

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Saturday 09 Dec - AIM session: See details below

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

Sunday 17 December - 10:30AM. Carol service

Sunday 24 December - 10:30AM. Service

Sunday 31 December - 10:30AM. Service

Sunday 07 January - 10:30AM. Church service

Counselling and Psychology



I am delighted to announce the next module taught by Dr Douglas Jacoby, Dr Andy Boakye and myself.

“Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives.” (Colossians 3:16 NLT-SE)

The next AIM UK and Ireland module is on the topic of counselling and psychology. The module aims to equip the body of Christ to be "competent to counsel" one another.

Christian Counselling is a much-neglected discipline. And yet everyone looks to people in the church for guidance and counsel. We must be well-equipped and prudent—especially in this day and age.

“In the New Testament the local church took over much of the caring role of the family. Here hurting or troubled individuals found support, security, practical help, love, and wise counsel. And it wasn't just the church leaders who did the helping. Everyone did it. It was a key part of the ministry of the body.” *What Could I Say?*, Peter Hicks, IVP, 9

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The AIM Counselling & Psychology Module includes a basic introduction and training in psychological, marriage, family, and personal spiritual counselling and an overview of how to build and maintain an excellent personal spiritual foundation for oneself. This module also examines current cultural trends in society and how to address them as issues within the church and when interacting with friends, neighbours, and family members in broader cultural contexts. Attention is also paid to local cultural contexts in various world cultures.

This module is for anyone who wishes to receive solid practical and theological training in basic Christian biblical counselling and an introduction to basic principles of counselling, including when and how to refer people to professional counsellors.

If you have any questions, please speak to me or email courses@aimukandireland.com

God bless, Malcolm

Details

Date: 09 December, 10 AM start (please arrive 9:30)

Location: West Watford Free church building, Tolpits Lanes, Watford, WD18 6NU

YouTube introduction to the material: <https://youtu.be/hE9sNurza38>

Registration: <https://aimukandireland.com/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=3>

Refreshments: Drinks and light lunch provided

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Love One Another

This week, further thoughts on some of the key 'one another' instructions in the New Testament.

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2 NIV11)

Gentle - may mean, 'always speaking softly to' or 'not raising one's voice.'

Patient - the word translated patient is μακροθυμία, meaning a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation. In a number of languages 'patience' is expressed idiomatically, for example, 'to remain seated in one's heart' or 'to keep one's heart from jumping' or 'to have a waiting heart.'

Bearing with - in the Greek is ἀνέχομαι meaning to endure difficulty with someone.

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:" (Philippians 2:5 NIV11)

"**among you**" is plural, i.e. "among you all". The implication is that a Christlike mindset is applied to the church as a whole and not to individuals. Perhaps Paul is asking the congregation to assess where they fall short as a church in living out the mind of Christ. He helps them to do this by reminding them of the attitude of Christ in coming to and living on this earth. Then he reminds the church of the inspiring results of Christ's attitude. Having done this he must expect and hope that the individual disciples will make decisions of mind-change that will reform the church to have this attitude.

Paul is calling the church to have a Christlike attitude appropriate to that found among those who are in union with Christ. The following verses remind the Philippians of what this is motivated by.

"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." (Colossians 3:13 NIV11)

Paul employs a special verb for forgive ('cancelled the debts' from the parable of the two debtors, Lk. 7:42) which is used elsewhere of God's gracious giving or forgiving (Rom. 8:32; 1 Cor. 2:12; Eph. 4:32). The present tense makes it clear that this forgiveness is to be unceasing, even unwearied (note Jesus' teaching, Mt. 18:22). It is a clear and decisive forgiving - dismissing the sins (Ps 103:12). We are called to forgive, like Jesus, Matt 18:22, Eph 4:32, Lk 23:34. Stephen is the preminent example of someone who forgave like Jesus, Acts 7:60.

Questions for Reflection

1. Ephesians 4:2: What is God saying to you personally from this verse?
2. Philippians 2:5: What is God saying to you personally from this verse?
3. Colossians 3:13: What is God saying to you personally from this verse?

Your brother, Malcolm

2024

If you have suggestions for events or subjects for preaching and teaching next year please pass them on to me. Malcolm

Heating

The heaters will be fixed starting 20th December.

Watford Media

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

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