

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

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

Sunday 06th Oct: 10:30 AM service. *Stefan speaking*

Sunday 13th Oct: 10:30 AM Harvest service.

Malcolm speaking.

Sunday 20th Oct: 10:30 AM. *Malcolm speaking*

Sunday 27th Oct: 10:30 AM. *Malcolm speaking*

Sunday 03rd Nov: 10:30 AM service. *Stefan speaking.*

Sunday 10th Nov: 10:30 AM. *Remembrance Sunday.*

Lance Owen speaking

Sunday 17th Nov: 10:30 AM. *"Safeguarding Sunday"*

Sunday 24th Nov: 10:30 AM. *Malcolm speaking*

Sunday 01st Dec: 10:30 AM. *Stefan speaking*

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

Sunday 08th Dec: 10:30 AM. *Dr Andy Boakey*

speaking

Sunday 15th Dec: 10:30 AM. *Malcolm speaking*

Sunday 22nd Dec: 10:30 AM. *Carol service*

Sunday 29th Dec: 10:30 AM. *Malcolm speaking*

Harvest Service Collection

Many thanks to Steve and Sharon Clark for heading up our harvest service collection this year. More details will follow shortly.

Guidance For Those Hosting Parts of Sunday Worship - Part 10.

"In-between bits and pieces"

Today, we conclude our series exploring why we do what we do at a Sunday gathering. Today's topic is 'bits and pieces'.

Links

Sometimes, you find yourself being the link between one part of the service and another. If so, create a bridge between those parts. Something like: "Now that we have finished our

focus on Jesus and the Lord's Supper, I'd like to invite Steve to come up and lead us in a closing prayer." That kind of thing. Worship is best experienced as a flow rather than a series of unconnected events.

Formal and Informal

There is a balance between formality and informality, which is more an art than a science. That balance will vary depending on the occasion. Too much formality makes the service stiff, while too much informality may make what we are doing seem frivolous. How do we avoid this? We keep the focus on Jesus.

Gaps

Gaps can be a problem or a help to worship. An unnecessary gap can lead to insecurity in the congregation as people look around, wondering what will happen next. That is distracting. If you are next up to say or do something, be ready. However, do not feel obliged to fill silence. I once had an atheist friend of mine come to church. We had lunch afterwards and I asked him what he thought. He asked me a question saying, "Why is your church so afraid of silence?" Our enthusiasm is good, but our insecurity around meaningful, meditative silence is not.

Hosting

You might like to go back and reread the points I made about hosting in an earlier article. The early church met in homes. Someone was the host. When you serve publicly by speaking in some capacity on a Sunday, you are not 'performing'. Instead, you are representing God as the host of our gathering. You are speaking for him to his guests. As God's surrogate host, your role is to represent him well in what you say and how you say it.

Conclusion

What have I missed in these short articles? Do you have a different view on anything I have written? If so, please let me know. These guidelines are subject to revision at any time, but the principles live on.

I am very grateful to everybody who speaks on Sunday, whether for two minutes or twenty. The experience can be intimidating for the speaker, but the opportunity to share about God and inspire other people is a tremendous privilege.

Finally, please speak to me if you feel inadequate in fulfilling any of these roles but would like to learn how to grow in confidence and competence. God bless, Malcolm

Watford 'Alpha'/Guard the Gospel

I sense God asking us to develop something similar to the Alpha course. I anticipate it containing much of what we call "Guard the Gospel" and to be held here at the church premises.

People frequently walk into our services from the locality. It seems many are seeking. How can we best help them find what they are looking for?

Lance has already volunteered to help me. Having at least one or two more people involved in the planning would be good. Please let me know if you are interested.

In the meantime, here are some potential titles for the series. Which do you prefer? If you have an idea that isn't on the list, let me know.

1. Foundations of Faith
2. Journey to Jesus
3. Discovering the Way
4. Faith Quest: Exploring Life and Purpose
5. Pathways to Purpose
6. Faith Foundations: A New Beginning

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7. Seeking Truth: A Journey with Christ
8. The Way Forward: Life, Faith, Hope
9. Life Questions: Faith, Purpose, Meaning
10. Encountering Christ: A Faith Exploration Journey

"For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us." (2 Timothy 1:11-14 NRSV)

Watford's Socials, etc.

Jess is doing marvellous work developing our social media presence, poster designs and the website. She has created a new page on the Watford church website for copies of the Watford Word. Therefore, you can find it there if you miss one or want to pass it on to somebody else. The address is: <https://watfordchurchofchrist.org/watfordword>

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-1aef90>

