

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 23 Nov: 10:30 AM. "Heart of a Child" Part 4, "Playfulness". Bruce speaking. 'Safeguarding Sunday'



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

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/97808472409?pwd=Fd8Znkbc6gmpahDUcgmisRL4wD2jqf.1>

Meeting ID: 978 0847 2409. Passcode: 251402

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

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

Sunday 07 December: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking.

Sunday 14 December: 10:30 AM. Church service

Sunday 21 December: 10:30 AM. Carol service & collection for HOPE worldwide Afghanistan

Sunday 28 December: 10:30 AM. Church service

Sunday 04 January: 10:30 AM. Church service

Please take some time to pray and ask the Lord for wisdom and discernment about his priorities for us here in Watford. Bear in mind:

The human mind plans the way, but the LORD directs the steps. (Proverbs 16:9 NRSV)

It's important to make plans, but also to hold them lightly. As James puts it:

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money." Yet you do not even know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

What do you think the church needs next year? How can we be in step with what the Spirit is doing in our congregation and around us?

Malcolm

Give me oil in my lamp!

Our third song this Sunday is the chorus, "Give me oil in my lamp". Sometimes the simplest songs, like this one, may be underestimated in their spiritual significance. With that in mind, let me share some thoughts. You could use these for personal devotions this week.

Have you ever run out of oil? Back in the 90s, I had a car with a leaky engine cylinder. It used a whole container of oil on the drive to Birmingham and back. The amount of smoke behind me would, these days, get me pulled over. I liked to think of it as the pillar of cloud leading others to the promised land! However, the oil in this song bears a different message.

Plans for 2026

Planning together with the Holy Spirit

We are planning our congregational focus and events for 2026. We wish to listen and cooperate with the Holy Spirit like the Antioch church:

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, after fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (Acts 13:2-3 NRSV)

1. "Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning"

The wise virgins kept their lamps burning with oil, being ready for the bridegroom.

Luke 12:35 – "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning." (also Matthew 25:1-4)

Question: What helps you to be spiritually prepared, keeping your faith alive and active?

2. "Give me oil in my lamp, I pray"

Ephesians 5:18 – "Be filled with the Spirit." Romans 13:11 – "The hour has come for you to wake from sleep."

Question: How does prayer help you to keep your spiritual fervour (Rom. 12.11)?

3. "Keep me burning till the break of day"

Galatians 6:9 – "Let us not become weary in doing good... we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." 2 Timothy 4:7 – "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Question: What keeps you going when you are tired?

4. "Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of Kings"

Psalms 95:1-2 – "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation." Revelation 5:13 – "Every creature in heaven, on earth, and under the earth sings praise to Christ."

Question: What part does worship play in fuelling your spiritual lamp?

5. "Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing"

Philippians 4:4 – "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Psalm 28:7 – "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy..."

Question: What helps refresh your gratitude and revitalise your joy when it wanes?

6. "Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting"

John 14:27 – "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." Philippians 4:6-7 – "Do not be anxious... and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Question: What channels do you access to help you experience the peace of Christ?

Filling up

Why not take some time this week to explore how to be filled and refilled with a spirit of perseverance, joy and peace? In that way, we will worship well and experience the rest that Christ offers.

Leadership Refresh

Thank you to everybody who has volunteered or nominated others to serve on our refreshed leadership team. If you have not yet contributed to the conversation, please do so as soon as possible, as we aim to finalise our new team before Christmas.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC
Sort Code: 401915
Account Number: 04759613



Watford Media

