

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Wednesday 01 October: 8-9 PM** - "Leadership According to Jesus"

**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.

**Wednesday 15 October: 8-9 PM** - "Leadership in the New Testament church"

**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.

**Thursday 06 November: 8-9 PM** - "Heart of a Child - Humility" follow-up discussion and prayer

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

**Thursday 13 November: 8-9 PM** - "Heart of a Child - Awe & Wonder" follow-up discussion and prayer

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

**Thursday 20 November: 8-9 PM** - "Heart of a Child - Not-Knowing Stance" follow-up discussion and prayer

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

**Thursday 27 November: 8-9 PM** - "Heart of a Child - Playfulness" follow-up discussion and prayer

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

**Thursday 04 December: 8-9 PM** - "Heart of a Child - Timelessness" follow-up discussion and prayer

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

## Napoleon on Leadership

What does Napoleon have to do with spiritual leadership? Bear with me.

Napoleon said that leadership is to define reality and then give hope. He was someone who understood the harsh realities of war - fatigue, defeat and death. His men respected him because they trusted that he addressed their realities *and* had a compelling vision.

Jesus was someone who lived in the *real* world, yet gave hope. He never shied away from reality, no matter how dark it was, but also held on to hope and offered it to others. Let's have a brief look at two aspects of leading with reality. Next time, we will explore the issue of hope.

### Reality 1: Human Leadership

Jesus understood the limits of human leadership—that's why He chose to lead in human flesh. He modelled a way of leading that others could follow. He grew tired and hungry (John 4). He felt frustration, though without sin:

*"O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me."* (Mark 9:19)

He grieved under the weight of sin, sickness, and death:

*"He groaned in the spirit and was troubled... Jesus wept."* (John 11:33-35)

When leaders like Peter, Paul, and Timothy needed guidance, they could draw from their knowledge of Jesus' very human leadership. His humanity made Him not just divine, but relatable.

We might lament that our leaders are “too human.” We want them flawless—sinless yet still approachable. When they inevitably fail, the temptation is to say, “Forget human leadership, let’s have Jesus Himself lead us.” But we forget: the only leadership Jesus has given His church is human leadership. Spirit-filled, guided by Scripture, but still fallible.

If Jesus chose to entrust His church to imperfect people, then weakness and limitation are not defects in leadership to escape, but realities to accept.

### Reality 2: Patient leadership

One defining quality of leadership that deals in reality, rather than fantasy, is that it is patient.

Wasn't Jesus amazingly patient in the way that he led? Why did Jesus spend *three years* training his followers? One reason was that it took a long time for the heart of Jesus to penetrate the sometimes thick skulls and hearts of his disciples.

Patience in leadership is a key quality. While it is true that leaders need to be urgent in times of danger or crisis, or when capitalising on an open door, it is also true that haste is not a positive spiritual quality.

A patient leader (and that is the only healthy kind of leader there is) is somebody who deals with reality and doesn't rush to escape it. That kind of leader can come alongside, sympathise and empathise with anyone who needs it. In that way, they are then able to offer hope. Not a shallow hope, but one born out of and through times of suffering, difficulty, and lament.

What kind of leadership does the Watford church need? Human leadership, characterised by patience. Next time, we will explore how Christlike leaders offer a healthy hope.

God bless, Malcolm

## Leadership Refresh

Just a quick reminder about our plans to seek God's will in refreshing our leadership team.

**September:** Prayer for wisdom & discernment.

**October:** Teaching, discussion and more prayer.

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

Zoom sessions: <https://zoom.us/j/94896941293?pwd=dLrXmChcHcuU6mwm8qLtYzyEeSQb7i.1>

Meeting ID: 948 9694 1293

Passcode: 200488

## "Heart of a Child" Series



Our upcoming series in November is based on the topic "Heart of a Child". The following topics will be covered: Humility; Awe and wonder;

Not-knowing stance; Playfulness; Timelessness; Utter reliance on God. Here is the information for the additional Zoom sessions (dates opposite):

[https://zoom.us/j/97808472409?](https://zoom.us/j/97808472409?pwd=Fd8Znkbc6gmpahDUcgmisRL4wD2jqf.1)

[pwd=Fd8Znkbc6gmpahDUcgmisRL4wD2jqf.1](https://zoom.us/j/97808472409?pwd=Fd8Znkbc6gmpahDUcgmisRL4wD2jqf.1)

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

Meeting ID: 978 0847 2409

Passcode: 251402

## Watford Contribution Details

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

**Sort Code:** 401915

**Account Number:** 04759613

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