some will automatically say: The World Cup! the finals of which will soon be upon us. Others will say the Tour de France, which, very confusingly for the uninitiated, starts in Leeds on 5th July for a mini tour of Yorkshire and then London, before hopping back over the channel. Some might even dare to mention the tennis. They would all be very wrong. The greatest events in July, eclipsing the World Cup, the TdF and Wimbledon are of course the spectacular Holiday Special, the world famous Boys' Brigade Display and the unbelievable Pilots Talent Show!

All of these events will have seen many hours of planning, resourcing and budgeting and, I should think, many times the question, "Is it really worth it?" The answer by the end of the event is very often, "When can we do it again?" The routines of life are great and the more we set up our daily routine around the guidance of God's Spirit and the life of Christ, the better each day will become. However, but there is something amazing about "pulling all the stops out" (have I just used an organist's phrase?) for a big occasion.

Working together, praying together, eating together, tackling problems together, rising to meet needs together - all lead to a community that beats with one heart. There is nothing like it.

The Book of Acts is a continual reminder of the strength of God's community, especially its ability to rally round when there's something big on: speaking out to councils and courts, raising the dead, and going on global mission. Acts also comes with a health warning of how easily we can fracture. It takes a lot of courage to be a community with a different set of values and with such a strong calling to love each other and those all around us even more.

During your prayers, please give some special attention to the various teams busying themselves throughout July and also for the whole church that we find increasing strength and boldness in witness and prayer when we come together.

Andy Hall