



# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

( 01444 400521 – Email: [fellowship@broadfield.org.uk](mailto:fellowship@broadfield.org.uk) – Web: [www.broadfield.org.uk](http://www.broadfield.org.uk)



## NewsFlash!

### Sunday 6th March 2016

<b>This morning</b>	10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall <i>Worship: Vivienne Evans; Speaker: David Evans</i>
<i>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</i>	
<b>This evening</b>	7.00pm: Town-wide service at Crawley Baptist Church
<b>Monday</b>	6.30pm: Prayer time in the Church
<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00pm: House Group at Caroline's home 7.45pm: House Group at Ben & Pauline's home
<b>Wednesday</b>	9.30am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall
<b>Thursday</b>	7.30pm: Talk Broadfield meeting in the Small Hall
<b>Friday</b>	2.30pm: Dave Time in the Quiet Room 5.00pm: Friday Meal in the Social Hall
<b>Saturday</b> from about	10.00am: Church clean-up day – just turn up and there will be jobs to do!
<b>Next Sunday</b>	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 <i>Speaker: Ian Johnson</i>

#### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Proverbs 18:2, 13

A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart. He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him. I think of all the things that have caused me problems, more than anything is my misunderstanding, misinterpreting, presuming and assuming and not listening properly. Of course when you have had trauma, mental health issues, extreme anxieties, etc., it's hard to be skilled in these things and it is only as God unravels you and heals your emotions that you start to receive clarity and want to be a wise and thoughtful listener. Listening to people is so very important. Not just what they are actually saying but also deciphering hidden agendas and problems in the things sometimes casually slipped into a conversation. It can be very hurtful when you are sharing with another person and they immediately come up with "the answer" or bat off what you are saying or what they think you are saying, almost as if it is an irrelevance, or because it seems to them of little importance, a minor worry and they don't bother to find out what you are actually saying. If you don't understand what someone is saying, surely it's much better to be up-front and honest and say, "I don't understand that as I have never had any experience of it but I want to know, so please help me to understand your point of view/problem."

Stephen R. Covey in his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* says, "You've spent years learning how to read and write, years learning how to speak. But what about listening? What training or education have you had that enables you to listen so that you really, deeply understand another human being from that individual's own frame of reference?"

I am reading a book at the moment by C. S. Lewis called *Surprised by Joy*. In it he retells his extremely hard Spartan school life, the death of his mother at an early age and the subsequent rather distant relationship with his father. He recounts something of his dad and I could see myself and others in how his dad communicated (although his dad seemed to be unaware of how he was). It goes as follows:

You will have grasped that my father was no fool. He had a streak of genius in him. At the same time he had — when seated in his own armchair after a heavy mid-day dinner on an August afternoon with all the windows shut — more power of confusing an issue or taking up a fact wrongly than any man I have ever known. As a result it was impossible to drive into his head any of the realities of our school life, after which (nevertheless) he repeatedly enquired. The first and simplest barrier to communication was that, having earnestly asked, he did not 'stay for an answer' or forgot it the moment it was uttered. Some facts must have been asked for and told him on a moderate computation, once a week and were received by him each time as perfect novelties. But this was the simplest barrier. Far more often he retained something, but something very unlike what you had said. His mind so bubbled over with humour, sentiment and indignation that, long before he had understood or even listened to your words, some accidental hint had set his imagination to work, he had produced his own version of facts and he believed that he was getting it from you. As he invariably got proper names wrong his recalling of your conversation was often almost unrecognisable. Tell him that a boy called Churchwood had caught a field mouse and kept it as a pet, and a year, or ten years later, he would ask you, "Did you ever hear what became of poor Chickweed who was so afraid of rats?" For his own version, once adopted, was indelible, and any attempts to correct it only produced an incredulous "Hmm! Well that's not the story you used to tell."

#### Diary Dates

**Friday 18th–Sunday 20th March:** Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place – "The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace" with Abi Willetts. Booking forms are on the tables and Irma is collecting them with any payments.

**Saturday 30th July–Saturday 6th August:** Revive! 2016, "New Day Dawning." Brochures are on the tables, there is a 10% discount for bookings made and paid for by 31st March. Book at [www.ichthus.org.uk/revive](http://www.ichthus.org.uk/revive).