

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Sunday 29 March:** Visiting speaker - Peter Devlin from Dublin.

**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.



## Palm trees: Symbol of joy & resilience

"...he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They replied, "The Lord needs it." They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God's coming to you."

(Luke 19:28-44)

The following article was submitted by one of our members.

What do palm trees make you think of? When I see them, I think of sunny beaches and holidays. They bring feelings of happiness and relaxation –

The Way Ministry Presents:

**Listening for God in Glendalough**  
A Contemplative Christian Retreat

Glendalough, County Wicklow, Ireland  
Sept 30 - Oct 4, 2026

**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.

an escape from daily life. Palm trees are also resilient. They can withstand strong winds and even hurricanes by bending, rather than breaking. They have a special, dense root system that anchors them firmly in sandy soil.

Palm trees are often mentioned in the Bible. Psalm 92:12 says, *‘The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon’.*

The righteous will flourish – they will thrive and grow abundantly in spirit (not just survive).

God is always there for us, working behind the scenes. He not only helps us to be resilient, but He enables us to flourish. He gives us strength to get through painful times, wisdom to make the right decisions at crossroads, and support in ways that you know can only be from God.

In Leviticus 23:40, God told the Israelites to: *‘take palm fronds...and rejoice before the Lord’.*

In John 12:13 the crowds took palm branches and waved them at Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem. *“They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Blessed is the king of Israel!”*



That is why we celebrate Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter), to mark Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Palm trees were used as an outward symbol of inner rejoicing.

When Solomon built the Temple, he carved palm trees on all the walls: *On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers.* 1 Kings 6:29

The palm trees represented the flourishing life found in God's presence, reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.

In Rev 7:9, the great multitude stands before the throne of God holding (you guessed it!) palm branches, rejoicing and praising God in Heaven: *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*



Palm trees are a symbol of joy and resilience – a reminder that with God we will flourish. Thanks and praise to our wonderful Father in Heaven.

*If anyone would like to contribute an something to the Watford Word. Please let me know. Articles about scripture, poetry, personal devotional reflections, good news, prayer requests and testimonials and more are all welcome. Your brother, Malcolm*

## Watford Contribution Details

**Church bank account:** Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

**Sort Code:** 401915

**Account Number:** 04759613



## Watford Media

