

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Today** - Carol service & collection for HOPE worldwide Afghanistan. The Shepherds: God's Generosity to the Overlooked. Luke 2:8-20.



**Sunday** 28 December: 10:30 AM. Lesson: Simeon & Anna - God's Generosity to the Faithful. Lesson Text: Luke 2:25-38. Danny speaking.

**Friday** 2nd January: 7:30 PM. Spiritual practices group - "The Examen". On Zoom. Contact Penny for more information.

**Sunday** 04 January: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking. Abraham - living by faith.

**Sunday** 11 January: 10:30 AM. 10th anniversary service

**Sunday** 08 February: Annual church meeting

God places honour where the world does not. "The LORD is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1), and the pattern continues: God values those others overlook.

## A personal message

The angel's message is personal: "I bring you good news... today a Saviour has been born to you" (Luke 2:10-11). Not to Rome. Not to the powerful. To them. A saviour, Messiah, and Lord has come, and the first to hear are ordinary workers who might assume God has better people to talk to.

They are terrified at the sight of God's glory, but fear gives way to joy as the angel speaks. The sign is not splendour but a manger—humility from the very beginning (Luke 2:12). Jesus comes close, and he is found by those humble enough to look.

## Rapid response

The shepherds respond at once. They go, they see, and they tell others. They become the first witnesses to Jesus and the first to share the message. Their brief visit is enough to convince them that God has kept his promise. As another Scripture puts it, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (1 Peter 5:5).

Luke wants us to see this pattern. God speaks, and overlooked people receive the news with open hearts. They leave rejoicing because the arrival of Jesus is not distant or abstract. It is for them. And it is for us too.

Your brother, Malcolm

*(If you have something to share in the Watford Word, please contact me)*

## The Shepherds

Luke gives only a few lines to the birth of Jesus, but he lingers over the shepherds in the night (Luke 2:8-20). That contrast matters. It shows how God chose to announce the news and to whom. It tells us something significant about God, about Jesus, and his mission here on earth.

### Respecting the disrespected

Shepherds were not respected. They were seen as unreliable and were often kept from temple life because their work never stopped. In Scripture, this isn't new: "all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians" (Genesis 46:34). They were the kind of people polite society ignored.

*Yet they are the first to hear heaven speak.*

## January Series

### What does God want for us in 2026?

As we approach a new year, we do well to ask: What does God want for us in 2026? In January, we will explore the answer. We begin with Abraham and the call to live by faith, trusting God with the future. On the 11th, we mark our tenth anniversary with an 'Ebenezer' moment, looking back so we can look forward. Then we learn from David what it means to live in hope. We finish with Jesus and the call to love people and bring God's peace to a hurting world.

4th: Abraham -- I want to live by faith

11th: Ebenezer devotional - 1 Samuel 7.12, Hebrews 13.8. What does God want for us as a church in the future? *10th Anniversary service.*

18th: David -- I want to live in hope

25th: Jesus -- I want to love people

## Watford Contribution Details

### Church bank account:

Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

**Sort Code:** 401915

**Account Number:**

04759613



## Watford Media



Charity number : 1207942

## Today's Order of Service



**Song:** *O Come all ye faithful*

**Song:** *Joy to the World*

### Prayer

**Readings:** Twas the Night of Jesus' Birth - Part 1

**Performed Song:** "By candlelight"

**Song:** *The Virgin Mary had a baby boy*

**Reading:** Twas the Night of Jesus' Birth - Part 2

**Song:** *Away in a manger*

**Song:** *Hark the Herald*

**Lord's Supper:** The Shepherds: God's Generosity to the Overlooked - Luke 2.8-20.

**Song:** *Silent Night*

**Reading:** Excerpts from "The Three Kings" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**Performed Song:** "Coventry carol"

**Charity collection:** Presentation on the work of HOPE Worldwide in Afghanistan

### Prayer

**Song:** *Jingle Bells*

**Song:** *God rest ye merry gentlemen*

Refreshments will be served after the service.

If you would like to know more about our community or gatherings, please speak to a member of the congregation. You will also find more information on the website, as well as materials on the YouTube channel and Podcast feed, accessible via the QR code on this page.

The Three Counties Churches of Christ