

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 19 July: Church service. Danny speaking

Saturday 25th July 8:30 am: Ladies Breakfast this month! Hosted by Penny.

Sunday 26 July: Church service. Malcolm speaking

Saturday 1st August 8 am: Men's Breakfast.

Sunday 02 Aug: Church service. Emi sharing thoughts on the Lord's Supper.

Other Events

Friday 24th to 27th July: ICCM Preteen Camp

Saturday 25th to 31st July: ICCM Teen Camp

Saturday 20 to 24 August: Thames Valley Teen Camp

Friday 11th - 13 September: UK & Ireland Young Professionals Retreat in Chesham. Registration: <https://iccmisions.churchsuite.com/events/gtrbbmni>

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.



would later teach in his letters—and consider what that means for our own church family today.

What if the most convincing evidence for the resurrection wasn't just the apostles' preaching—but the way Christians treated one another?

Acts 4.32-37 and the "One Another" Church

In the sermon today we are focused on Acts 4.32: "All the believers were one in heart and mind."

Everything else in the passage flows from there. The early Christians didn't just worship together; they belonged to one another. The rest of the passage shows what that belonging looked like.

First, it produced remarkable generosity. Luke tells us that believers willingly shared their resources so that "there were no needy persons among them." This was not compulsory communism or a fundraising programme. Rather, transformed hearts naturally produced open hands. Years later, Paul would encourage the same spirit when he urged Christians to "share with the Lord's people who are in need" (Romans 12.13) and to "do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers" (Gal 6.10).

Second, Acts introduces us to Barnabas, whose name means "Son of Encouragement." His generosity was only one part of his ministry. Throughout Acts he consistently encouraged others, welcomed those who were overlooked, and strengthened struggling believers. Paul's later instruction to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5.11) was already being lived out in Barnabas long before those words were written.

Third, Luke connects the church's relationships with its witness. Right in the middle of describing their shared life, he writes "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus." Their message and their manner belonged together. Jesus had

Is the church evidence for the resurrection?

When we think about Acts 4.32-37, our attention is drawn to the amazing generosity of the early church. However, Luke is telling a much bigger story. He locates the apostles' witness to the resurrection right in the middle of a community characterised by unity, generosity, encouragement, and genuine care for one another. Their message about the risen Christ was made visible through the way they *lived together*. Let's look at how Acts 4 became the living example of the "one another" life that Paul

promised, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35). The credibility of the gospel was reinforced by the character of God’s people.

Paul’s epistles

This reminds us that Paul’s “one another” commands in his epistles were not new ideas. They explained and applied what Jesus had taught and what the Jerusalem church was already demonstrating. Live in harmony. Carry one another’s burdens. Honour one another. Encourage one another. Forgive one another. These are not isolated commands but different expressions of a Christ-shaped life.

Transformation

Ultimately, Acts 4 is not about extraordinary generosity as much as it is about extraordinary transformation. Jesus gave Himself for us. His people learn to give themselves for one another. As we grow in unity, generosity, encouragement, and practical care, we continue to show the world what the risen Christ can accomplish through ordinary people who truly belong to Him.

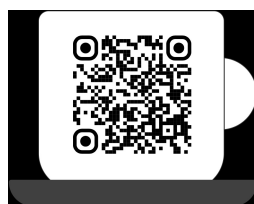
Personal Reflection Questions

1. How can I intentionally show someone in this church this week that they are loved, valued, and that they truly belong?
2. Which “one another” command do I most need to practice right now, and what specific step will I take this week to live it out?
3. Who in my spiritual family can I encourage, serve, or support this week, and what will I do to show them the love of Christ?

Your brother, Malcolm

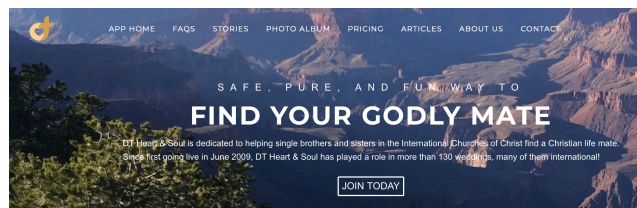
If you want a refresher on some of the one another scriptures, look up the page on my website via the link or QR code below:

<https://www.malcolmcox.org/the-one-another-commands~59/>



DT Heart and Soul

In case you are unaware of this service, here is some information about “DT Heart and Soul”.



DT Heart & Soul (DTHS) is our global fellowship’s worldwide singles connection service, sponsored by Disciples Today. The webapp, <https://app.dtheartandsoul.com>, is the front door for everything DT Heart & Soul. The first month is free for all new members.

Articles

If you would like to contribute articles to the Watford Word (scripture, poetry, personal devotional reflections, good news, prayer requests, testimonials etc.) please contact me.

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613



Watford Media



P.S.

What’s your takeaway from the article about Acts 4 and the sermon today? What will be different on Monday? Make that a prayer, ask God for strength, and act on whatever He reveals.