

Dave Moller - PSALMS Sports Minister for Nailsworth
Email: dave.moller@psalms.uk.net Website: www.psalms.uk.net



Minister's update

The scene is different but the message is the same, 'God is love'.

I start with this because even though how we are able to engage with each other at the moment is different, the opportunities we continue to explore and try out are in response to God's love and I hope you are both encouraged and want to join in with what is coming up next in Nailsworth through PSALMS and the local churches.



Looking forward

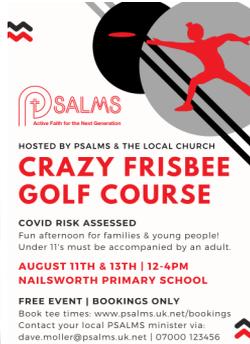
We are always looking forward to seeing what God is going to do in Nailsworth next. Working with the local Churches and the school we are looking at how to get clubs and activities outside of school times going.

We are very excited with how we will be supporting the school in both mental health and fitness support as well as exploring 'worship workshops' over the coming months starting now!

To keep updated, email Dave to be added to the weekly prayer update for further encouragement

Summer Update Summer Games

We were blessed to be able to run 3 summer games sessions over the summer with an average 8 young people a week exploring different stories from the Bible! This time ultimately was brilliant bringing people together safely and re-engaging with the young people we had struggled to be in contact with and a real blessing was to be able to engage with some young people from the area for the first time!



Crazy Frisbee Golf

Another PSALMS wide activity this summer was crazy frisbee golf! We were met with an absolute scorcher of a day when this ran at the primary school, this was a great opportunity for fun, reflection and connection with families. We are thankful that these connections are continuing going into the autumn!

New team

We are excited this year to have two new trainee sports ministers as well as our intern for the year Laura. It's going to be exciting to see how they bring their gifts and talents to the team. Jon Taylor has started work for the Diocese exploring Health and Fitness sessions and will be working closely alongside PSALMS in the coming year.

Lydia Holloway- Lydia joins the team as a trainee sports minister after partnering with the team over the last year in her previous role as Sports and Outreach worker for the Evenlode Vale Benefice. Lydia is also looking forward to starting at Ridley Hall in her first year of the Theology, Ministry and Mission specialising in sports evangelism. Lydia's passion for football is something she hopes to bring to the team, especially developing women's teams as this continues to grow nationally.



Tim Fletcher- Tim comes fresh to the team as a trainee sports minister after engaging with sports camps run by PSALMS in the last year. Tim is going through quite a change of scene after God called him out of his previous career as a refrigeration and air con engineer and is very excited to combine his two passions of sports and faith together. Tim loves the opportunity to spread the word of God through sport, showing young people it is not a one or the other option but something that you choose to do together.

Laura Gardiner- Laura comes to the team after finishing her degree in Sports Coaching Science and Disability Sports from the University of Worcester as New Wine Discipleship Year Intern. Inspired by Romans 16:20, Laura is passionate about wanting to hold onto the hand of God continually to overcome any challenge, keeping running the race that God has in store for her.



Jon Taylor- Jon is working for the Diocese of Gloucester providing Health and Fitness activities based around families and adults, looking to work alongside PSALMS in key partner areas to develop the work over this coming year. As Jon has previously been involved in setting up and running The Armoury Gym in Cheltenham, Jon is experienced in this and looking to spread this knowledge with the team.

Take 10 @ TRAC



Even amongst the uncertainty of recent months, there's one thing that is certain to bring hope and joy and that's a young people's day out. Rounding off an eventful summer PSALMS has hosted two faith-adventure days for a total of 63 young people from across the Diocese combining the work of PSALMS and connected church youth provisions.

Amazingly 9 Nailsworth young people came to Take10@TRAC!

Normally, the week long residential at TRAC (Tom Roberts Adventure Centre) brings together the consistent and intention work of PSALMS's groups in each of it's partner areas to celebrate how God has worked through the year and go further into faith.

This year the opportunity for a day call Take10@TRAC gave the young people a chance to explore:

Hebrews 13:8, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever'

This gave a wonderful opportunity for young people to process the last six months of lockdown, recognising where Christ has been at work in their lives during this time and reaffirming how He is with us each moment and will continue to be as they prepare to go back into schools. The day had a brilliant variety of activities, from reflection and campfire sessions to paddle boarding, archery and Pilates supported by whatSUP instructors and Kay Skinner Fitness.



COVID-19

As we all know the last few months have been unprecedented. The long-term effects upon all levels of society are currently unknown. The common theme for many people will be feelings of uncertainty. Although COVID-19 has affected everyone to some degree the way that individual people and individual households will have experienced this time will vary significantly. This also means the challenges facing people over the next few months will vary considerably as we live with various restrictions and adapt to a 'new normal'.

During lockdown we experimented with various ways to stay connected and serve the young people, children and their families we normally work with. We experienced differing levels of success which is a story that is echoed nationally from many other charities needing to move their services online. One of our sayings as a staff team is that:

'People are our purpose'.

When you are faced with the reality of not being able to connect with people in the usual ways for such a long period of time it's entirely unsurprising that it's been a steep learning curve as we have adapted to a new style of ministry.

The summer months saw all our usual activities cancelled with the rare opportunity to start again completely from scratch. The growing sense of momentum and joy at connecting with people in communities again will be something that we need to build upon in the coming term. Evidently this always needs to be done with the safety of all involved paramount to any practical activity, but this should not deter us from following the Holy Spirits leading in this next stage.

We continue to fix our eyes on Jesus as we journey through these times together seeking to point people towards Him as clearly as we can.

Answers to prayer:

- Opportunities to go back into school during autumn term for assemblies and lesson support
- The 9 young people who came to Take10@TRAC
- Connection with families over the summer in a new and privileged position.
- For the summer games and crazy frisbee golf, especially the volunteers who supported PSALMS each time

Prayer requests:

Please continue to join us in prayer, Dave sends out a regular prayer letter. I wanted to focus on answers to prayer this letter but the one point which will always be the focus of PSALMS' work in the area is simple: that we would serve the young people and community well and in the way God would wish. If you are inspired and want to share your thoughts on this or join in with that mission please contact Dave



Keep up to date with all things PSALMS related via our social media pages on Facebook (PSALMS), Twitter (PSALMS UK), Instagram (gloslifesport) and our YouTube channel (PSALMS UK).