

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 18 August - 10:30AM. Stefan speaking
Sunday 25 August - 10:30AM. Malcolm speaking on "Growing in Unity"
Sunday 01st Sept - 10:30 AM service
Sunday 8th Sept: 'Thank you' service
Saturday 14th Sept: AIM UK&I - "Family Life"
Sunday 15th Sept: Congregational vision workshop
Sunday 22nd Sept - 10:30 AM service.
Sunday 29th Sept: 10:30 AM. Speaker Bruce Miller
Sunday 17th Nov: 10:30 AM. "Safeguarding Sunday"
Saturday 7th Dec: AIM UK&I - "World Views"

Scary Solitude?



Back in April Penny and I spent a bucolic few days away with the people in the picture above. Times of silence and solitude interspersed our meals, fellowship and teaching. It might be the most spiritually refreshing thing I've ever done with a group of Christians. If being alone with God scares you, or you have no idea what 'spiritual formation practices' are - why not ask me or Penny about this? You can find a brief report on the retreat by following the link below:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=14nv3qhxY2ofd5WDHGJbAFYGc8iJHt8Lu&usp=drive_fs

Charity number : 1207942

Women's Meetings

Hi ladies,

Here are the dates for the next three women's meetings so you can get them in your diary ...

- Sunday, August 18th, 1 pm
- Saturday September 21st, 8:30 am
- Sunday, October 20th 1 pm

Would anyone like to host the breakfast in September? Would anyone share a lesson or what they are learning at one of the meetings?

God bless, Penny

Guidance For Those Hosting Parts of Sunday Worship - Part 4.

"Prayer"

Today, we continue a series exploring why we do what we do at a Sunday gathering. Last week, we focussed on "The Welcome". This week's topic is leading people in collective prayer.

Historically, God's people were often led in prayer and prayed for (Numbers 21.7; 2 Chron 30.18, 27; Nehemiah 11.17). Followers of Jesus prayed together (Acts 1.14, 24; 2.42; 4.31; 6.6; 13.3; 14.23; 20.36; 21.5). Instructions about prayer in the letters of the New Testament apply to collective prayer since most are written to churches and not individuals. With this in mind, here are a few tips on leading prayers in the assembly.

God

The main focus of our prayers is God himself, and especially our Abba father. Jesus prayed and taught his followers to pray to him (Luke 11.1-4). Help us to 'see' him as you lead us in prayer. Note how the prayer in Acts 4.24 begins.

“...they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.”

Relevant

Where appropriate, include contemporary societal, local, and church needs.

We

You are praying on our behalf, so it is generally best to offer 'we' rather than personal 'I' prayers.

Content

You can make up a prayer on the spot, read a prayer someone has written, or use prayers from the Bible as a template (Psalms are helpful, as are the prayers of Paul — see here for inspiration: A Complete List of the Apostle Paul's Prayers. <https://www.kevinhalloran.net/the-apostle-pauls-prayers-in-the-bible/>)

Common mistakes to avoid

- "Let's start the service with prayer." I reckon we've already started the service if we have been singing! It's better to say, "Let's continue the service in prayer."
- Jargon - see last week's Watford Word
- Perfunctory prayers. Don't rush the prayer. Take your time. We are not in a hurry, and neither is God! There *are* times to offer a *brief* prayer, but *not* a 'quick' one!

See this video for more tips: <https://youtu.be/20-iUjH5IMw?si=Rkse9ySJEovovlg>

If you are leading us in prayer, your aim is to help us collectively connect with a *real* God who is *really* present and interested in us and our concerns. For that, you do not need to be a super-saint or a prayer poet. Simply lead us in prayer, *with* us, *with* God, *with* your heart and mind.

Any thoughts or questions? Please speak to me.

God bless, Malcolm

Watford 'Jobs'

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

The church is getting bigger, so spreading the church 'jobs' around is essential. Let me know if you would be willing to take on one or more of the tasks below. Training is available.

1. Watford website: Keep information up-to-date and add a link to the latest sermon video. *Estimated time commitment is 15 minutes a week.*
2. Design weekly Sunday poster. *Estimated time commitment: 15 minutes a week.*
3. Upload sermon podcasts—*estimated time commitment: 15 minutes a week.*
4. Upload sermon videos—*estimated time commitment: 20 minutes a week.*
5. Edit sermon videos. *Estimated time commitment: 30-60 minutes a week.*
6. Compile Sunday song service slide deck—*estimated time commitment: 30 minutes a week.*
7. Sunday refreshments. Help before and during church—*estimated time: 30 minutes a week.*

Many thanks, Malcolm

Watford Contribution Details

Church bank account: Three Counties churches of Christ HSBC

Sort Code: 401915

Account Number: 04759613

Watford Media

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watfordchurchofchrist6708>

Podcast: <https://www.podbean.com/pu/pbblog-aiinq-1aef90>

