

FAITH COMMENT ARTICLE

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Revd. David Muskett

Petersfield Methodist Church

Email: superintendent@esanddcircuit.org.uk

I saw a comment about the possibility of Laziness as an Olympic sport. The trick is to come fourth so you don't have to bother with the walk to the podium.

It's a summer for sporting hopes: the Euros, Wimbledon, the Olympics, Test Matches ...

In several instances what we hope for – in life as in sport – doesn't work out. How does it feel when hopes are dashed? When your team or hero doesn't achieve what you hoped? When the reporting talks of 'defeat' or 'missing out' it doesn't help the way we feel about it. Might it be better for us if we heard that they came second, or won a silver?

In life it's more difficult to see the positive when hopes are dashed.

On the first Easter morning Jesus came alongside two of his disciples as they walked home after the worst weekend of their lives. He asked them what they were talking about and when they said it was the things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, his brutal death and rumours or an empty tomb and said, 'we had hoped'. (You can read the whole account in the Bible at Luke 24:13-35) Putting the verb to hope in the past tense is always the most desperate situation.

When you want to say 'we had hoped' try to do three things:

- look for the ways Jesus might come alongside in your despair, grief and searching for a new way forward;
- listen for how he shows you that it is not defeat or missing out but the way that he works in you for that new way forward;
- seek his presence among the community of his people, your family, friends and communities you're part of.

David Muskett