



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

Broadfield Community Centre, Broadfield Barton, Crawley. Reg. Charity no. 1081321

(01444 400521 – Email: fellowship@broadfield.org.uk – Web: www.broadfield.org.uk



NewsFlash!

Sunday 10th January 2016

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall
Worship: Kevin Gordon; Speaker: Ian Johnson

*We offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our worship today
If you want to know the location of any of the meetings, please ask the host or one of the leaders*

Monday 6.30pm: Prayer time in the Church
Tuesday 7.00pm: House Group at Caroline's home
7.45pm: House Group at Ben & Pauline's home
Wednesday 9.30am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall
2.00pm: Craft and fellowship at Brenda's home
7.00pm: House Group at Diane's home
Thursday 7.30pm: Talk Broadfield meeting in the Small Hall
Friday 2.30pm: Dave Time in the Quiet Room
4.00pm: Prayer for the Friday Meal in the foyer
5.00pm: Friday Meal in the Social Hall
Next Sunday 9.00am: Open up and set up hall for worship
9.30am: Prayer meeting
10.00am: Tea and coffee
10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall
Worship: Vivienne Evans; Speaker: Bill Miles

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Psalm 53:3 "For I am conscious of my transgressions and I acknowledge them; my sin is ever before me."

In the first chapter of John Bunyan's famous book *The Pilgrim's Progress* it portrays the Christian journey of all of us in the form of an allegory. He dreams he sees a man clothed in rags with a great burden on his back and holding a book. As he reads from the book he is weeping and in distress and, no longer being able to control his feelings, he cries out mournfully, "What shall I do?" He has an overwhelming sense of his sinfulness and that the world he lives in is destined for destruction and that he needs to be saved from this.

It has got me thinking how much of that sense of sin and the desperate need to be saved has been lost in the world and to some extent in the church. The word sin is rarely mentioned, and as for grace, has it been overworked? (I use the word overworked as in art – if you overwork a painting you spoil it.) Has grace been misused or become an excuse? I am not giving answers, just asking thought provoking questions.

Pope Francis quoted a famous phrase used by Pope Pius XII: "The greatest sin today is that men have lost the sense of sin." Here is part of a transcript from an interviewer to a psychologist named Andrew Sodergren:

Q: What do you mean when you say that modern man and society have lost a sense of sin? How have secularism and secular psychology in particular contributed to this?

Sodergren: We have been hearing a great deal recently from the Holy Father, various Church leaders and commentators

about the growth of relativism. It is worthwhile to recall the words of Benedict XVI shortly before the conclave that elected him Pope. In that address he accused modern culture of "building a dictatorship of relativism that does not recognize anything as definitive and whose ultimate goal consists solely of one's own ego and desires." This growth in a relativistic mentality would not be possible without a prior weakening of the sense of sin. The "sense of sin" refers to having an accurate conception of sin and an awareness of sin in one's life. It is part of what is normally understood as "conscience." John Paul II in *Reconciliatio et Paenitentia* wrote of a "sensitivity and an acute perception of the seeds of death contained in sin, as well as a sensitivity and an acuteness of perception for identifying them in the thousand guises under which sin shows itself. This is what is commonly called the sense of sin. This sense is rooted in man's moral conscience and is, as it were, its thermometer." Thus, without a healthy sense of sin, man's conscience becomes clouded, and he easily goes astray. When this happens on a large scale, it can be disastrous for society.

This is an intellectual way (I am not an intellectual) of saying that if you water down sin, if you make most things acceptable, you lose a moral compass, you are on a slippery slope going nowhere and people will not know right from wrong. Personally, without being condemning, judgemental or legalistic, I feel that as Christians we need to ignite once again the awareness of sin and the church needs to lead the way. THE MEANING OF RELATIVISM: The doctrine that knowledge, truth, and morality exist in relation to culture, society, or historical context, and are not absolute.

See overleaf for Church Weekend

Diary Dates

Friday 18th–Sunday 20th March: Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place with Abi Willetts.

Church Weekend 2016

We are pleased to announce that Abi Willetts, leader of Ichthus New Life in Greenwich, will be leading the Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th March, which is the weekend before Easter (schools do not break up until 24th March). The standard adult price will be £98; more details and a booking form will be available next Sunday.