

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

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



The giving and receiving of gifts seems to be as old as human civilisation itself. Perhaps that is because it reflects the heart of God. We were made in his image, remember? We are divinely designed to give and receive gifts as a lifestyle. Gifts are not just for Christmas. What does this have to do with our Christian community life?

God gave you and every member here a gift to share with the church.

That means we are a gifted community enjoying experiencing the gifts other people bring, and sharing our gift(s) with everyone else.

One of the most wonderful truths of the New Testament is this: every member of Christ's body has been given *at least* one gift. Not just elders, not just teachers or evangelists, but everyone. And these gifts are not rewards for good behaviour or marks of spiritual superiority. They are grace—undeserved, freely given, generously poured out by God for the good of the whole church.

Paul writes in Romans 12:6,

"We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us."

Read the verse in context. It's not a duty list, but a joyful description of a life shaped by God's mercy. Just as a body needs all its parts working together to be healthy, so the church flourishes when each member uses what God has given them (1 Corinthians 12). As Peter says,

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

Using our gifts is not about earning or obligation. It's about responding to grace with gratitude.

Gifts Galore!

In 1971 we travelled to stay with my grandparents for Christmas. All the presents were put under the tree. I searched for the ones with my name on. I found the present from my parents. I was instantly discouraged. The box was *so* small. At that point in my life, the assumption was, the bigger the box, the better the present. This one was the smallest present under the tree. I prepared myself for disappointment.

However, come Christmas morning, I opened the box and it far exceeded my expectations. Inside was a wristwatch. That might not seem important, but for 10-year-old Malcolm it was the world. Not all of my friends at school had watches. I was going to be one of the *cool* kids!

When we do this, something beautiful happens—we find joy and spiritual fulfilment. Have you noticed how satisfying it is to serve in a way that matches how God made you? Whether it's encouraging someone with a kind word, offering hospitality, teaching a class, helping behind the scenes, or simply praying faithfully for others—when you do it from the heart, you're not just "getting something done"; you're experiencing the life God designed for you.

This way of living also blesses the church. As Paul puts it in Ephesians 4:16, the body of Christ

"grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

When we offer our gifts, we honour God, we bless our church family, and we reflect the love of Christ to the world.

Jesus is our inspiration

Most of all, using our gifts is a way of imitating Jesus. He didn't hold back or wait to be asked. He came to serve, not to be served (*Mark 10:45*). His entire life was an outpouring of divine giftedness—for teaching, healing, encouraging, forgiving, and ultimately laying down his life. When we serve, we follow in the footsteps of the one who gave himself completely for us.

So perhaps the question is not "What do I *have* to do?" but "What has God *given* me, and how can I *enjoy* using it to bless others?" In this church, we are a family full of diverse gifts. And when we all bring our unique contributions with a joyful spirit, we become a clearer, richer picture of Jesus himself.

Let's embrace this gift-giving and gift-sharing life. Not because we must, but because we may. Not out of pressure, but out of praise. The grace of God has been given to us—and when we use it, we find joy, bring blessing, and honour the Giver.

Your brother, Malcolm

Sponsored Walk for HOPE UK

Witness Alejandro's inspiring journey out of homelessness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2gQXpj8oro>



Speak to Leon for more details about the walk.

Children's Safety

"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him." (Psalm 127:3)

God has blessed us with more children attending our services. It is wonderful to see this, and it adds two areas of complexity to our Sundays.

First, it can be harder to ensure our children are safe. Therefore, it is important that parents take responsibility for their children at all times outside of the classes.

Second, we have started a sign-in procedure for the children's classes for all children of preteen age and below. Please take your children to their class and sign them in.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number:
04759613

Watford Media

