

Rector's Letter for June 2024

Dropping the ball...

Dear Friends,



When I was a teenager I played cricket for my “house” team at school – I like cricket, but I’m not very good at it.

Once when I was fielding someone hit the ball towards me – I rushed in with lots of enthusiasm, but just before the ball came to me it deviated on a bump. The ball flicked my thumb, and I had that sinking feeling that it was going to go to the boundary for 4. It would be my fault. Perhaps my team members would be angry...

But my captain, Pete Goldthorpe was a good cricketer. As I was running in he was running behind me, just in case. He stopped the ball, threw it in and no extra runs were conceded. And then he said to me, “don’t worry, it happens, keep going.”

It was a delight to play on Pete’s team, and because of that I tried my best, and tried to learn how to better.

Jesus’s strategy for changing the world is the opposite of Premier league football teams. Rather than selecting an elite Jesus wants as many on his side as possible. A great strategy, but of course it means that we will all at times get things wrong. We are not the elite. But Jesus’s response is always like my teenage cricket captain: “Don’t worry, it happens, keep going”.

May we all know that forgiveness. May we know Jesus’s delight that we are on his side. And may we respond by aiming to be the best we can be, and showing that grace and generosity to others.

With our love and prayers,

Peter