

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on



Sunday 17 December - 10:30AM. Carol service
Sunday 24 December - 10:30AM. Church service
Sunday 31 December - 10:30AM. Church service
Sunday 07 January - 10:30AM. Osagie speaking
Sunday 14 January - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking

We will have mince pies and hot drinks including mulled wine at the services on the 17th and the 24th of December. Please feel free to bring and share your own seasonal favourite edibles (finger food).

Note: The services on 24 and 31 December will be one hour long. The children will be in the entire service.

A New Thing

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19 NRSV)



"A New Thing" teaching and preaching series, January, February and March 2024.

What is going on here? What is Isaiah's point? He is revealing God's plan for His people. They are in exile, but will not remain there forever. A return to the promised land is prophesied. On hearing this the people in exile felt a mixture of fear and excitement. For some, living in exile had become comfortable. To uproot and return would be difficult. For others, it was the fulfilment of decades of prayerful expectation.

This section of Scripture makes a parallel between the exodus from Egypt and the return from exile. In both situations God's people were leaving one land for another, embarking on a difficult and dangerous journey and moving out of the familiar towards the unknown. The Israelites had to trust God for provision even in the midst of being pursued and surrounded by enemies.

Perhaps you can relate to this challenge. In the Christian life we are secure in God, but always learning, growing and journeying towards something better. Moving forward is exciting, but disturbing. There is a need to let go of old things. This is not to say they weren't useful. They taught us things, and we should remember those lessons, but we do not live in the past. We are moving forward in time and maturity towards being with God for ever and growing more and more into the likeness of his son, Jesus.

As we enter a new year God surely has plans to do new things among us. What those are we may not yet know. But we can be sure they will be revealed as the year progresses. In this teaching series we will be seeking to learn from the great men and women of faith who encountered something new, were called to something new,

took on something new, and left lessons in faith for us who follow after them.

Characters covered will include Elijah and Elisha; Moses and Joshua; Abraham; Rahab; Esther; Nehemiah; Peter, and the Samaritan woman.

Youth Minister

We have more teens and preteens attending than at any time in our history. It seems that God is pointing us towards putting more of our energies and resources into that area of ministry.

Growing up as a young man or woman in these troubled times must be challenging. But spiritual strength can be a powerful help. We know Jesus was spiritually aware by the age of twelve.

“After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.”(Luke 2:46-48 NRSV)

How can we help our preteens and teens find a meaningful connection with God? Many things help, but someone on the staff of the church dedicated to our youth would be a great asset. We have not made a final decision to take this step, nor do we have anyone in mind at this point, so please pray and let the leadership team know your thoughts.

Unity Advisory Team

Some of us will be aware of the unity group asked to help with some of the unity challenges we have in the UK & Ireland churches of Christ. The Watford church opted into the unity process conversations. Let’s pray we can play our part in maintaining the unity of the Spirit.

The Unity Advisor Team (UAT) members are: Ed Anton, Joyce Arthur, Walter Evans, Valdur Koha, Chris Ogbonnaya, Rolaya Ogbonnaya.

The UAT will begin their work on January 2, 2024, and at that time they will roll out the “Discovery Phase” of their plan. This will include members of their team listening to leaders and members of various groups around the UK. In addition to these Zoom meetings taking place, they also plan to have a small delegation, including elders, from their group travel to the UK for in-person meetings in early January.

The UAT would then plan for another in-person meeting in the spring of 2024. From these meetings they plan to enter into a “Processing Phase” where they begin to piece together a path forward, consider changes, as well as work on relationships and hurts that have been caused over the years.

They hope to have their final recommendations for the various UK & Ireland leadership teams in the autumn of 2024. Since they are an advisory group, they would hope and pray that their collective recommendations would bring about a fresh start to many situations that have been hurting for too long.

Let me know if you have any questions about the UAT. 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-raef9o>