

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

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 03rd Nov: 10:30 AM service.
Sunday 10th Nov: 10:30 AM. Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 17th Nov: 10:30 AM. "Safeguarding Sunday"
Saturday 7th Dec: AIM UK&I - "World Views"

Raspberries and Lamentations

Raspberries are in fruit in my garden. Unlike the gooseberries and blackcurrants only a few ripen every day. If you miss them they overripen and are ruined. As I was picking a small handful the other day to add to my breakfast I was reminded of this scripture from the book of Lamentations.



"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

(Lamentations 3:22-23)

I'm very motivated to collect my sweet, juicy raspberries every day. However, I asked myself, "How keen am I to check in with God every day and enjoy his love, mercies and faithfulness to me?"

Whether or not we remember to spend time with the Lord, he is always there for us, waiting for us to pick a time and place to meet with him. And if we do choose to meet with him, he will sweeten and flavour our day.

Your sister, Penny

Guidance For Those Hosting Parts of Sunday Worship - Part 6.

"Testimonies"

Today, we continue a series exploring why we do what we do at a Sunday gathering. Last week, we focussed on announcements and updates. This week's topic is testimonies.

What are we talking about? First, let's explore the Scriptures. In the New Revised Standard Version, the English word 'testify' and its variants occur 72 times in 70 verses of the New Testament. The Greek words involved are versions of:

- *diamarturomai* - διαμαρτύρομαι. To testify, to declare solemnly (Acts 2.40).
- *martureo* - μαρτυρέω. To testify, to bear witness, or suffer martyrdom (John 18.37).
- *epimartureo* - ἐπιμαρτυρέω. To testify, to bear witness (1 Peter 5.12).
- *katamartureo* - καταμαρτυρέω. To testify, to witness against (Mark 14.60).

All in all, the emphasis is on talking gladly and boldly about the work of God.

A testimony *can* be how you came to know Christ or about any way you have *personally* seen God's work in your life. With those principles in mind, let's consider some tips.

Personal

Be sure to give us enough personal information so that we see you as a person, not a 'thing' (someone whose life was transformed by Jesus, not just someone who got baptised). For example, if you look at Paul's testimonies about his conversion (Acts 22 and 26) you will see a lot of

“I” statements, as well as mentions of God (more on Him next). The key words to remember that will help make sure your testimony is personal are - **details**, and, **emotions**. In others words not, “When I first came to church I was a young man.”, but, “When I first came to church I was 23 years old, engaged to be married and terrified.” Not, “When some men from the church studied the Bible with me I was convicted (jargon-alert!).”, but, “When Doug and Chris sat down with me and explained the teachings of Jesus I was amazed at how relevant they were to my life.”

God

Be sure to talk about God. Your story is not only *your* story. It is yours *and* God's story. Use Scripture where relevant. When I testify about my conversion, I always mention this passage:

“Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” Then you will defile your silver-covered idols and your gold-plated images. You will scatter them like filthy rags; you will say to them, “Away with you!”” (Isaiah 30:19-22)

The reason is that I read it a month before encountering the church and had prayed for it to come true.

Conclusion

The key question to ask as you prepare your testimony, is how you can help everyone present grow in their awe at the power and grace of God.

I have written and recorded on this topic previously. You will find some more useful tips here: <https://www.malcolmcox.org/tasty-testimonies-ten-commandments-for-terrific-testimonies/>

Any thoughts? Please speak to me. Next time we explore speaking at the Lord's Supper.

God bless, Malcolm

Cafe West

On September 25th 2007 Cafe West opened for the first time, we had no idea what the impact would be but we all believed that the Lord had instigated it. We still do! Over nearly 17 years many people have come and gone for various reasons, customers and volunteers, but we are as busy as ever. We are looking for some help.

What do we need?

A few people who would be willing and able to come in on a Tuesday morning from about 10am - 12.45 pm to help with serving cakes; making drinks; clearing tables; clearing away at the end of the morning. There may, very occasionally, be times that we might ask you if you could come in a little earlier if a helper is away. This is not obligatory.

Full training will be given both for Food Safety & Hygiene regulations and what Cafe West do to facilitate it. If you are interested or know someone who may be please speak to Garth or Lissie.

Thank you, Lesley Paterson

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>

