

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 12 October: 10:30 AM. Bruce speaking. Harvest Collection.

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 the new sermon series, "Heart of a Child".

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 Nov: 10:30 AM. "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 Nov: 10:30 AM. "Heart of a Child" Part 4. 'Safeguarding Sunday'

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

Harvest Sunday - 12 October

From Becky... As mentioned previously, our Harvest Service will be on Sunday, 12th October. We will be collecting for the Laurance Haines

School's food bank. Here is a list of items that would be appreciated...

- Tea, Coffee, Toothpaste, Shower gel. Nappies (any size), Deodorant, Cereal, Cans of beans/soup/tomatoes, Pasta, Rice, Toilet roll, Biscuits

Or any other dry goods you think of!

"He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work. He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate, bringing forth food from the earth: wine that gladdens human hearts, oil to make their faces shine, and bread that sustains their hearts." Ps 104:10-15

Leadership Refresh

The recording of the first session (Leadership according to Jesus) is online here: <https://watford.podbean.com/e/leadership-according-to-jesus-malcolm-cox-01-october-2025/>, <https://youtu.be/qiAoH7MDmKA>.

Class 2: Leadership in the NT, 15 Oct

[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

Leadership or Servanthood? (Part 1)

Rethinking Greatness in the Church

Introduction

We might think we know what "leadership" is. After all, we experience it all around us at work, in the home, sports, politics and church. However, do we really know what God thinks about leadership? How many assumptions remained unexamined? How does the Bible actually speak about leadership?



To help us with this question, I am drawing from Hwa Yung's book, Leadership or Servanthood?

Message

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:26–28)

Leadership is often equated with influence and achievement. The church has not been immune. Many church ministers are expected to act as CEOs, measuring ministry in terms of growth charts. But as Hwa points out, "the fundamental nature of the ministry and leadership to which they are called is defined by servanthood, and not by position, status, and power."

Core idea: Christian leadership is a combination of leadership gifts (Rom 12.8) and a servant heart.

How are people with leadership gifts prepared? Have you noticed that the Bible never commands us to train 'leaders'? Doesn't that seem odd? Why might that be? Yung observes, "It is clear that the primary emphasis in the New Testament is on the training and development of faithful and godly disciples. Nothing is mentioned about leadership development." Perhaps the reason leaders are not 'trained' specifically to be 'leaders' is that it may awaken the selfish-ambition monster that lurks inside all of us. Instead, if we focus on developing *all* disciples in faithfulness, the leadership gifts carried by some will be used healthily.

Jesus (the most gifted and talented leader of all time) embodied the servant-first spirit. Though "in very nature God" (Phil. 2:6), he "made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant" (Phil. 2:7). His effectiveness came not from talent but from obedience to the Father (John 5.19). In a highly relatable way, the disciples struggled to grasp this. Luke 22:24 records that "a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest." But they changed.

After the Cross-Resurrection-Pentecost events, Peter introduced himself not as "chief apostle" but simply, "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 1:1). He urged church leaders to serve "not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock" (1 Pet. 5:3).

Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant" (Matt. 23:11). People with the gift of leadership are no 'greater' than other disciples, but can be 'greatly' used by God if their ambition is to be the 'greatest' servant-disciple possible.

Reflection Questions

1. When you think of a "great" Christian, what picture comes to mind, and why?
2. How does Jesus' example in Phil 2 challenge and inspire your own view of leadership?
3. In what ways can you practice servanthood in your life this week?

Closing Thought

Leadership in Christ's church is never about status, but always about service. Let's encourage one another to grow first as disciples—men and women shaped by humility, obedience, and love.

"Heart of a Child" Series

Zoom sessions information (dates above):

[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

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613

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