

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 22 March: Malcolm speaking on *Philippians 3.12-4.1*.



Saturday 28th March: Teaching event "That all may be one". Exploring the theology, substance and practice of Christian unity as envisioned by Jesus. At our building. Panellists: Andy Boakye, Andy Ezeilo, Peter Devin, Chris Birtles, and Malcolm Cox.

Sunday 29 March: Church service. Visiting speaker - Peter Devin from Dublin.

Sunday 05 April: Easter Sunday service.

Events further ahead

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

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: Celtic Spirituality Retreat. <https://shop.thewayministry.global/2026-csr/home>



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

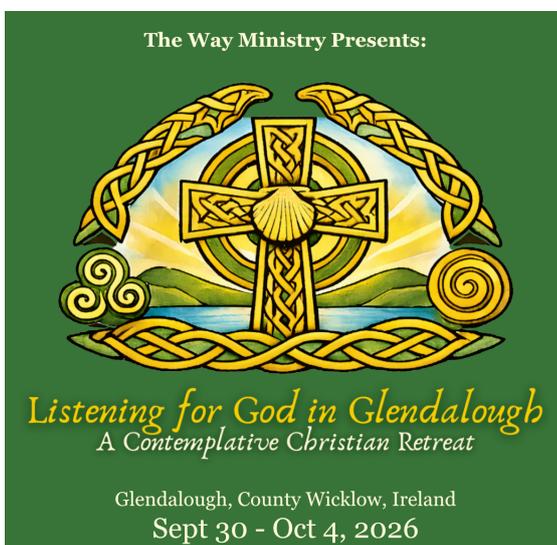
Thursday 12-15th November: UK, Ireland and Nordics leadership retreat.

Leave Everything in God's Hands

Article by Pranaav Devnani

Once, a boat was about to capsize in a storm. The boatman said, "We will have to throw everything overboard to lighten the load, otherwise we are all going to drown."

Immediately, one man said, "I have some precious things in this suitcase which I can't throw away. But don't worry, I'll reduce the burden." He took the suitcase and put it on his head.



We may smile at his foolishness, but how often do we do the exact same thing in our spiritual lives? We recognise that our worries are sinking us. We go to the Lord in prayer, lay our burdens at the altar, and then we pick them right back up and place them on our own heads.

That, my dear friends, describes the way I have lived my life. I struggle with the quiet arrogance of thinking that the world might stop spinning if I stop worrying about it. I carry my anxieties like a heavy crown, convinced that my 'mental load' is the only thing keeping my family or my work afloat. It is a weary way to live, and it's a lifestyle I'm still trying to unlearn.

The Right Kind of Prayer

This way of thinking stemmed directly from how I'd prayed. For a long time, I viewed prayer as a series of negotiations: a list of demands I hoped God would fulfil if I used the right words or showed enough sincerity. But I have come to learn that the deepest forms of prayer aren't about getting things from God; they are about offering ourselves to Him. Paul calls this a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). It is the moment prayer stops being a vending machine and starts being communion.

I have come to think of it like a radio. If your dial is set to the wrong frequency, you can strain to hear the music, but all you'll get is static. The music is already playing; the problem isn't the broadcast, but the "tuning in." Prayer is the act of turning our hearts toward Him until we are on His wavelength. As Jesus said, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you" (John 15:4). When we finally tune in, we learn that God isn't a distant official to be persuaded, but a Father to be known.

The Mercy of a Closed Door

That leads to a different kind of asking. The Bible invites us to bring our needs to the Father. Jesus teaches us to pray "Your will be done" (Matthew 6:10 NIV), and he also promises that

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the Father is good. "How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him?" (Matthew 7:11 NIV). A child may cry for something that would harm them, and a loving parent refuses, not out of coldness, but out of care. In the same way, we can pray honestly and still trust that God knows what is good, timely, and safe. We can rest in the promise that "in all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28).

I'm learning to find comfort in the fact that God knows what is timely and what is safe, even when it feels like a rejection. Faith isn't a "mood" we conjure up to feel better; it is a reliance on God's character. It is the decision to stop "managing" our lives and instead to "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

To leave everything in God's hands is not to pretend the load is light. It is to put the load where it belongs. "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33 NIV). So, keep praying, keep trusting, and keep casting the burden back onto the Lord. His hands do not tire, and his care does not fail.

Your brother, Pranaav

Many thanks, Pranaav, for penning this helpful article. If any of our readers would like to submit something similar, please drop me a line. God bless, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

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Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

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