In the final few minutes of a football game when Argyle are either defending a win or chasing a draw I imagine the communication traffic to the almighty must go up enormously. Have you seen the great theological film Bruce Almighty? I remember the moment when takes on God’s job and in between enhancing Jennifer Anniston’s upper torso he goes spare with all the requests heading his way from people all around the world praying.

Do you pray? I suspect most of you do, even if it’s accidentally. Some might say that is our cultural conditioning coming out, or superstition. Of course I would say that we are all connected deep down in our souls with a God who loves us. Even if in our heads we deny that connection it emerges in our hearts at times of crisis or drama (we have a crisis or a drama most mornings in our house so that must make me a very spiritual person indeed). I think Richard Dawkins probably worked very hard to believe in a complete absence of a creator being or higher power. Or maybe he just doesn’t have much drama or crisis in his life? Either way he’s a man of great faith to believe that there is no God in existence.

We have a rather muddled view of prayer sometimes. Indeed someone once accused Christians of having it both ways – when things are going well we thank God for it and when they go badly we blame the forces of evil and pray even more (I admit there’s more than a bit of truth in that).

But when you mix prayer and football it gets even more muddled. If a team’s supporters are praying for a win you can be sure that the opposition will be doing likewise. Before we know it we are lost down a theological rabbit hole.

In as much prayer is often the cry of our hearts at any particular time, then we all pray for a win; but I also fundamentally believe that deliberate and considered prayer does change things. I’ve seen it happen time and time again. And I pray regularly for Plymouth Argyle – for the club, the community, those in charge, the squad and the staff employed here. I ask God’s blessing, pray for strength, hope and encouragement; for unity, and wisdom for those in charge.

As the past Archbishop William Temple once said, ‘When I pray coincidences happen, and when I don’t, they don’t.’