



Run by Christians, Open to all.

www.sportily.org.uk

Who we are

Fluff it. Duff it. Score it. Smash it. Whatever you do, just give it a go. That's our motto for sport and for life. We're for jumping right in and going on new adventures together, as a team. We are a place for everyone to try different sports, make new friends and explore what life is all about. So we do all sorts of sports and activities, some you'll know, some you might not (heard of Kabaddi?), we hang out, we chat, we eat and we discover new things. What matters is we have a laugh while doing it.

We believe that being more active, like the Christian faith, can change lives for the good. And so we're here to get everyone moving and show that things are a lot more fun when we're kicking, diving, riding, rolling, running and jumping around together.

We're passionate about building a network of fun-loving sport and faith groups where everyone is invited to try different sports, make new friends and explore what life is all about.

Working through partnerships with primary and secondary schools, churches and communities across Gloucestershire, our highly experienced, trained and qualified Sport and Faith Leaders and Coaches, lead a huge variety of sport and physical activity groups and residential camps for children, young people and families.

Sportily formerly operated as PSALMS prior to September 2021.

Sportily is an ecumenical charity born from the Diocese of Gloucester's OneLife project.



For the first-timers,
the can't-catchers,
and the kick-it-outers.

For the slam-dunkers,
the back-of-the-netters,
and the hole-in-oners.

We bring the energy that gets you moving.

What we are about

Sportily is a pioneering network of sport and physical activity locations primarily engaging with children and young people, and their families, who do not have a connection to church. Sportily seeks to transform lives through sport and physical activity, establish new worshipping communities and build a new generation of leaders.

Sportily believes in the transformative 'power of sport' and active lifestyles and recognises that sport and physical activity are a positive way to build integrated communities and help address societal issues such as poor health and wellbeing, social isolation and loneliness delivering holistically healthier futures for all. Through building meaningful relationships Sportily works with people to meet hopes and needs and develop contextually appropriate Christ centred communities.

Sportily uses the word 'sport' to encompass all forms of physical activity, that aim to express or improve physical fitness, mental wellbeing and the formation of social relationships. Sportily locations use sport inclusivity to nourish and transform the wellbeing of communities and individuals.

Sportily locations work in collaboration with established worshipping communities, schools and partner organisations to play their part in the ministry of serving, loving and sharing the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sportily locations are places where the young are encouraged, faith is nurtured, leadership gifts are released and new, relevant, worshipping communities that communicate a compelling Gospel narrative emerge.

Across its network Sportily is developing innovative new ways to financially support community-rooted ministry. Earned income streams from activity provision, operating community leisure facilities, stewardship giving, partnership support and charitable funding, all contribute.

The impact we seek to make

Sportily strives to see:

- **Children and young people's lives, and their communities transformed through sport and physical activity**
- **People of all ages, especially the young, responding to the compelling Good News of Jesus Christ and being disciplined within community**
- **Contextually relevant new worshipping communities established, primarily focused on younger generations who have had no significant engagement with church, with sport and physical activity at their core**
- **Leadership gifts and vocational calling identified, nurtured and invested in.**

Sportily's theory of change centres around a belief in the transformative power of physical activity to bring holistic health, wellbeing and fullness of life to individuals of all ages and entire communities.

Sportily utilises various tools and approaches, through our seven spaces framework, to realise impact in four key areas. Sportily has developed a robust approach to monitoring and evaluating the activity of the network against these impact statements, alongside capturing and implementing learning.

Our 7 Spaces Framework

Sportily locations provide the context through which the Christian faith can be explored, fullness of life experienced and new worshipping communities can emerge, centred around sport and physical activity, within our 7 spaces framework.

CONNECT	A space to meet, hang out, play and have fun
EAT	A space to eat, share and laugh
SERVE	A space to make a positive difference in the world
EXPLORE	A space to explore faith
ENCOUNTER	A space to encounter God together
CONTRIBUTE	A space to help make decisions
GROW	A space to discover myself

The Sportily 7 Spaces Framework provides the structure we use to develop Sportily locations and the lens through which we understand the mission and ministry undertaken by those locations, which meets people contextually where they are.

The framework is not a linear faith development model, or a journey travelled by an individual who connects with a Sportily location. Delivery of a Sportily location does not begin with space 1, neither does church emerge when a location launches an expression of space 5, nor a person find faith when they have engaged with 6 of the spaces.

People are invited and welcomed into each of the 7 spaces and to find a place of belonging within the community where they can personally respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ, grow in faith as disciples and respond in worship.

That sense of belonging is self-identified by each individual and expressed in a way personal to them. A Sportily location is established with its context and involves both people and communities at every stage of its inception and existence, it is not forced upon a community, neither is its transformational mission done to that community.

Each Sportily location expresses and relationally inhabits each of the 7 spaces in contextually appropriate ways but is recognised as a Sportily location by their expression of all 7 spaces.

A Sportily location, expressing the 7 spaces is understood to be a new worshipping community. Sportily locations will be committed to partnership with other expressions of church and external agencies but will not see itself as simply a channel that directs people into existing expressions of church.

It is recognised that God is present among His people and experienced within all 7 spaces.

Each of the 7 spaces is not necessarily a physical place or an activity within a programme, rather they are the building blocks of the life of a Sportily location.

A single activity may contain elements which express the focus and values of more than one space within it. Each of the 7 spaces can be understood as both an activity and a value – A community meal would be an activity which expresses the Eat space, whilst pausing mid sporting activity for refreshment and food would express the values of hospitality that underpin the Eat space.

Sport and physical activity provide the focus of activity of a Sportily location and weave themselves into all aspects of the shared life of that worshipping community. Not everything the location does is sport, but sport is integral to the life of each Sportily location and can be present within each of the 7 spaces.

Each of the 7 spaces is a potential access point to the Sportily community and can be a space where people may find greater depth depending on their current personal circumstances, needs, discipleship and journey of faith.

Growth in faith and fullness of life is prioritised over journey towards a destination. Sportily recognises that the journey of faith is less often experienced as a linear process, and more often lived through a sense of closeness to, or distance, from a; lived in and lived out, 'living faith'.

People's journeys cross blurred boundaries between experiences and people will move, often depending on current external circumstances in their lives, towards and away from that 'living faith' in an often fluid movement, without necessarily a single active moment of decision being made.

Sport and physical activity is the foundation of Sportily's engagement with people and the primary focus of the activity of the Sportily location. Through this Sportily journeys with people, within seven spaces, wherever they find themselves at any given moment and intentionally provides experiences that draw people in, towards a living faith and life in all its fullness.

Each space is a place where peoples gifts and vocation can be discovered and nurtured. To support the growth, development and sustainability of Sportily, a leadership development programme enables the network to identify, invest in, develop and release leaders of all ages.

Space is created within the Sportily model where those belonging within the worshipping community are dispersed, it is here that everyday faith is lived out naturally and through the Sportily Rhythm of Life.

Resources, models and approaches that provide contexts to serve the 7 spaces are developed, tested, evaluated and shared continually across the Sportily network for mutual benefit.

Each Sportily location participates in a learning community alongside ongoing monitoring, evaluation. Annual review meetings enable each location to consider how strongly is it inhabiting each of the 7 spaces and identify opportunities for further development drawing on learning and experience from across the network.

This framework is not intended to be 'ecclesiology'. It both seeks to identify the DNA of Sportily and to be consistent with a vision for Christian pioneering.



References:

George Lings: Seven Sacred Spaces, Church Army, 2015

Dawson, Braddock et al.: Ecclesiology, Sportily and the Diocese of Gloucester, June 2019

Dave Male: How to pioneer, 2019.

Tina Hodgett and Paul Bradbury, Anvil article Vol 34, issue 1, 2018