

There must be many lads at school who write to their favourite footballer.

A week or so ago we thought about just such a one who wrote to Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool manager, for guidance because he was apprehensive about his new school.

Just a reminder, Derby County has not been doing too well, and is in need of a new manager, although Wayne Rooney is doing his best. Never fear, nine year old Toby has applied for the job! His family are Ram supporters and he is confident he could be manager. His 'credentials' - I am very good at football and also play FIFA21 in manager mode (if this is new to you have look!). He gives details of the formations he would introduce and other suggestions. He nominates his grandmother to help wash the team kit!

Now think about that, we can all learn from Toby and his forward thinking positivity. We need to be positive too as we look forward and especially with help for those who are really finding a year of inactivity and almost seclusion very demanding. Do we still phone up, do we still offer help or has our enthusiasm of the first few weeks worn off!

The vaccine is thankfully with us, we offer prayer and our gratitude to those who have achieved this on behalf of everyone. Now comes the doubts, should I or shouldn't I have the vaccine if offered? You may have seen Professor van Tam tell us that he told his 78 year old mother to have the vaccine as soon as it is offered! Do we find ourselves now starting to take a little less notice of some of guidelines, what about handwashing! The virus remains the same!

We can learn from Toby ... the future is ahead and he is confident. The future is opening up for us as we give thanks for the God given skills which have enabled the arrival of the vaccine. We can now step out and encourage others, help the aged and sheltered to have confidence in receiving the vaccine.

It is a time of thanksgiving, hope and opportunity to think again about our future. How much has this lockdown year made us think about ourselves, the lives of others and the constant Hand of God guiding us to a safer place?