

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 01 Oct - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking

Sunday 08 Oct - 10:30AM. Harvest Service.

Laurance Haines Food Bank Collection.

Sunday 10 Dec - 10:30AM. Andy Boakye speaking

Sunday 17 December - 10:30AM. Carol service

Prayers

- For Tanya and her family in Ukraine as well as all our brothers and sisters in the faith
- For our local, national and international governments to implement wise policies to benefit all citizens (1 Timothy 2:1-5).
- For unity between Christians and churches
- For the aid that is needed to arrive in Libya

Harvest Service – 8th October

The centrepiece of our harvest service on 8th October will be a collection of items needed for the food bank based at Laurance Haines School (where Becky works). These are the items they need:

- ✦ Long-life milk and fruit juice
- ✦ Tinned tomatoes, fruit, meat and fish, rice pudding, custard, vegetables
- ✦ Jars of honey, jam, peanut butter, chocolate spread, pasta sauce
- ✦ Instant mashed potato
- ✦ Bags of sugar (especially 500g bags)
- ✦ Little chocolate bars & sweet treats
- ✦ Packets of jelly and sponge puddings
- ✦ Nappies, sanitary products, toilet roll, shampoo, conditioner

Please make sure all donations are unopened and are within the use by date.

Christians and Climate Change

'An evening 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



Complete Unity - Between Churches

1. Unity through resolving tension

"Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question." (Acts 15:1-2 NIV11)

Time, energy and money were involved in resolving tension that could divide the churches. Take some time to study the events of Acts 15 and ask yourself how easy or hard this was for the people and churches involved. What might have happened if the divisive issues were not resolved?

"So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter. The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message. Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers. After spending some time there, they were sent off by the believers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them." (Acts 15:30-33)

2. Unity through financial support for impoverished Christians

"Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. For Macedonia and

Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them."

(Romans 15:25–27; see also 1 Cor 16.1–4; 2 Cor 8 and 9)

"Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality," (2 Corinthians 8:13–14)

In several of his letters, Paul mentions a collection that was being taken among the churches for the benefit of the believers in Jerusalem who were facing economic difficulties.

This collection was a demonstration of solidarity and practical assistance, with churches from different regions contributing to support their fellow believers in Jerusalem.

3. Unity is about them, not us

Before we think about practical ideas, let me offer a word of caution.

Loving other churches is not about making ourselves feel better. Loving other churches is for them, not us. It is not uncommon that we love other people in the way we like to be loved. While understandable, that's not real love. Christian love is about finding out what the other person (or church) needs and doing ones best to meet that need. We begin with discovering what they would find loving and then we proceed to the what, when and how of the practicals.

Conclusion

Let's remind ourselves that this is not something that seems like a good idea to us. In taking the call to unity to heart we are taking Jesus seriously. He prayed for unity,

"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:22–23 NIV11)

He taught and lived a heart-level love,

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34–35 NIV11)

Questions for prayer and reflection

- What ways can you think of that would promote unity between our church and other churches?
- What is your personal part in this?

God bless, Malcolm

Sunday Services Survey

You will find a separate piece of paper on the seats today. It is a survey asking for your input on our Sunday gatherings and future sermon themes and topics. Please answer the questions the best you can, but also add any other thoughts you have about our services, preaching and teaching.

Your Feedback Matters

No matter how long you've been a part of our congregation or whether you're visiting us for the first time, your opinion is of great value. Your input will help us continue to grow and develop as a community of faith.

Please send your feedback in by 01 October. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to reach out to me.

You can also email ideas to:
thewatfordchurch@gmail.com

Malcolm

Watford Media

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

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-1aef90>