

Thought for the day - Monday 13th September 2021

By Revd John Marshall

Japhet Tanganga – Tottenham Footballer “I”26.8.2021

Japhet was acclaimed after a great performance against Manchester City. He was man of the match.

He was delighted with the response of the fans, “To be recognised for a performance by so many people. I cannot think of anything better.”

He is a local lad from Hackney.

“Tottenham gave me the opportunity to live my dream. They gave me a chance in the Premier League and they looked after me as an academy player from when I was 10 onwards, so the only thing I can do to repay them is to give everything whenever I step on the field.”

He is very thoughtful

“I think being a professional footballer comes with a responsibility,” he says “You are a role model to a lot of people, most of them young kids. For me that has created certain aspirations of what I want to do, whether it is charity work or community work or just a desire to make the world a better place.”

He talks of playing football as a child – and how it kept him disciplined. He is keen that others should have the opportunity.

“So we have to make sure that kids have places to play and lean on football in their lives like I did.”

Tanganga is a religious man, brought up in a Christian family in which faith was deeply important. He sees faith, family and the local community as not just ingredients in his success but the oxygen of it.

He says “I believe that there is a way of life that tells us to be a good person and help others, and that’s what I strive to do in my life. I reason that God has blessed me with this career, but also allowed me to use the advantages that come with it to help other people for the greater good. That could be family members, my friends, the local community in which I was raised, or anyone that hopes to achieve any dream,

But we do have a responsibility to use our talent, our profile and our rewards to help the world become a better place for everyone. Everything now is about saying thank you.”

Japhet seems to be a remarkable young man.

What do we do to say thank you to God?

How can we help others?

What are your dreams?