The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Thursday *17 Sept, 7:30PM: Online congregational meeting for members of the Watford church of Christ to discuss adding Trustees to our team.*

Sunday *20 Sept: Church service.*

Sunday *27 Sept: Church service. Malcolm speaking*

Saturday *03 Oct, 8AM: Men's breakfast.*

Sunday *04 Oct: Church service.*

Sunday *11 Oct: Harvest Sunday. Collection of foodstuffs for Holywell School. Barry & Leon will introduce our annual collection for the charitable work of HOPE Worldwide in Afghanistan*

Sunday *18 Oct: Church service. Malcolm speaking*

Sunday *25 Oct: Church service. Malcolm speaking*

Sunday *01 Nov: Church service.*

Saturday *07 Nov, 8AM: Men's breakfast.*

Sunday *08 Nov: Church service. Malcolm speaking*

Sunday *15 Nov: Safeguarding Sunday*

Sunday *22 Nov: Church service. Malcolm speaking*

Sunday *29 Nov: Church service. Malcolm speaking*

Saturday *05 Dec, 8AM: Men's breakfast.*

Sunday *06 Dec: Church service. Malcolm speaking*

Sunday *13 Dec: Church service.*

Sunday *20 Dec: Carol service.*

Sunday *27 Dec: Church service.*

Other Events

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.*

Joining Jesus in His Mission

Today's sermon is a bit different, involving group discussion, and is an introduction to our autumn emphasis on "the mission". We are building on the conclusion to the John 13 series, where Jesus said,

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

Jesus wants everyone we know to know we belong to him. That sounds like a mission.

When you hear the word mission, what comes to mind? I participated in Mission England in 1984 handing out evangelistic tracts in Notting Hill. I went on a mission team with Penny to plant a new church in Birmingham in 1988. I have prayed and paid for missionaries to go overseas and take the gospel to places where I could not go.

What does it mean to you? Getting people through the church door?

Broader and Bigger

Those things are *part* of it. But I want to suggest that Jesus had something broader and bigger in mind — and that it includes every single one of us, right where we already are.

In Luke 4, Jesus stands up in his hometown synagogue and announces his mission:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Luke 4:18–19

Good news. Freedom. Sight. Release. This is not a programme. It is a person — Jesus himself — bringing the healing, restoring reign of God into every corner of human hurt.



Reconstructed synagogue in Nazareth similar to the one Jesus visited

People just like us

And here is what's so exciting: Jesus does not keep this mission to himself. He looks at his followers and says:

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Jn 20:21

In Luke 10, he sends out ordinary people — not professionals, not super-spiritual elites, but people like me and you with jobs, families, daily concerns and faltering faith. His instructions are simple: "Heal the sick ... and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"

Heal. And tell. Those two words together.

Talk about Jesus

The mission includes talking about Jesus with people — absolutely. It includes the courage to say what he has done for you, to share the good news, to invite someone to explore faith. That is real, it matters, and we should not downplay it.

Healing channels

But it is more than that. It is the colleague you check in on when you suspect they are struggling. It is the neighbour you bring a meal to. It is the friend you sit with in grief without trying to fix anything. It is the stranger at the school gate you choose to welcome rather than ignore. It is the person in your workplace who seems invisible, and the decision to notice them. Everywhere the kingdom of God goes, people become more whole — and Jesus invites us to be part of making healing happen.

Through Jesus' eyes

This is not about adding another activity to an already full life. It is about learning to see your existing life through the eyes of Jesus. The missiologist Leslie Newbigin put it simply:

"The primary action of the church in the world is the action of its members in the daily work."

Your commute is a mission field. Your kitchen table is a mission field. Your WhatsApp group is a mission field. The care home, the classroom, the office, the gym — wherever you already are, Jesus is already at work, and he is inviting you to join him.

Invited Into Opportunity

That is what makes this an opportunity rather than a burden. Jesus is not handing you a list of tasks. He is saying: I am already doing something beautiful here. Come and be part of it.

Reflection

So please reflect on the following:

- Where has God placed me, and what might he be inviting me to join him in there?

Not a grand strategy. Just one person. One conversation. One act of kindness. One moment where you bring the healing presence of Christ into someone's ordinary day.

The kingdom of God is near. And amazingly, Jesus trusts us enough to let us join him in it.

Your brother, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ
HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

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Watford Media

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