

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 22 June: 10:30 AM.

Malcolm speaking

Sunday 29 June: 10:30 AM.

Bruce Miller speaking

Sunday 06 July: 10:30 AM.

Malcolm speaking

Monday 7th July: Mentoring training

Sunday 13 July: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

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

Sunday 27 July: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 03 August: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 10 August: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 17 August: 10:30 AM. Osagie speaking

Sunday 24 August: 10:30 AM. Church service

Sunday 31 August: 10:30 AM. Church service

Monday 1st September: Mentoring training

3-5 October: Young Professionals' retreat



Our Father

One of the most revolutionary things Jesus did while on this earth was to reshape our view of God as Father. It's not that God as Father was unknown to the Israelites. For example,

"Is this the way you repay the Lord, you foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?" Deuteronomy 32:6

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Is 64:8

However, the Father-language in the Old Testament is corporate (Israel as a nation), not commonly personal. The term "Father" often reflects God's covenant with Israel.

Jesus and 'Abba'

Jesus taught his followers to pray to, "Our Father in heaven," (Matthew 6:9). He called God "Abba, Father," (Mark 14:36)—something picked up and developed by Paul (Romans 8.15; Colossians 4.6).

The Old Testament understanding lays the theological groundwork for the New Testament's more intimate, personal use of "Father," especially by Jesus. Jesus, as with most things, takes an Old Testament perspective, deepens it, and makes it more personal.

Father 'in' us

Is this the most remarkable thing Jesus said about God as Father?

"Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'" (John 14:23)

This Father's Day, why not take some time to meditate quietly on this verse. Turn it over in your mind. Speak about it to God. Ask him to settle in your own heart what it means that the father has made his home with you.

Beautiful Benevolence

In light of a recent request for financial help, I thought it would be helpful to review biblical teaching and our current church practice in the area of benevolence. Our congregation has a healthy record of helping one another, as well as people outside the local congregation, including local Ukrainian and Afghan refugees.

God cares

Caring for those in need has always been central to the life of God's people. In the Old Testament, God instructed Israel to show compassion not

only to fellow Israelites but also to foreigners, widows, and the poor (Deuteronomy 15:7–11; Leviticus 19:9–10). This heart of mercy continues into the New Testament, most clearly seen in the life of Jesus, who fed the hungry, healed the sick, and showed kindness to the outcast, including people outside Israel.



The early church

The early church followed His example. In Acts 2:44–45, believers “had everything in common” and gave “to anyone who had need.” Paul instructed churches to prepare collections for those in financial hardship (1 Corinthians 16:1–3). He encouraged the Galatians to “do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).

Our local practice

In our fellowship, we seek to reflect that same attitude through our spirit of concern for the needy personally, and through our congregational benevolence ministry. We have a benevolence fund to provide financial support for those facing difficult circumstances—whether due to illness, job loss, housing challenges, or other urgent needs. This help is available to members and non-members alike and is offered confidentially, with compassion and prayerful discernment.

Asking for help

If you or someone you know is in need and you would like to request funds from the benevolence account, please speak with a member of the leadership team. You can apply on your own behalf or refer someone else. We understand that it can be hard to ask for help—it often takes courage—but please know that doing so is not a burden to the church, but an opportunity for the body of Christ to fulfil its calling to “carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2) and express the heart of Jesus.

Formal and informal

It’s also important to say that benevolence is not only a formal process. Often, God prompts individuals in our community to give directly—through meals, gifts, hospitality, or financial help. These informal acts of kindness are just as valid and just as sacred. Both forms reflect the generous heart of God.

As 1 John 3:17–18 says, “Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” Whether through the church or individually, let’s continue to be people who live out the compassion of Christ in real, practical ways.

Your brother, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613

Watford Media

