



**Northall Baptist Church – 200 years and still going.**

***A little Church with strong local links.***

**Faster/Higher/Stronger – wonderfully made!**

Have you enjoyed watching the Olympics? I am writing this while watching the athletic track events and wow, what a show they are giving us. After the on/off discussions about whether the Tokyo Olympics 2020 would actually happen, I hadn't been expecting too much, particularly with the time difference. But once again it has been amazing, very inspiring and uplifting. A great break from the troubles of the world.



**But it all began here...start line in ancient Olympia Greece**

Those three words Faster/Higher/Stronger were first coined in 1881 by Henri Didon, a Dominican Priest for the opening of a Sports Day event. Faster/Higher/Stronger was adopted as the Olympic Motto from 1894 with the Launch of the Olympic Movement. On 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 the International Olympic Committee approved the addition of the word 'together'.

Interesting as so many of the sports are undertaken on an individual basis, although many today are team events such as relays. But the athletes compete for their nation, striving for the gold medal and hopefully a world record. This time we have enjoyed so many more mixed events - the mixed Triathlon was so exciting. What slick changes of equipment for the swimming, cycling and running events.

So Faster – so many events: running, cycling, swimming, sailing, equestrian and many more. Today the Men's 5,000 metres was won by Joshua Chetegei of Uganda won it in 12 minutes 58 seconds. You can't have forgotten Mo Farah who won golds in this event at both London 2021 and Rio in 2016. So what were the times? Were they faster? Yes. In 2012 Mo ran the 1500m in 13.41, 2016 he ran it in 13.03 and Joshua ran it today in 12.58. How much faster can they go?

Higher – the high jump, basketball, volleyball, diving and the gymnastics immediately come to mind. Wasn't it spectacular? Have you ever tried to do the tricks and cartwheels they do? I have and nearly broke my wrist!

Stronger – they all have to show their strengths but I think boxing, wrestling and taekwondo probably fit into this category.

But how does the human body manage these great feats? The answer may be suggested in one of David's Psalms – 139 v 13 – 14 'You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvellous – how well I know it.'

We have the Paralympics to look forward to and I'm sure we will see the same determination to exploit their skills and succeed against the odds from all of them.

Our Sunday services, are now back in Church 11 am. Feel free to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. You will find the latest information on our website:

<http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>  
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