

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 26 July: Malcolm starting a new series based on John chapter 13.

Sunday 02 Aug: Barry sharing his testimony & Emi sharing thoughts on the Lord's Supper.

Saturday 8th August - 8 am: Men's Breakfast. Note - change of date.

Sunday 09 Aug: Church service. Malcolm continues the series on John 13.

Other Events

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. 11 am, Friends House, Euston Road, London.

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.



following message, and I am passing it on in case anyone would like to attend. Matt says:

"In appreciation of all your and Watford Church of Christ's prayerful and practical support of One YMCA over the years we invite you to join us for an inspiring service of live music, prayer and spoken word on Monday 12th October at 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Watford High Street.

You'll be joining colleagues, beneficiaries, local dignitaries, local and international YMCA partners and friends as we give thanks for being here for generations. St Mary's is around 100m from the first formal meeting of Watford YMCA - 12th October 1886. We are delighted that inspirational speaker and YMCA historian Dr David Newman will be sharing with us too!

There will be refreshments and a light buffet from 6.45pm at St Mary's so please RSVP letting us know if you would like to join us for this (including dietary requirements) or sign up via the QR code on the invite. Every blessing, Matt"

YMCA 140th Thanksgiving Celebrations

Some of us will remember Matt Penny's visit explaining the work the YMCA carries out to the blessing of many in Watford. He sent me the

The Culture of Christ's Church

Today we begin a series focused on John chapter 13 that builds on our current theme of "one another Christianity". I believe this wonderful portrayal of Jesus reveals what kind of church Jesus intended to create. We will learn vital lessons for our one another culture.

We often devote much of our energy to what the church should *believe* and what the church should *do*. But in John 13-17, Jesus asks us to consider: what should the church *feel like* to belong to?

Community

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus took off His outer clothing, wrapped a towel around His waist, and washed the dusty feet of His disciples—

including Judas, who would betray Him, and Peter, who would deny Him. Why does John tell us this story? Because it reveals the kind of community Jesus was intentionally creating.

Identity

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, got up from supper, laid aside His outer garments... and began to wash the disciples' feet."
— John 13:3-5

Why does John point out Jesus' connection with God? It seems unnecessary—until we realise it explains everything that follows.

Jesus could kneel because His identity was secure. He did not serve to earn the Father's approval; He served because He already possessed it. He did not wash feet to establish His worth but because He knew exactly who He was and where He was going. As Paul later writes, though Christ existed in the form of God, He willingly humbled Himself in loving service (Phil 2:5-8). His humility flowed from security, not insecurity.

Security

That's vital because *our* security is found in Him. Through Christ we have been adopted as God's children (Rom 8:15-17), accepted in the Beloved (Eph 1:3-6), and can confidently say, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:1). Our identity no longer rests on our performance, our reputation, or the opinions of others. It rests in the finished work of Christ. Because He is secure in His relationship with the Father, those who are in Christ can live with a deep confidence that frees us from constantly proving ourselves or protecting ourselves. As John later writes, "As He is, so also are we in this world" (1 Jn 4:17).

That's the foundation of genuine Christian community. When we know *whose* we are, we are free to serve, to be known, to receive correction (Prov 9:8-9; Jms 1:19-21), to confess our sins to one another (Jms 5:16), to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15), and to love one another because we have first been loved by Him (1 Jn 4:19).

Five weeks in John 13

Over five weeks, we'll explore what it means to be a community shaped by Jesus' example.

- ✦ A Community of Security: I know whose I am
- ✦ A Community of Intimacy: I don't have to hide
- ✦ A Community of Truth: I don't have to be defensive
- ✦ A Community of Authenticity: I don't have to pretend
- ✦ A Community of Love: I don't have to protect myself

John 13 isn't primarily about individual discipleship. It's Jesus shaping the relational DNA of His people. He is forming a community that reflects His own character—a people who bear with one another in love (Eph 4:2-3), encourage one another (Heb 3:12-13), and love one another just as He loved us (Jn 13:34-35). The "one another" commands throughout the NT are the natural expression of a people whose lives have been transformed by the gospel.

I'd encourage us to read John 13 over the coming weeks. Read it slowly. Ask the Lord not only what He wants you to learn, but what kind of community He is calling us to become together. My prayer is that, as we behold Christ, we will increasingly become the kind of people with whom others can truly experience His love.

Your brother, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ
HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613



Watford Media

