

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Sunday 02 June - 10:30AM.** Visiting speaker *Dr John Oakes* (<https://evidenceforchristianity.org/>)



I am delighted that my friend Dr John Oakes will be with us on 2nd June. John is a retired Chemistry professor who together with his wife currently leads a church planting in California. He has written 15 books - several are in our church library. His speciality

is defending the Christian faith. John has taught adults, campus, singles and teens for more than 200 churches, in more than 80 countries and at 60 universities. Subjects he teaches include: God, Science and the Bible; History, Archaeology and the Bible; Daniel, Prophet to the Nations; From Shadow to Reality; How We Got the Bible; Revelation, Ezekiel, Post-Exile Prophets, Luke, John, Evidence for Jesus; The Problem of Pain and Suffering; Church History; Old Testament Survey; Hebrews; Christian World View; World Religions; Baptism: Into Christ; and many more. As you can imagine, his visit is a wonderful opportunity to invite our friends to hear the Gospel.

**Sunday 09 June - 10:30AM.** *Malcolm speaking*

**Sunday 16 June - 10:30AM.** *Danny speaking - Fathers' Day*

**Sunday 23 June - 10:30AM.** *Osagie speaking*

**Sunday 30 June - 10:30AM.** *Malcolm speaking*

**Sunday 07 July - 10:30AM.** *Church service (also Wellington country park outdoor service in Thames Valley)*

**Sunday 14 July - 10:30AM.** *Visiting speaker Kerry Mathurin*

**Sunday 21 July - 10:30AM.** *Visiting speaker Olyden Johnson*

## PIED BEAUTY

Penny offers this poem for the purpose of spiritual meditation. It was written by Gerald Manley Hopkins (1844-89), an English teacher, scholar, preacher and administrator known for his deep faith and reverence for God's creation.

*Glory be to God for dappled things -*

*For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;*

*For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;*

*Fresh firecoal chestnut-falls; finches wings;*

*Landscapes plotted and pieced-fold, fallow, and plough;*

*And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.*

*All things counter, original, spare, strange;*

*Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)*

*With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;*

*He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:*

*Praise him.*



Do you have a favourite poem that inspires you in your walk with God? Please share it!

Best wishes,

Penny

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## From Altar to Table

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What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper?

We observe the Lord's Supper every week, but why? Today, let's explore its meaning and purpose. Be open to examining your assumptions and prepared to have them challenged. Below, I offer some thoughts on the context of the Lord's Supper.

### Old Testament Sacrifices and Fellowship with the LORD

In the Old Testament, God established a pattern of eating with His people around the altar.

*"Build the altar of the LORD your God with fieldstones and offer burnt offerings on it to the LORD your God. Sacrifice fellowship offerings there, **eating them and rejoicing in the presence of the LORD your God.**" - Deuteronomy 27:6-7*

God shared meals with His people through various festivals and sacrifices under the Old Covenant. These included offerings for sin, thanksgiving, and fellowship. Notably, the fellowship offering was the only sacrifice where worshippers ate the meat.

*"Present your burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD your God, both the meat and the blood. The blood of your sacrifices must be poured beside the altar of the LORD your God, but **you may eat the meat.**" - Deuteronomy 12:27*

The Lord's Supper is a deeper form of fellowship with God. In the past, this fellowship was occasional and altar-based at the temple. Now, it is frequent and table-based wherever Christians gather, making it a more intimate experience.

### Covenant Renewal

In the Old Covenant, eating together with God during special sacrifices and thanksgiving was a form of covenant renewal. It reaffirmed the people's commitment to the covenant and their devotion to God. God's jealousy for His people is unlike human jealousy; it reflects His desire for exclusive devotion.

*"Do not worship any other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." - Exodus 34:14*

When we take the Lord's Supper, we reaffirm our commitment to the body of Christ and our devotion to Jesus. This understanding is behind Paul's warnings to the Corinthians. He was concerned that they were taking lightly the significance of eating at both the fellowship table of idols and the table of Jesus.

*"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons." - 1 Corinthians 10:21*

Paul addressed the issue of selfishness during the fellowship meal connected to the Lord's Supper.

*"When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper you eat, for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. As a result, one person remains hungry and another gets drunk." 1 Cor 11:20-21*

Disrespect for the body of Christ (the Church) breaks our covenant with Jesus. Selfishness is at the heart of taking communion in an 'unworthy manner' (1 Corinthians 11:27).

### New Testament Emphasis

The New Testament emphasises rejoicing because the Lord's Supper foreshadows the great feast that will occur when Jesus returns and all things are made new (Matt 22:1-14; Revelation 19:6-9). It presents the Lord's Supper as a time of thanksgiving and fellowship, not as a time for seeking atonement, because the cross was the ultimate altar event (Hebrews 9:12ff). The Lord's Supper is a time of thankfulness and fellowship, communing *with* and *in* the presence of Christ.

Your brother in Christ, Malcolm

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## Watford Contribution Details

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If you want to donate to the work of the church, go to this link and look for the 'ICC Missions standing order and gift aid form' — <https://watfordchurchofchrist.org/podcasts>

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## Watford Media

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