

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 05 April: Easter Sunday service.

Sunday 12 April: Malcolm speaking on Phil 4.1-7

Sunday 19 April: Church service

Sunday 26 April: Danny speaking

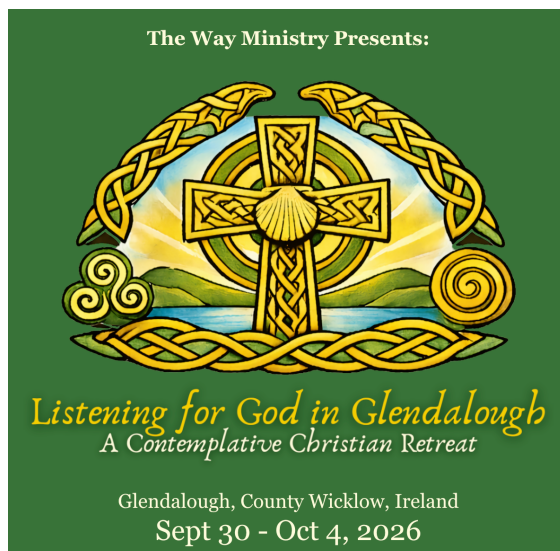
Events further ahead

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 31st July: ICCM Teen Camp

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



Sept 30th - Oct 04th: Spirituality Retreat. <https://shop.thewayministry.global/2026-csr/home>

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

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

The Way of the Burning Heart: An Easter Reflection

What happens after Easter Sunday when most of the chocolate has disappeared? Will our hearts still burn? Not the kind of heartburn that comes from too many Easter eggs, but the kind we see in the story of the road to Emmaus.

In Luke 24, two disciples are walking away from Jerusalem, weighed down by confusion and disappointment. Things hadn't turned out the way they expected.

Honesty

They are honest: “But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.” You can feel the weight in those words. They had hope, but now they're not so sure what to do with it.

Isn't that uncomfortably relatable? There are times when I know the truth about Jesus, I believe it, and yet something feels flat. Like the meaning hasn't quite touched my heart.

Cleopas and his companion were in that place. They knew the tomb was empty. They'd heard the reports from the women about angels and resurrection. As far as we can tell, they didn't doubt the facts. But still, their hearts weren't alive. Instead of running toward hope, they were walking away from it.

I think we can do the same. We can understand what Jesus has done, but still miss what it means. Jesus did come to redeem Israel, just not in the way they expected. He came to create something new, a people shaped by a new covenant, with God's law written on hearts, not stone.

Alongside

How did Jesus react? With kindness. He came alongside the discouraged disciples. He does the same today.

Ronald Rolheiser writes:

“Deeper maturity and a more faithful discipleship are found on the road to Emmaus, when discouraged, in darkness, and tempted, we let our imaginations be restructured by a deeper vision of what God, Christ, and church mean.”¹

That’s exactly what Jesus does here. He walks with them. He listens. Then he patiently teaches, opening the Scriptures and helping them see the bigger picture. Later, he sits down and breaks bread with them, and suddenly they recognise him.

Only afterward do they say, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?”

Inner fire

What caused that inner fire? It wasn’t guilt or fear. It came from connection. What they knew about Jesus became an experience of Jesus. It moved from their heads to their hearts.

It’s possible to know a lot about the resurrection and still feel spiritually dull. It’s possible to agree with everything and still feel unchanged. What made the difference for them wasn’t more information. It was walking with Jesus. And when that happened, everything changed.

They didn’t stay where they were. Even though it was late, they went straight back to Jerusalem to tell the others. That’s what a burning heart does. It moves you.

¹ Sacred Fire: A Vision for a Deeper Human and Christian Maturity

² You might also like this recording: Gaither Vocal Band - The Road to Emmaus [Live] ft. Gaither Vocal Band <https://youtu.be/lnGmkyQacWY?si=-TeDjLjox97Tnxc1>

Because

This post-Easter week, I’m going to try to keep it simple. To walk with Jesus in companionship (my main spiritual aspiration for 2026). To listen, not just read. To talk to him honestly in prayer.

Remember:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow
 Because He lives all fear is gone
 Because I know He holds the future
 And life is worth the living
 Just because He lives

Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither. CCLI Song #16880. © 1971 Hanna Street Music²

The road to Emmaus reminds us that Jesus still comes alongside us. He still speaks. He still makes himself known. And when he does, hearts still burn. I’m praying mine will. And yours too.

Your brother, Malcolm

If anyone would like to contribute to the Watford Word please let me know. Articles about scripture, poetry, personal devotional reflections, good news, prayer requests, testimonials and more are all welcome.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ
 HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

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Watford Media

