

WEEKLY SERMON

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God has a plan and a purpose for our lives

*And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Hebrews 12v1-3*

This week hundreds of Year 6 pupils will be gathering at Blackburn Cathedral to celebrate their time at Primary school and look forward to their move on to secondary education.

The theme of the service will be 'run the race set before you'.

Planning for the service led me to reflect on my own recent five day journey walking around the Isle of Wight and the way in which so much of what happened during that week can be related to life.

The journey was the most incredible experience: Sixty-five miles in glorious sunshine; a wide variety of beautiful landscapes; friends and family we met along the way and surprising encounters with wildlife including red squirrels and an adder!

We had a plan and route to follow and most of the time everything went according to plan but not always ... the coastal path around the island has a habit of falling into the sea!

Illustrations, similar to my walk, have been used alongside this passage of scripture countless times; but it's good to be reminded.

God has a plan and a purpose for your life. It will only be fully achieved if you 'keep your eyes fixed on Jesus'.

There will be hard days when the path ahead is overgrown and you cannot see where you are going.

Then there will be days when you eat ice cream and the decisions are easy to make. Highs and lows, pain and excitement, laughter and tears.

The school children will be reminded this week that God has a purpose for their life journey.

For each of us there is a 'race marked out' and God gives us with the gifts and talents we will need to fulfil it. The key to being successful is to 'keep your eyes fixed on Jesus'.

Take time to reflect today on your 'race' so far.

The ups and downs, the crossroads and the surprising encounters. Where next? What next? Fix your eyes on Jesus and ask God to show you the way.

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