Life and Leadership

With a new gaffer at the helm we have a new look team under him and a different style of managing and coaching, so it is only fitting for the first missive of the new season to reflect on leadership.

Because like it or not leadership – good or bad – is an essential and integral part of all of our lives, even though many of us hardly give it a second thought.

Leadership has been a subject I have studied closely for well over a decade now. I am intrigued at what makes a successful leader. How do some organisations flourish whilst others decline? Why is it that some people and some teams are successful whilst others flounder? You will find leadership at the heart of these issues one hundred percent of the time.

You can see why the issue of leadership is so important to football, but I want to go one step further with you dear reader, as you munch on your pasty waiting for the players to come out for the second half. We are all leaders; be it in the workplace, with friends, family or just your pet Labrador. And the most important aspect of our leadership is how we lead ourselves.

You are responsible for your life and how you respond to life’s circumstance. So what strategies do you have in place for a successful life? What development program have you adopted to help you flourish and grow as a person? How have you decided to manage your resources – time, energy and money being the most important resources under your control? Do you have a plan in life or are you just pottering on allowing circumstances to mould the direction your life takes? What about goals and outcomes?

Sounds a bit heavy when you put it in management speak like that, but the essential principles remain. And we have the resources out there to help us if we know where to look. Principally for me I use the inspiration and guidance of the most successful leader of all time, who based his life strategy on timeless principles that still remain relevant today. I’m talking of course about Jesus.

‘Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.’ Jesus Christ

As well as being Chaplain of Plymouth Argyle Arthur leads the Vineyard Church here in Plymouth, a church he says is set up for ‘those who find traditional church boring.’ He is married with three children.