

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 25 January: 10:30 AM.
Malcolm speaking. Jesus - living a life of love.

Saturday 31st Jan 8:30 am - Women's breakfast

Sunday 01 February: 10:30 AM. Church service.
Stefan speaking.

Friday 6th February, 7:30 pm – next Spiritual Practices group. See Penny or Maggie for details.

Sunday 08 February: Church service. Malcolm speaking on Philippians 2.12-18. Our annual church meeting follows the service.

Sunday 15 February: Church service. The lesson will come from our Hong Kong brethren.

Sunday 22 February: Church service. Malcolm speaking on Philippians 2.19-30.

Events further ahead

Saturday, 14th March: UK children's ministry training day: London and South

Friday 03rd to 06th April: European International Campus Ministry Conference, Paris, France

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th May: UK & Ireland mature singles retreat – "Trust In The Lord"

Friday 24th to 27th July: ICCM Preteen Camp

Saturday 25th to Friday 31st July: ICCM Teen Camp

Friday 11th - 13 September: UK & Ireland Young Professionals Retreat in Chesham.

Sept 30th - Oct 04th: Celtic Spirituality Retreat – Ireland.

Friday 30th October to Sunday 01st November: Autumn Student Retreat for the UK & Ireland.

Thursday 12-15th November: UK, Ireland and Nordics leadership retreat.



Faith, Hope, Love

Today, we wrap up our January series on faith, hope, and love. I hope that our focus on Abraham, David and Jesus promotes growth in faith, hope and love for all of us.

The core of today's lesson is this:

To live a life of love like Jesus is to bring God's shalom—love that restores—into broken lives.

You might like to put some time aside this coming week to reflect on the ways in which God is drawing your attention to living by faith, living in hope, and living a life of love - like Jesus.

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5:1-2 NIV11)

As Paul writes:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order; listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11 NRSV)

Your brother, Malcolm

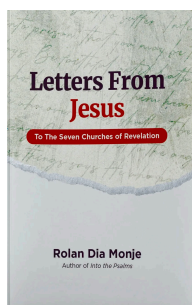
In His word I put my hope

As a follow-up to last week's lesson on hope, you might like to view this post someone sent me.

"I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." Psalm 130.5

https://www.instagram.com/p/DTvcGXkCvvv/?img_index=1

Why Revelation Makes Sense When You Read It Backwards



A review of Letters From Jesus, by Dr Rolan Monje.

Why Revelation makes more sense than you think

For many of us, the book of Revelation feels mysterious, even intimidating. Strange

images, dramatic symbols, and plenty of 'confident' opinions about what it all means. But what if the key to understanding Revelation isn't decoding the future, but remembering the past?

Old Testament

In his excellent book on Revelation, my friend Rolan Monje points out something we easily forget: John and his first readers were steeped in the Old Testament. Revelation is full of echoes—over two-thirds of the book alludes to the Old Testament, with hundreds of references woven in from Exodus, Psalms, Daniel, Isaiah, and more. John doesn't quote the Old Testament directly; instead, he assumes his readers will recognise it—rather like catching a movie reference or getting the punchline of a familiar joke.

Israel & the church

Rolan shows how Revelation retells Israel's story for a new moment. Rome looks a lot like Pharaoh. The church echoes Israel. And Jesus is revealed as the greater Moses. The Lamb of Passover, the thunder and cloud of Sinai, the plagues, the wilderness journey—they all reappear, now centred on Christ and his victory.

He also helps readers see Revelation as part of a wider Jewish apocalyptic tradition, alongside books like Daniel, Ezekiel, and even intertestamental writings such as 4 Ezra and Enoch. Once you grasp that world, the book becomes far less frightening and far more faith-building.

Revelation alive

Rolan's big idea is that you can't really appreciate Revelation without knowing its Old Testament backstory. When you do, the book comes alive—not as a puzzle to fear, but as a message of hope, worship, and confidence in the risen Jesus.

If you've ever wanted Revelation to feel clearer and more encouraging, I highly recommend this book.

<https://ipibooks.com/products/letters-from-jesus-to-the-seven-churches-of-revelation>

Your brother, Malcolm

2025 Delegates Meeting report

Our worldwide fellowship is connected through delegates representing groups of congregations. They meet from time to time. The following link provides a report on their most recent gathering.

<https://disciplestoday.org/2025-delegates-meeting-report/>

HOPE Worldwide Afghanistan



Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account:

Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613



Watford Media

