

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

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>

Sunday 27 September: London-wide service.

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.



A Love That Looks Like Jesus

What does biblical love look like? Buchanan describes it like this: "This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable." It is the kind of love that welcomes the outsider, restores the fallen, forgives the offender, and reaches across every barrier of status, background, and personality (Galatians 6:1-2; Colossians 3:12-14).

That is the kind of community Jesus came to create - one moulded after his example (Mark 10:45; John 15:12-13).

Grace for Imperfect People

"But," we might say, "I'm not up to this standard!" Think about Jesus' disciples. He didn't choose polished, finished people. He called fishermen, a tax collector, doubters, zealots, and two hot-headed brothers He nicknamed the "Sons of Thunder" (Matt 4:18-22; 9:9; Lk 9:54). Their lives remind us that our imperfections do not determine our future (1 Cor 6:9-11).

As Buchanan writes, "My past doesn't disqualify me. My past has not forfeited my future."

How did such ordinary, flawed people become the foundation of the early church? They stayed with Jesus. Over time, He transformed them from the inside out (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Buchanan writes, "They become as he is. And then they do as he does." (Luke 6:40; Rom 8:29).

Love One Another

Perhaps nowhere is this transformation seen more clearly than in the Apostle John. Once known for his harsh temper, he eventually became known for his emphasis on love and fellowship with God's people (Mark 3:17; 1 John 4:7-12). An early nickname gave way to a new identity shaped by years of walking with Jesus.

There is an old tradition about John's final days. As he lay dying, those around him asked for one

Belonging Begins with Love

As we continue our series on belonging and the "one another" commands of Scripture, I've been reflecting on a book I read a while ago - Mark Buchanan's *Your Church Is Too Safe*. He claims: "[Christlike] love makes us relevant. Its absence makes us irrelevant."

Jesus said the world would know we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:34-35). Our witness is ultimately measured by the way we love (1 John 3:16-18).

last word of wisdom. His answer was simply, "Love one another." When they asked if there was anything more, he replied, "That is enough."

What a fitting challenge for you and I as we seek to grow in practising the "one another" passages together. Belonging is not about finding a church full of perfect people. It is about becoming the kind of people Jesus is forming: people marked by grace, humility, truth, forgiveness, hospitality, and love (Eph 4:1-3; Philippians 2:1-5; 1 Peter 4:8-10).

After all, Christ is not primarily looking for a certain style of church. He is, as Buchanan reminds us, "seeking not a kind of music or liturgy or architecture but a kind of person." May we be that kind of people together—people who reflect the character of Christ and demonstrate His love to the world (Matt 5:16; Titus 2:11-14).

Your brother, Malcolm

You can find the book here: <https://amzn.eu/d/o6YHfzIF> ↩

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

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

Job Opportunity



HOPE worldwide UK

Use your fundraising skills to help HOPE worldwide UK change lives
"Use whatever gift you have received to serve others." — 1 Peter 4:10

HOPE worldwide is recruiting a **Part-time Fundraising Manager** to help grow support for our work with people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the UK and internationally.

3 days per week (0.6 FTE)	Hybrid / flexible UK-based role
£37,000–£43,000 FTE, pro rata	Approx. £22,200–£25,800 for 3 days per week

Permanent role, start date from September 2026 (negotiable)

Deadline: Apply by 10 August 2026

To find out more and apply:
 1. Scan the QR code on the right
 2. Visit our website: <https://hopeworldwide.org.uk/recruitment/>



Full job details and application on CharityJob

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.

Last Sunday we explored the way the early church exemplifies some of the one another commands in the later New Testament. Here are a few I noticed. What have I missed?

Acts 4.32-37	Paul's one another teaching
One in heart and mind	Live in harmony (Romans 12:16)
Shared possessions	Share with those in need (Romans 12:13)
No needy among them	Carry each other's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
Barnabas encourages	Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
Grace upon them all	Be kind and compassionate (Ephesians 4:32)
Shared identity	Members of one another (Romans 12:5)