

# More than GOLD

The Olympics and the Church

Churches in the UK have a great opportunity to engage in Olympic outreach, with **the world's premier sporting event** coming to London this summer.

By reaching out churches can **impact the lives** of –

**Their own community** – children, youth and adults

**Guests from around the globe** – athletes, their families and international visitors

Through the 2012 Games, churches - including ours - can be the **hosts of the biggest party** the UK has seen for a lifetime.

## What can a church like ours do?

There is something in the *More Than Gold's* tried and tested programme of radical [Outreach](#), [Hospitality](#) and [Service](#) to meet the needs of every church – whatever their size, location or make up.

This includes –

Providing volunteers for the [Service](#) and [Hospitality](#) programmes

Engaging with your own community including through [Guest Events](#), [Sports Outreach](#) and [Creative Arts](#)

Hosting one of the many [Mission Teams](#) coming from overseas - to help you give extra impact to your activities

Linking hands with other churches to run [Community Festivals](#) and [Hospitality Centres](#)

Above all, being welcoming to the whole community You can find out more at [www.morethangold.org.uk](http://www.morethangold.org.uk) The following is a brief summary.

The world's premier sporting event is coming your way – the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. It gives your church a once-in-a-

lifetime opportunity – to impact those in your own community and also guests from around the globe.

This happened when the Games came to **Atlanta, Sydney, Athens** and even **Beijing**. Now the baton is being passed to the UK churches, including ours.



MORE THAN  
GOLD

Every community will be touched by the Games – including through the Torch Run that's to pass in easy reach of almost everyone. This means our church can play our part through *More Than Gold's* tested programmes of

outreach, hospitality and service – all undergirded by prayer.

*More than Gold's* sponsor include the Church of England, the Roman Catholic church, the Methodist Church, the Baptists Union, Churches together etc – a truly broad church.

## Outreach – reaching beyond the church walls



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or the heating's playing up again"

Our church is part of a community where people are active and interested in sport. This will

be intensified with the build-up to the 2012 Games, as young and old are

bombarded with Olympic and sports messages through the news, advertising and more.

*More Than Gold* will help churches make the powerful link between sports and faith both before and during the Games.

The vast possibilities include –

- Children's Holiday Clubs on an Olympic theme
- Sports clinics for youth and children
- Community festivals, with churches working together to host a local Olympic party
- Guest events, including a pub-style sports quiz

These approaches – and more – offer each church a way to do what's appropriate to their own situation and resources. With *More Than Gold* on hand with help and experience.

### **Hospitality** – a generous welcome in Jesus' name

Genuine faith is always expressed through generous and welcoming hospitality. *More Than Gold's* aim is for the 2012 Games to be renowned for the level of hospitality offered to overseas visitors by the UK's Christians.

Through the *More Than Gold* hospitality programme, churches and their members can serve the athletes' families and the hundreds of thousands of visitors coming for the Games.

The opportunities include –

- Hosting the families of Games athletes – providing a bed and practical help for those who would otherwise miss seeing their relatives take part
- Hosting members of international mission teams coming to share their faith with visitors and serve churches in their outreach
- Serving at *More Than Gold* Hospitality Centres, which will show practical care to visitors including giving away a million cups of water. There is something every church can do to offer a welcome in Jesus' name.

### **Service** – putting the love of Christ into action

The 2012 Games present a magnificent opportunity for churches and their members to show how the love of Christ leads to serving others. And an army of dedicated volunteers is vital if *More Than Gold's* extensive programme is to be delivered.

There is something everyone can do to serve – young and not-so-young. Some will have specialist skills and others will be just willing to muck in.

Much needed are those who will serve as –

- Part-time and full-time volunteers helping with our conferences and training programme as office support, administrators, data enterers, runners and humpers and more
- On teams to welcome and serve the official Olympic Torch Run through UK cities

Another way is to volunteer directly with LOCOG, the Games organisers, in one of their many roles.

By far the best way for a church to evaluate the opportunities of *More Than Gold* is to appoint their own church representative – a Gold Champion.

The role of a Gold Champion is –

- To be the channel for information from *More Than Gold* to their church
- To link with other Gold Champions in their area to share ideas, plans and opportunities

Gold Champions receive their own dedicated eNewsupdate and invitations to special briefings.

Having a Gold Champion also gives a church access to all the *More Than Gold* communication resources

### **Are you our Gold Champion?**

If you feel able to pick up the challenge and act as our Gold Champion, please speak to Jo.