

The Watford Word

www.watfordchurchofchrist.org

What's on

Sunday 24th Nov: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

Tuesday 26th Nov: 8:00 PM. Zoom event - Malcolm speaking on, "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." (Luke 5:16) - An exploration of the 'why' and 'how' of taking personal spiritual retreats

Saturday 30th Nov: Teaching Day based on Acts 13. Speakers: Malcolm, Paul Smith, James Thomas. Our Birmingham sister church hosts it. Online attendance is available. Details will be forthcoming soon.

Sunday 01st Dec: 10:30 AM. Stefan is speaking in Watford.

Sunday 01st Dec: Celebration service and retirement party for Tim & Shevvy Dannatt in Thames Valley.

Saturday 7th Dec: AIM UK&I - "World Views"

Sunday 08th Dec: 10:30 AM. Dr Andy Boakye is speaking.

Sunday 15th Dec: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

Sunday 22nd Dec: 10:30 AM. Carol service

Sunday 29th Dec: 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

God's Safeguarding Heart

Who do you know that is vulnerable? Someone in your neighbourhood, your family, or in the church? That person needs your attention. More specifically, they need God's comfort and help through your words, your hands and all the resources he has blessed you with.

We have titled today's service "Safeguarding Sunday." Where is such a phrase found in Scripture? We will look at that in the sermon, but consider this: God consistently shows himself concerned for vulnerable people.

1. Exodus 22:21-24

"Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt. Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to

me, I will certainly hear their cry. My anger will be aroused, and I will kill you with the sword; your wives will become widows and your children fatherless."

2. Leviticus 19:9-10

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God."

3. Deuteronomy 10:17-19

"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt."

4. Deuteronomy 24:17-21

"Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands."

5. Psalm 68:5-6

"A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land."

6. Psalm 82:3-4

"Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

7. Isaiah 1:17

"Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow."

8. Jeremiah 22:3

"This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place."

9. Micah 6:8

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."



What should our response be? As a church, we have engaged an organisation called "thirtyone:eight" to help us. Their name is based on this verse from the book of Proverbs,

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute." Prov. 31:8

Quoting from their website,

"We are a Christian organisation, inspired to 'speak out on behalf of the voiceless, and for the rights of all who are vulnerable' as it says in Proverbs 31:8. Our faith is the foundational pillar of all our work. As a charity we look to the Apostles' Creed as our statement of faith which underpins all that we do."

Because we are a Christian organisation, inspired and motivated by our faith, it is important that we are able to demonstrate this; not only through our work with other Christians, but also in our work with people of other faiths and those of no faith. Being Christian gives us an overriding interest and commitment to actively help churches and other faith communities become places that are safer for everyone. As part of this we've

developed a theology of Safeguarding which gives a theological basis for our work."

They process our DBS checks needed for all the children's ministry, preteen and teen teachers and trustees, and offer safeguarding training for leaders and all involved with children/the vulnerable.

I would encourage you to visit their site, meditate on the Scriptures above, develop your personal conviction about safeguarding, and then seek God's guidance as to how you can 'safeguard' people with God's love and comfort.

God bless, Malcolm

Free: How to Take a Spiritual Retreat

Zoom ID: 977 5095 5942

Passcode: 833193

<https://iccmissions-org.zoom.us/j/97750955942?pwd=4dnaAe7MBGMDZ5nyaVwBrivyRrdotm.1>

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>

