

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Saturday 03 May: Men's breakfast, Cedar cafe, Cassiobury Park, 8:00 AM.

Sunday 04 May: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking together with Douglas and Vicki Jacoby.

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 Professionals' retreat

Dorset Church Service & Beach Party



The Burning Heart

It is the Sunday after Easter. Is your heart still burning? No, not chocolate egg overload heartburn, but the Emmaus road 'heartburn'. Do you remember what happened to those two Emmaus road followers of Christ after the resurrection? They were confused and disheartened. Things had not turned out as they expected.

"But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel." (Luke 24:21 NRSV)

Sometimes, we can miss the point, just like Cleopas and his companion. Jesus *did* come to redeem Israel, just not in the way they thought. He came to constitute a new Israel, with a new covenant. This time, God's law would be on the heart, not stone tablets. These two disciples needed more teaching. In his grace and mercy, Jesus provided that. As a result, they find an inner compulsion to retrace their steps and tell others of their encounter with the risen Jesus.



"Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24:35 NRSV)

We could take several lessons from this remarkable encounter. However, what sticks with me is how they talk to each other after Jesus has made himself known and then moved on, leaving them to reflect on the experience.

"They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'" Luke 24:32 NRSV

Why were their hearts burning? Was it guilt, fear or regret? I think not. And why were their hearts *not* burning before they met Jesus? What was missing? What was the difference? Shouldn't they have already been 'fired up'?

Think about it. They *knew* the tomb was empty. They *knew* some women had met angels who told them Jesus was alive. They *knew* the evidence, and as far as we know, they did not question it. Still, dullness of heart was their settled state - until Jesus showed up.

I believe their hearts burned because Jesus connected their knowledge *about* the resurrection with *himself*. He walked with them. He taught them from the Scriptures. He ate with them. A life punctuated with knowledge *about* Jesus suddenly became a life walking *with* Jesus. No wonder they were changed!

Do not allow the Easter passion to pale as the chocolate fog fades. Our Lord lives! And because he lives, we have hope. Hope for what? There's your prayer focus for the week ahead: "Thank you, Father, that Jesus lives. Keep my heart burning, and because he lives, I....."

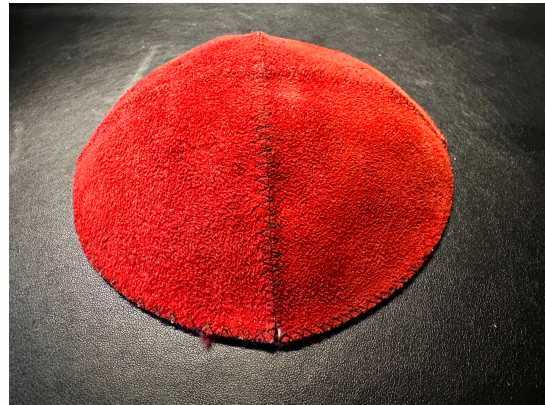
God bless, Malcolm

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives*

Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither
CCLI Song #16880. © 1971 Hanna Street Music

Charity number : 1207942

Quiz



What do you think this is? What is it called? What is it for? Answers in next week's Watford Word.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account:

Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number:

04759613



Watford Media

You might like to know that in the last month, the Watford YouTube channel had 147 views and a total of 12.4 hours watched. The most viewed sermon was Bruce Miller's recent lesson.

The podcast feed had 178 'listens' and 222 downloads. Saturday is the most popular day for people to listen to an episode. Our oldest episode is "A Tale of Two Sons" - Luke 15.11-32, from 22 May 2017 (116 downloads).

