



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!

Sunday 27th November 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*

After the service Sunday lunch in the Social Hall, all welcome

Monday 6.30pm: Church meeting in the Small Hall
The agenda will cover the Fellowship's activities and finances and there will be an opportunity to ask questions – everyone who worships with us regularly is encouraged to come

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

Friday 2.30pm: Dave Time in the Church Quiet Room
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: David Evans
7.00pm: Town-wide service at Crawley Baptist Church

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

I was very moved by the four men (footballers), who on the television news shared their experiences of sexual abuse from their coaches. The fact that they showed their pain and cried about their humiliation will minister enormously to other men who have these locked-away dark secrets. I was abused myself at the age of six numerous times by the friend of my mother's boyfriend; I never told anyone and held that dark secret to myself, it affected my whole life. I think paedophilia is the sin the world still deems abhorrent and unforgivable whereas other sins have become acceptable or tolerated. I used to think sexual abuse was something mostly women suffered from but it seems many men are also affected. I don't understand paedophilia but there are many theories ranging from emotional immaturity or the result of a distorted need to dominate, but whatever it is, it's a deviant, perverted, evil, twisted distortion of the gift of sex that God gave the human race (and Satan uses that almost more than anything). However, God says even the vilest offender is not beyond His reach. Knowing what sexual abuse does, if anyone did that to my children or grandchildren my immediate reaction would not be compassion, I would want to do them harm. But Jesus calls us to forgive if someone is repentant. It would be a very real test of our

faith and trusting God to show us what He sees, and we must find it in our hearts to understand and show compassion if we are called to do so.

gotquestions.org says this:

Question: "What does the Bible say about paedophilia?"

Answer: There is no direct mention of paedophilia in the Bible. But, there are numerous biblical principles that definitely apply to this perverted and abusive sin. One such principle is the Bible's view of the sin of fornication. The word translated "fornication" has the same idea in both the Hebrew and the Greek. The Greek word is porneia, from which we get the English words porno and pornography. The word in Scripture refers to any illicit sexual activity, and this would have to include the abhorrent acts of a paedophile – including the gathering and trading of obscene or indecent pictures of young children. People who use this type of pornography usually graduate from looking to actually doing, bringing great harm to children. Fornication is among the "lusts of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16-21) and among the evil things that come from the heart of a man apart from God (Mark 7:21-23).

Paedophiles share the characteristic of being "without natural affection" (Romans 1:31; 2 Timothy 3:2). The phrase "without natural affection" is translated from one Greek word, which means "inhuman, unloving, and unsociable." One without natural affection acts in ways that are against the social norm. This would certainly describe a paedophile.

Diary Dates

Friday 7th–Sunday 9th April 2017: Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place with Jon and Emily Darby – Irma is collecting money if you would like to save for this, costs to follow but should be similar to this year