

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 28 January - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking on Rahab

Sunday 04 February - 10:30AM. Church service.

Sunday 11 February - 10:30AM. Archie Higgin speaking on the Apostle Peter

Sunday 18 February - 10:30AM.

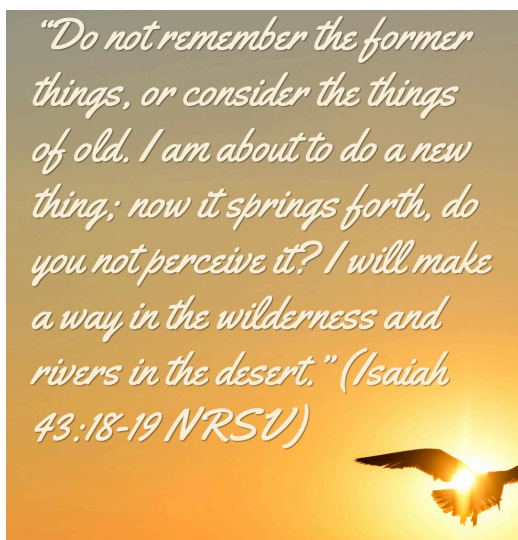
Sunday 25 February - 10:30AM.

ADVANCED NOTICE

Pentecost Sunday 19 May - 10:30AM.

International Sunday with food from around the world. Would someone like to volunteer to coordinate the food?

Abraham's New Thing



We are looking at God doing a new thing in Abraham's life. Today we explore his blessings.

"The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I

will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.'" (Genesis 12:1-3 NIV11)

The words 'bless' and 'blessing' come up repeatedly here. I doubt Abraham was in any doubt about God's desire to bless him and others through him.

What are we seeing here? A human being chosen by God to be part of his plan to heal humankind. The emphasis is blessing. The initiative is God's. The results are far beyond what any human being could manufacture, control or even dream.

The blessings pile up one upon another. Indeed, blessings are a hallmark of Genesis. 80 times they are mentioned in Genesis, while the rest of the Old Testament contains only another 310 references to blessings. Right at the beginning of his word God wants us to understand something very significant - he is for us, he is on our side, he has our best interests at heart.

Abraham's Blessings Carry a Cost

God promises him a nation, a name and an impact. But, doesn't he already have all of those?

He has a nation, he has a people and he has a household where his name is known.

Yet, God's vision is bigger. How will Abraham discover that vision? By willingly incurring a cost.

He is called to leave. To leave his country, people and extended family. Was this easy?

While we do not know how he felt, it is hard to imagine it was easy. He was stepping away from the familiar and into the unknown.

"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed

and went, even though he did not know where he was going.” (Hebrews 11:8 NIV11)

For Reflection

Abraham accepted God’s call to a new thing. It involved leaving the comfortable and familiar. Why was he able to do this? The writer to the Hebrews puts it all down to Abraham’s confidence in God. What is the state of your confidence in God? Has anything knocked it off balance? Perhaps it is worth remembering promises like this one:

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” (1 John 5:14 NIV11)

God bless, Malcolm



Daily devotional podcasts accompany the ‘A New Thing’ teaching and preaching series. You can find them in the Watford podcast feed (below) or my personal podcast — RSS feed: <https://audioboom.com/channels/4909728.rss>

Future Speakers

In addition to speakers within this congregation I am inviting people from further afield to preach for us. Already on the list are Archie Higgin,

Andy Boakye and Douglas Jacoby. Is there anyone you would like me to invite? Malcolm

AIM – Spiritual Life

The next AIM module is ‘spiritual life’. What’s this all about? The course explores the ways in which God enables us to draw closer and closer to him as our life on this earth progresses, and how to live in a way that pleases him and has an impact on the world around us.

Topics include: Personal spiritual growth; men and women of the word; personal righteousness; prayer; fasting; biblical meditation; spiritual disciplines; creative spirituality; spiritual reading; spirituality and suffering; finances; time management and more.

If this is something of interest to you, please book the date:

23 March 2024

The course will begin with a day of teaching here at our venue involving myself, Douglas Jacoby and Andy Boakye. In an attempt to make the course more affordable, we have changed our pricing structure. Anyone who would like to attend on the day, without taking the rest of the course can do so for £20.

More details on the website (<https://aimukandireland.com/>). If you’d like more information contact us on:

courses@aimukandireland.com

Watford Media

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

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