

# The Watford Word

[www.watfordchurchofchrist.org](http://www.watfordchurchofchrist.org)

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## What's on

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**Sunday 27 August - 10:30AM. Barry Lamb speaking.**

**Sunday 03 Sept - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking**

**Sunday 10 Sept - 10:30AM. Sunday service**

**Sunday 17 Sept - 10:30AM. Dr Andy Boakye**

**Sunday 24 Sept - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking**

**Sunday 01 Oct - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking**

**Sunday 08 Oct - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking**

**Sunday 17 December - 10:30AM. Carol service**

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## Prayers

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- For Tanya and family in Ukraine
- For students deciding what to study and where
- For our youth as they go to camps this summer
- For safe journeys for those going on holiday
- For our local and national government to implement wise policies to benefit all our country's citizens (1 Timothy 2:1-5).
- For unity between Christians and churches

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## Men and Women in Christ

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We have finished our series on some of the key Bible passages about men and women. I don't know about you, but I have found it eye-opening, stimulating and refreshing. Even though our study has been deep and thorough, there is always more we can learn. It would not be helpful to assume we understand everything.

However, the point of doing Bible study is not for its own sake. It is meant to shape the way we relate to God, one another, and the world. Some practical outcomes are desirable. Therefore, we now begin a new phase. It is time to ask God to help us figure out what it means for us here in Watford. Should we make any changes to the way we conduct our times of worship together?

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Would it be good to alter ways we teach, preach and lead? Or not?

I request that we make this a matter of prayer for the next month, and revisit the topic after some reflection. At some point in September we will start discussing what God has revealed.

Your brother, Malcolm

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## Unity Process

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Last Sunday I made the following announcement. Here is the text in case anyone missed it.

Amidst some challenges faced by church leaderships in the UK and Ireland, an initiative is underway to foster greater unity. Our sister church in London has reached out to a group who have helped with similar issues in India - Douglas Arthur, Ed Anton, Valdur Koha, and Walter Evans.

The idea of involving other churches in the UK and Ireland led to a meeting on July 30th. Attendees included members from various leadership teams across the UK and Ireland, including our own Watford team. Now, the question is before us - should we engage in this unity process? A decision has been requested by the end of August.

As a leadership team, we're committed to prayer and engaging all of us in this church. Therefore we wanted to bring this to your attention, and ask for your input. I am sure you have questions, so please speak to me, Penny, the Makinsons or the Oliviers — our leadership team.

In response to the situation I will be sharing some lessons from Scripture on what Biblical unity is — what Jesus prayed for in John 17.

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## Unity Quotes

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Rather than an article this week I thought I would share some quotes on unity by Christians writers and thinkers. Why not take some time to meditate on these? Which ones resonate with you?

"In essential beliefs, we have unity. In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty. In all our beliefs, we show charity." - Augustine of Hippo

"The nearer we are to Jesus, the nearer we are to each other." - Andrew Murray

"We are not isolated units, but integral parts of the whole. We are sons of the same Father and servants of the same Master." - A.W. Tozer

"Unity is not an option but a command, because the essence of the Gospel is unity." - Richard Halverson

"Our world is fragmented and seeking healing. The Church can lead the way by embodying the unity found in Christ." - Timothy Keller

"Unity does not mean uniformity; it means embracing our diversity and finding strength in Christ together." - Christine Caine

"Unity begins with a shared vision of God's grace and love that transcends our differences." - John Stott

"In Christ, we find the common ground that unites us, making our differences insignificant in the light of His glory." - Max Lucado

"Christian unity is not about pretending we're all the same, but celebrating our differences in the light of our shared faith." - Ann Voskamp

"Our love for each other should outshine our theological differences, as we bear witness to the love of Christ." - Francis Chan

"The closer we draw to Christ, the closer we draw to one another." - John Piper

"Unity is the fragrance of Christ that is released when believers gather in His name." - Brennan Manning

"Christian unity is not based on what we agree on, but on whom we believe in." - Vance Havner

"Let us pursue unity in Christ as the highest expression of our faith." - Beth Moore

"In Christ, our differences are meant to enrich our understanding of Him and foster deeper relationships with each other." - Rick Warren

"Unity among Christians is a powerful testimony to the world that Christ's love transcends all barriers." - Lysa TerKeurst

"True Christian unity is a shared heart that beats with the love of Christ." - Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth

"The Church's greatest witness is the unity of its members, showing that Christ's love brings us together." - Charles Stanley

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## Christians and Climate Change

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*'An evening encounter with our creator God on Climate Change'*

Sunday 24th September,  
5.30pm, St Mary's church, 1  
Church Street, WD18 0EG.  
Guest speakers: Dr Martin  
and Rev Margot Hodson;  
Rachel Johnson



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## AIM UK&I

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The next AIM module is Homiletics — the preparation and delivery of effective lessons.  
[www.aimukandireland.com](http://www.aimukandireland.com)

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## Watford Media

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj9Qa8D9zumJZdoAtARDUww>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-raef9o>