

JOMO

By Revd Philip Smith



I was really looking forward to a concert at Holy Trinity on All Hallows Eve but not being well meant I was unable to go. Lucy came back with some great videos, so I got a feel of what I had missed. This year at Greenbelt I didn't get to the Sunday morning communion service which is always very special with thousands of others celebrating outside.

These occasions always remind me of a time as a young boy I missed going to see the Harlem Globetrotters, the world famous comedy basketball team because I wasn't well. I also remember even younger reading a book about a lad who missed the circus but somehow the circus came to them. Sadly, the Harlem Globetrotters didn't call by.

But at Greenbelt, our son James taught me something about JOMO, the 'joy of missing out'. Embracing disappointment and thanking God for those times when we have to step back and rest, it's a simple life lesson to learn. My Fulham fan friend Adrian messaged me whilst ill with this wisdom. 'There's no speed limit on the road to recovery'.

None of us will ever get to read all the books ever written, visit all the countries of the world, see all the films & TV programmes ever made, hear all the music ever composed, listen to every radio show & podcast, watch all the plays or musicals ever produced, or hear every sermon ever preached. Perhaps that's what eternity is for.

This limitation in our own lives is part of what makes us all so very different and part of the joy when we can relate to each other over a shared experience or see something new that we've never encountered or hear a different perspective. But remember 'Comparison is the thief of joy' Teddy Roosevelt.

The opposite of JOMO is FOMO, the 'fear of missing out'. I learnt a good lesson that joy is found in unexpected places, even at times of disappointment. Or as the Apostle Paul puts it.

'I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.' The Message

Do you know the One he means?

Having said all that, please don't miss out on seeing our Crib Festival this year. It's one of the best kept secrets. It's not a Holy Trinity thing but a Team thing. It's on for 4 days, and 21 hours so hopefully time to fit around our Advent diaries. Please let us borrow a crib of yours and offer to steward. You can pop in for a few moments or stay for ages, soaking up the magical atmosphere. If you've been before, it's always different with new scenes and ideas. And whether you've been before, bring a friend, for every scene screams out, that the truth of the Christmas story lies in a manger.

Keep the faith, but never ever to yourselves.

Love Philip x

Crib Festival 2025

Holy Trinity
Lane End
HP14 3HD



Thursday 11th Dec
4pm ~ 7pm

Friday 12th Dec
4pm ~ 7pm

Saturday 13th Dec
2pm ~ 8pm

Sunday 14th Dec
10am *Jump for Joy*
Crib Family Service
4pm *Carol Service*

11am ~ 3.30pm
5pm ~ 7pm

Other times by
appointment



Always set out different every year!