

# The Watford Word

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

## What's on

**Sunday 16 Feb:** 10:30 AM.  
Stefan speaking

**Wednesday 19th Feb:** 8 PM.  
"From Seed to Harvest" -  
outreach equipping series  
second Zoom session - "Sharing  
Your Faith Story"

**Sunday 23 Feb:** 10:30 AM. Osagie speaking

**Sunday 02 Mar:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

**Sunday 09 Mar:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

**Sunday 16 Mar:** 10:30 AM. Stefan speaking

**Sunday 23 Mar:** 10:30 AM. Bruce speaking

**Sunday 30 Mar:** 10:30 AM. Malcolm speaking

**Sunday 08 June:** 10:30 AM. Pentecost International  
Service

**Sunday 20 July:** 10:30 AM. Dr Rolan Monje is our  
visiting speaker from the Manila ICOC.



## Making the Bible your 'hobby' - Part 2

### Introduction

In this series, we explore how approaching our Bible study as a hobby can make all the difference.

#### 1. Historical Context

It's one thing to know a verse in the Bible. But it's another thing to understand it in its historical and cultural context. Our enjoyment of Scripture is directly connected to our understanding of its background. It's the difference between 2-D and 3-D (or even virtual reality). It's the difference between outline drawings and photo-realistic colouring.

As an example, consider the parable of the Samaritan in Luke 10.25-37. If you don't know the background, it looks like a sweet story about a compassionate person. However, when you understand the historical background and the long-standing animosity between Jews and Samaritans, the story takes on an entirely different hue.

Getting to know the historical and cultural context can make Scripture come alive and feel more like a mystery to unravel.

**Tip:** Bible Dictionaries can help with digging. Here's a [link](https://www.ivpress.com/the-ivp-bible-dictionary-series) to some good examples from IVP: <https://www.ivpress.com/the-ivp-bible-dictionary-series>

#### 2. Themes and Connections

The Scriptures are not a collection of standalone verses or isolated stories. They are all connected to God's big story. Some people think that grace is a New Testament idea. But it is not. It is all over the Old Testament if you know where to look. The book of Acts is inspiring, but it only makes sense when connected to the gospels. Revelation is much more inspiring when compared to the first few chapters of Genesis.

Or, take the theme of shalom (peace). Trace the existence of shalom in the garden, then how it was disrupted in the fall, offered to Israel through the law and covenants, prophesied by the prophets, revealed by Jesus, lived by the Christian community and anticipated in Revelation.

Studying themes and connections helps Scripture become more than just a collection of individual verses—it becomes a powerful, compelling story that draws you deeper into the heart of God.

**Tip:** Useful resources include "The Bible Project - <https://bibleproject.com/>", "How to Read the Bible Book by Book" - <https://amzn.eu/d/1cYPYg2> by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart, "The Bible Jesus Read" - <https://amzn.eu/d/bBWc1bU> by Philip Yancey.

### Questions

How do you feel about studying themes and looking into the historical background? Does it feel academic and dull? What would help you to feel excited about these ideas?

### Suggestions

Take some time to think about the hobbies you enjoy. What is it about them that attracts you to them? Can you see any relevance for your own Bible study?

### Conclusion

Next week, I will offer further inspiration to help you make the Bible your 'hobby'.

Your brother, Malcolm

P.S. The podcast version can be found here: <https://audioboom.com/posts/8641823-how-to-make-the-bible-your-hobby-part-2-do-some-digging-malcolm-cox-quiet-time-coaching>

## New Testament Survey Information

Compelling reasons to join the AIM New Testament Survey module starting 01 March 2025.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLssKYNRILIE\\_vk7Ijz-eoQcwN1tr\\_xyFM](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLssKYNRILIE_vk7Ijz-eoQcwN1tr_xyFM)

Full module: £75

Teaching day only: £25

Date: 01 March 2025

Time: 9:45 AM - 2:45 PM

Platform: Zoom

Payment link: <https://tvcoc.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/ypr4vvsn>

The course will cover the following and more:

1. Introduction + The Life of Christ
2. The Gospel of John
3. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark & Luke)
4. The Acts of the Apostles
5. The Life & Letters of Paul, Pt. 1
6. The Life & Letters of Paul, Pt. 2
7. Hebrews & the General Letters
8. The Apocalypse (Revelation)
9. The New Testament Manuscripts
10. New Testament History & Geography
11. How the Bible Came to Be - part 1 (the canon)
12. How the Bible Came to Be - part 2

More details here: <https://aimukandireland.com>

God bless, Malcolm

Check out Doug's site: <https://www.douglasjacoby.com/>

## 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-raef90>

**Insta:** [https://www.instagram.com/thewatfordchurch?igsh=MWphaHcoYTR3azdnMQ%03D%03D&utm\\_source=qr](https://www.instagram.com/thewatfordchurch?igsh=MWphaHcoYTR3azdnMQ%03D%03D&utm_source=qr)

