

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Sunday 28 September:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking.

**Friday/Saturday 3-4**

**October:** Christian Wellbeing Conference. <https://iccmisions.churchsuite.com/events/nmqssyjm>

**Sunday 05 October:** 10:30 AM. Harvest Sunday. Malcolm speaking.

**Sunday 12 October:** 10:30 AM. Bruce speaking.

**Sunday 19 October:** 10:30 AM. Announcing our annual gift for HOPE worldwide. Malcolm speaking.

**Saturday 25 October:** Helping Hands Club Day. <https://forms.office.com/e/d185By8NNv>

**Sunday 26 October:** 10:30 AM. John Slater speaking (from the North London ICOC).

**Sunday 02 November:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking. Start of new sermon "Heart of a Child" series.

**Sunday 09 November:** 10:30 AM. "Heart of a Child" series - part 2. Remembrance Sunday.

**Sunday 16 November:** 10:30 AM. Safeguarding Sunday. "Heart of a Child" series - part 3. Danny speaking.

**Sunday 23 November:** 10:30 AM. "Heart of a Child" series - part 4.

**Sunday 30 November:** 10:30 AM.. "Heart of a Child" series - part 5. Stefan speaking.

**Sunday 21 December:** 10:30 AM. Carol service



**September:** Prayer

**October:** Teaching and discussion (and more prayer).

**November:** Our prayer is that God's will is clear and we have our refreshed leadership team in place.

Regarding the teaching element, I will host two meetings on Zoom, on Wednesdays 1st and 15th of October. The first class will focus on leadership according to Jesus, and the second will examine what the New Testament church can teach us about leadership. The sessions will be one hour long with 20 minutes of teaching followed by conversation and prayer.

[https://zoom.us/j/94896941293?](https://zoom.us/j/94896941293?pwd=dLrXmChcHcuU6mwm8qLtYzyEeSQb7i.1)

[pwd=dLrXmChcHcuU6mwm8qLtYzyEeSQb7i.1](https://zoom.us/j/94896941293?pwd=dLrXmChcHcuU6mwm8qLtYzyEeSQb7i.1)

Meeting ID: 948 9694 1293

Passcode: 200488

In the meantime, here are a couple of Scriptures to mull over. Firstly, from Jesus:

*"A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." (Luke 22:24-27)*

Secondly, from the apostle Paul:

*"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness." (Romans 12:6-8 NRSV)*

## Leadership Discussions

As announced last Sunday, it is time for a leadership refresh in the Watford church. If you did not hear the announcement or have any questions, please speak to me or anybody on the leadership team.

The plan is as follows:

Charity number : 1207942

The Three Counties Churches of Christ

I'm looking forward to exploring this topic as a congregation. Let's pray that God brings us to the right conclusions here in Watford.

## "Heart of a Child" Series

You may remember that I recently taught a three-part series based on Matthew 18. The chapter begins with this passage:

*"At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'" Matthew 18.1-5*

In other words, followers of Jesus need to *develop* a childlike heart. Part of what is happening when we become a Christian is that we "become humble" like a child, deciding to trust Jesus. Then, following that, perhaps the most fundamental struggle in the Christian life is to *continue* becoming humble like a child.

So how do we do that? Well, we must first define what it looks like to have a childlike heart. In this regard, I found something I heard Sean St Jean said to be very helpful (you may remember he preached for us last year. I can thoroughly recommend his book on *spiritual trauma* - <https://amzn.eu/d/gcWF5wD>).

Earlier this year, I heard him speak on what it meant to have a childlike heart. He listed these six characteristics of a childlike heart:

- Humility
- Awe and wonder
- Not-knowing stance
- Playfulness
- Timelessness
- Utter reliance on God

What do you think of this list? Several others and I will be speaking on these topics throughout November. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or questions about these points, please share them with me, and I will ensure all speakers have the opportunity to consider them.

I know we often don't have as much time as we'd like to talk about the topics on a Sunday.

Therefore, just for November, I am offering a weekly one-hour bonus conversation on Zoom for anybody who would like to reflect more on the lessons and pray together. I will host these from 8-9 pm on Thursdays: November 06, 13, 20, 27 and December 04.

[https://zoom.us/j/97808472409?](https://zoom.us/j/97808472409?pwd=Fd8Znkbc6gmpabDUcgmisRL4wD2jqf.1)

[pwd=Fd8Znkbc6gmpabDUcgmisRL4wD2jqf.1](https://zoom.us/j/97808472409?pwd=Fd8Znkbc6gmpabDUcgmisRL4wD2jqf.1)

Meeting agenda: <https://docs.zoom.us/agenda/doc/fb5dfbcb-5e97-4428-ab30-402136e7dc77>

Meeting ID: 978 0847 2409

Passcode: 251402

Finally, Pranaav and Jess have come up with some creative ideas to accompany the series. We will include some of them as we get nearer the launch in November. In the meantime, please be praying that God shows us all how to develop the heart of a child more fully.

God bless, Malcolm

## Watford Contribution Details

**Church bank account:** Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

**Sort Code:** 401915

**Account Number:** 04759613

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