

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Sunday 27 April:** 10:30 AM.  
Malcolm speaking.

**Sunday 04 May:** 10:30 AM.  
Malcolm speaking.

**Wednesday 07 May, 8 PM** - "Seed to Harvest" - outreach equipping series

**Sunday 11 May:** 10:30 AM. Stefan speaking.

**Sunday 18 May:** 10:30 AM. Church service.

**Sunday 25 May:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking..

**Monday 26th May:** Mentoring training

**Sunday 08 June:** 10:30 AM. International Service

**Sunday 06 July:** Outdoor service hosted by the Thames Valley churches of Christ

**Monday 7th July:** Mentoring training

**Sunday 20 July:** 10:30 AM. Dr Rolan Monje is our visiting speaker from the Manila ICOC.

**Monday 1st September:** Mentoring training

**3-5 October:** Young Professional's retreat



## Easter Sunday

We celebrate Easter Sunday today. It is the biggest, noisiest most joyful day in the Christian calendar. Why? Because the stakes are, well, eternal!

*"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17 NRSV)*

The reality of the bodily resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of our hope for beyond the grave:

*"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in*

*Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:20-22 NRSV)*

You can almost feel Paul's enthusiasm and joy as he writes:

*"Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:54-55 NRSV)*

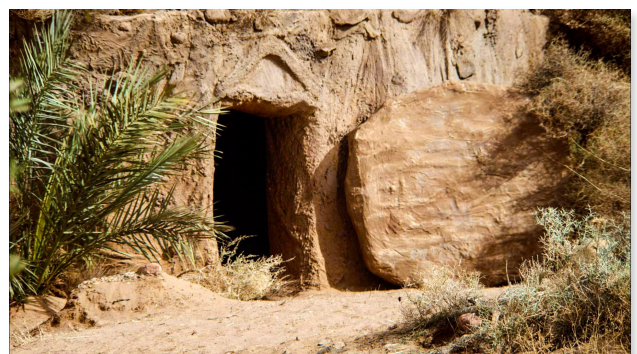
**Death is devoured,  
defeated and de-fanged**

## Evidence

Historical accounts, eyewitness testimonies, and the transformation of Jesus' followers support the resurrection of Jesus. It is the best possible explanation for what happened.

*"[The resurrection] explains why the tomb was found empty, why the disciples saw appearances of Jesus alive, and why the Christian faith came into being."* William Lane Craig (<https://www.reasonablefaith.org/William-Lane-Craig>)

It also explains why the church met on Sundays.



## Saturday moved to Sunday

Scripture and early church writings evidence that Christians worshipped on Sundays. Given the Jewish origins of the church, why this shift from Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday? Sunday was not a special day in secular society but a working one. Why meet on a work day when you could gather on your 'day off'?

And consider this. A high proportion of the early church were slaves. They could only gather to worship after all their duties were completed. Therefore, they met for worship very early in the morning or late at night. Again, why do this on a Sunday when you could meet at any time of the day on Saturday without strain? There had to be a compelling reason.

An early Christian writer, Justin Martyr ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin\\_Martyr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Justin_Martyr)), wrote to the emperor of Rome around 150AD. He provides the earliest description of a Christian service. The first day of the week, Sunday, was the Christian meeting day (the Lord's Day) because of Jesus' resurrection day. Something huge happened to cause that change.

In essence, that change was death's defeat, leading to a firm hope for this life and the next.

## Hope

The most significant aspect of the resurrection is that it grants us hope. Let's face it: If there is no resurrection, we are wasting a lot of pain.

*"Jesus, as incarnate God, dispels the darkness through suffering and death, which inaugurates new creation through resurrection. God personally acts through incarnation to overcome the darkness in the present world, but darkness will not be part of the new heaven and new earth. There will be no night there (Rev. 21:25)." Embracing Creation - John Mark Hicks, Bobby Valentine, and Mark Wilson (<https://amzn.eu/d/5sWXNhe>).*

We currently live in an existence dappled by darkness, but the light has come and is coming. We are a new creation, inhabiting an old creation

on our way to the new heaven and the new earth. In the meantime, we do some groaning. But not groaning without purpose, groaning with hope.

*"Jesus' resurrection is the sole evidence that love triumphs over death, that beauty outlives horror, that the meek will inherit the earth, that those who mourn will be comforted."* Prayer in the Night, Tish Harrison Warren (<https://amzn.eu/d/jbeMLrK>).

I hope you find these thoughts encouraging. Happy Easter. He is risen! He is risen indeed!

God bless, Malcolm

P.S. You might like some of these resources:

- "The Resurrection and Dying and Rising Gods" article ([https://open.substack.com/pub/worldviewbulletin/p/the-resurrection-and-dying-and-rising?r=59c4zi&utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web&showWelcomeOnShare=false](https://open.substack.com/pub/worldviewbulletin/p/the-resurrection-and-dying-and-rising?r=59c4zi&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&showWelcomeOnShare=false)) by Timothy Paul Jones taken from the book "Did the resurrection really happen?" (<https://amzn.eu/d/ru9roco>).
- "Problems for Hallucination Theories of the Resurrection" article ([https://open.substack.com/pub/worldviewbulletin/p/problems-for-hallucination-theories?utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web](https://open.substack.com/pub/worldviewbulletin/p/problems-for-hallucination-theories?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web)) by Gary Habermas excerpted from "On the Resurrection, Volume 2: Refutations" (<https://amzn.eu/d/cgo1dfu>).

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## Watford Contribution Details

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The Three Counties Churches of Christ