

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 21 July - 10:30AM. Speaker Olyden Johnson.
Annual church meeting after the service

Sunday 28 July - 10:30AM. Speaker Malcolm Cox

Sunday 04 August - 10:30AM.

Sunday 8th Sept: A 'thank you' service

Saturday 14th Sept: AIM UK&I - "Family Life"

Sunday 15th Sept: Congregational vision workshop

Sunday 29th Sept - 10:30AM. Speaker Bruce Miller

Saturday 7th Dec: AIM UK&I - "World Views"

In God's Good Hands - Esther Lee

In 2020, my family had the opportunity to relocate from Hong Kong to Watford during the midst of COVID-19. We explored the UK in the summer of 2020, and miraculously, we were able to rent a flat near the school we wanted for our son. With great courage, we decided to relocate in the autumn.

Giving up what I had built over 20 years was never easy. I left a comfortable executive-level position at the leading hospital chain in Hong Kong, a job where my extensive network and experience allowed me to get things done with just a phone call. My husband also left his consulting job, and we both prepared ourselves to be jobless in a new country, despite Desmond having studied in the UK for his secondary and college education and me having my MBA in the United States. Our son was in one of the top schools in Hong Kong, and we wondered if we were giving up all these established comforts for an unknown journey.

During the decision-making process, I questioned if we were making the right choice. We kept praying, and things unfolded miraculously smoothly, making us feel that God

was affirming our move. Despite this, I sometimes still doubted like Gideon (Judges 6:36-40) and wanted more obvious signs/convictions from God.

One day, as I prayed, the story of Lot's wife (Genesis 19:26) came to mind. We all know that when she looked back, she became a pillar of salt. Over the years, I never understood why one glance had such severe consequences. But that day, I realised the story's meaning for me: when making up our minds, we should move forward without looking back with regret. Otherwise, we might become tearful because of the bitterness. And remember, tears are salty; if we cry too much over the past, the tears crystallise into pillars of salt! God gives us memories, and it's natural to look back nostalgically. But He urges us not to cling to the past, as bitterness can hinder our progress. God encourages us to trust Him, to make decisions with confidence, and to move forward with faith. It wasn't necessarily that God planned for us to relocate to the UK, but rather, He is a loving Father who blesses and supports us on our chosen path as long as it aligns with His will. God, like a caring parent, supports us and can use us in any way, provided we are willing instruments in His hands.

When we arrived, the country was in lockdown. I still remember there were only 14 passengers on the 747 flight! I boarded wearing a full protective gown and goggles, a strangely memorable experience! We were then confined to our new rented flat for almost three to four months. Thankfully, God had already arranged the Watford Church of Christ, an affiliated church connected to our Hong Kong congregation, which enabled us to worship online every Sunday. This creative solution introduced us to a loving

community where brothers and sisters treated us with immense kindness, despite never meeting in person. This support helped us settle into the new country and community. We will never forget the warm hugs, the hospitality and welcoming spirit from many Christian families once the lockdown lifted. I'm grateful that we can now contribute to our church as well. Nothing is random; nothing is by chance. There is always a purpose, even if we don't see it immediately. If we trust, God's plan unfolds. Perhaps this is why we settled in Watford in the first place.

We faced challenges too. I used to work in a hospital chain and had excellent medical coverage. I had numerous doctor friends who were specialists in top teaching hospitals in Hong Kong, ensuring we always received the best healthcare. In October 2021, after a year in the UK, I experienced a sudden blurry vision in one eye. Navigating an unfamiliar healthcare system was daunting, and I faced long waits and they even lost my medical records, causing further delays. After a year of struggle, I sought private help both in Hong Kong and the UK, yet the blur persisted. Despite this, I still thanked God. Although the eye problem was a setback, it became a testament to God's personal care. I received consultations and injections in Hong Kong and continued follow-up privately in the UK. A compassionate UK doctor, working both privately and publicly, transferred me to her public case. Her team's excellent care stabilised the issue after nearly two years. In moments of despair, God opened doors and guided the way, with His plan proving the best arrangement.

Over the past few years, we have received countless blessings from God. We've made great friendships at church, found fulfilling jobs with supportive colleagues, and I realised my dream by getting into my dream grad school in the UK. Our son has thrived in a wonderful secondary school with good friends. He even found a best friend at church. We have made many amazing

friends in the UK, and for all these blessings, we are deeply grateful.

As we reflect on our journey, we are filled with awe at the tapestry God has crafted in our lives. Every challenge, doubt, and unexpected blessing has been part of His perfect plan! Just as God enveloped the Israelites in pillars of clouds and fire for protection in the desert (Exodus 13:21-22), His guidance has been evident in our lives. We have learned to trust deeply in His goodness, to move forward with faith, and to embrace the future with hope. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for the love and support from our church community and the newfound friendships that have enriched our lives. This journey has strengthened our faith and reminded us that we are always in God's good hands!

Your sister, Esther

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613

Watford Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watfordchurchofchrist6708>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-raef90>

