

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 12 May - 10:30AM. Archie Higgin speaking

Pentecost Sunday 19 May - 10:30AM.

International Sunday and international food

Sunday 26 May - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 02 June - 10:30AM. Visiting speaker Dr John Oakes (<https://evidenceforchristianity.org/>)

Sunday 14 July - 10:30AM. Visiting speaker Kerry Mathurin

Creation Care Update



The Lord is good to all, he has compassion on all he has made. Psalm 145:9, NIV

‘Dandelions peak in May but produce large quantities of nectar and pollen over a longer season, extending from March to October.

To date, some 25 species of butterfly, 97 of bee, and 94 of fly have been recorded visiting them in

the UK, and yet we think little of them when we cut them down with our lawnmowers or target them with herbicides.

A recent scientific paper, involving some of those involved with the Database of Pollinator Interactions, highlights the challenges in re-framing society's perceptions of these plants but also suggests some possible approaches, including better messaging by environmental organisations. If we can all learn to love these plants a bit more it will surely make a difference for the many bees, beetles, flies, wasps and other invertebrates that visit them.’

From BTO's Birdtable Issue 117 Spring 2024

Some of you may have noticed that a new flower bed has appeared alongside the building by the railings. Plants which will produce flowers for pollinators have been planted and more will be added in the next few weeks. There are also some tubs outside the front door and other plants have been added to the border alongside the nursery. These have been kindly provided by Joe Cronje.

I apologise for not inviting others to join in the work but the weather has been very unpredictable, so Malcolm and I have just gone ahead in spare moments grabbed when it's not been raining. Some of the children have also helped enthusiastically on Sunday mornings.

You may also notice that the grass has been allowed to grow alongside the building. This will enable wildflowers already in the turf to get going and help our pollinator friends.

Please let me know if you would like to help out in any way. Best wishes, Penny

Charity Update

As announced last week, we have been granted charitable status by the charities commission. Our next steps are to set up banking and write

policies. If you have any experience with policy-writing please speak to Bronwen, or any member of the leadership team.

Unity Process Update

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests... and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Ephesians 6:18

As you may know a unity process was initiated to help meet some challenges relating to unity issues - both internal to congregations and between congregations. A team offered help, and came to be called the Unity Advisory Team (UAT).

Phase 1

In the first quarter of this year members of the team met with representatives of interested churches. They operated in listening mode compiling a record of experiences, perspectives and convictions. Watford's reps have been the leadership team plus Akin, Pat, Stefan and Liezel.

Phase 2

Meetings took place in London over last weekend with some of the UAT and people from churches around the UK. Most congregations from around the country were represented - with a special commendation for the effort made by our sister-congregation in Edinburgh who had at least 4 people there.

The sessions comprised of singing, prayer, fellowship, discussion and Biblical teaching on unity. Akin, Penny & Malcolm attended the Sunday afternoon meeting. The atmosphere was one of hope and a desire to see a godly unity refreshed and healed.

Next Phase

What happens next? Firstly, more prayer. Plans are afoot to hold two country-wide prayer sessions on zoom in May. More details when

those dates are fixed. Secondly, more follow-up conversations between people affected by the unity challenges. I (Malcolm) have spent many hours this week on the phone or at in-person meetings with leaders from Scotland, Birmingham, and London. Those conversations are helping to cement the desire we all have for Christ-focussed loving unity.

At some point later in the year the UAT will present some suggestions for relational and structural unity. We will bring those suggestions to the Watford congregation for feedback.

Malcolm

Upcoming ICCM events

Dates	Retreat
Friday 26 th to Monday 29 th July	Preteen Camp
Saturday 27 th July to Friday 2 nd August	Teen Camp
6-8 September	Mature singles retreat
Fri 1 st to Sun 3 rd November (T.B.A.)	Autumn Student Retreat
Friday 22 nd to Sunday 24 th November	KK Coordinators & PTLs Retreat

Watford Contribution Details

If you want to donate to the work of the church here, please go to this link and look for the 'ICC Missions standing order and gift aid form' — <https://watfordchurchofchrist.org/podcasts>

Watford Media

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

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