

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Sunday 10 March - 10:30AM.** Malcolm speaking. Mothering Sunday. Watford vision decision.

**Sunday 17 March - 10:30AM.** Visit from Rob Payne of HOPE worldwide (UK)

**Sunday 24 March - 10:30AM.** Paul Smith (Dublin) speaking on Palm Sunday

**Sunday 31 March - 10:30AM.** Malcolm speaking on Easter Sunday



**Pentecost Sunday 19 May - 10:30AM.**  
*International Sunday with food from around the world.*

You're invited to our...

## Women's day

Wellness & Worth

13 | 04 | 2024  
11:00 to 15:00

Tickets: £20

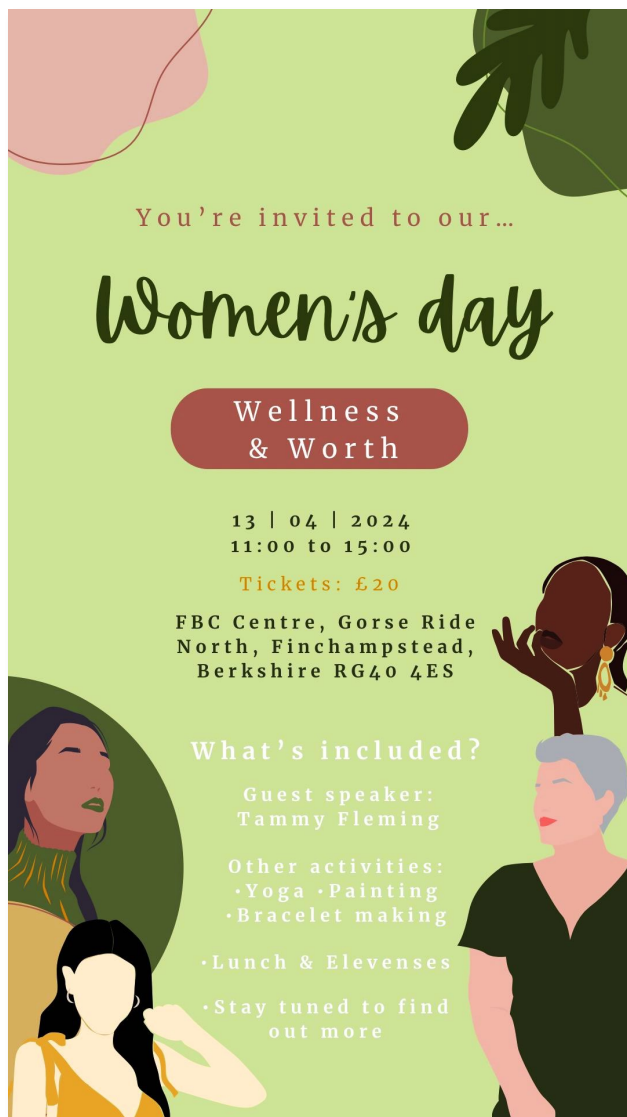
FBC Centre, Gorse Ride North, Finchampstead, Berkshire RG40 4ES

What's included?

Guest speaker:  
Tammy Fleming

Other activities:  
• Yoga • Painting  
• Bracelet making

• Lunch & Elevenses  
• Stay tuned to find out more



## A New Creation

*"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 43:19 NRSV)*

We are moving into the next phase of, "A new thing". In January and February we have reflected on biblical characters (people just like you and me) who God called to a new thing. We have learned lessons about God, ourselves and faith from Abraham, Rahab, Elijah, Daniel, Esther, Nehemiah, Peter and the Samaritan woman.

Without doubt God is doing new things in our society, in the Christian world, in our congregation and our personal lives. For example, we are seeing people added to the fellowship through moving to the area, or being baptised into Christ. Some of us are entering new phases of life like retirement, others are looking for new

jobs. Speaking for myself and Penny, we are enjoying the new adventure of being grandparents!

The church is growing, and is now the largest it has ever been. That's very exciting, but it requires new thinking about the way that we organise ourselves, what we spend our money on and what we prioritise. We are seeing more and more young people in the youth ministry. Again, that means thinking carefully about what God wants us to do with these new developments.

Congregationally, we have some decisions to make. We have prayers to offer asking God for his guidance about our charitable status, and staffing for the church. Additionally, we are asking God to reveal what he is doing as we participate in the unity process with most of our sister-congregations across the UK and Ireland.

The question is not whether God is doing new things, but whether we are observant enough to notice. And, having noticed, are we faithful enough to fit our plans around his? Will we embrace what is new, even though it is often disturbing and uncomfortable?

With this in mind that we will explore the topic of, "a new creation". This simple but profound phrase turns up twice in the New Testament:

*"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV)*

*"For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything!" Gal 6:15*

What is it expressing? A book would need to be written to fully explore this topic, but a broad overview would look like this:

1. God's big plan is to recreate what he originally created in Eden (Revelation 21:1).
2. He wants everyone to enjoy this new creation. Not all will choose it, but everyone is invited.
3. In his relationship with the Father, and his love for the people around him, Jesus showed us what it means to live in the new creation.

4. Jesus came to demonstrate God's desire for all people to be with him. That is why he spent so much time with the marginalised, the impure and the broken.
5. Jesus came to make it possible for people to participate in the new covenant and enjoy the life of the Spirit by dying on the cross.
6. God revealed his power over sin and death by raising Jesus from the dead. Now we know that neither sin nor death can prevent us from being part of the new creation.
7. The church is evidence of the presence of the kingdom, and demonstrates what it means to be part of the new creation. We are the recreated people living amongst the un-recreated inviting them into this new creation.
8. What we believe about God shapes what we show the world about him.

### **For Reflection**

- *What do you think it means to be a new creation?*
- *What questions do you have about it?*
- *What are you hoping to learn from this theme?*

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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>

