



# 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 15th January 2017

**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 would like to know more about us, please ask 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

**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*

5.00pm: Joint service in the Church for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

If you would like to go to Rose's funeral on Monday, Dave & Viv will give lifts to the crematorium.  
Please meet at the Community Centre at 1.40pm.

### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

#### God's Reckless Love

In my quiet time the other day I was thinking about the story of The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). The story is of a son asking for his inheritance before his father's death ("I want it and I want it now" attitude). In the eyes of the world in our everyday life this seems an extremely foolish thing for the father to agree to. I was talking to God about it and I said Him, "I realise this is an allegory (a story with two levels of meaning). I know you know best, God, but I wouldn't have chosen this story to illustrate your meaning as it seems such a reckless and foolish thing for the father to do." I almost felt God smile at me as these words came into my head, "That's the whole point of the story, Caroline, it illustrates my reckless love for people." I had never thought before of God's love being reckless and I had no idea until later that a book has been written by Alex Early with that very title, *The Reckless Love of God*.

Why is it reckless? Well the father in the story knew the immature unwise character of his son, he knew what he would do but he let him have the money anyway. The father knew that both he and his son would suffer pain through this but he trusted it would be for a greater good.

God will allow you to make horrendous mistakes, be foolish, stupid, be hurt and suffer if it brings you to your senses and shows you how much you actually need Him and that you can't do it "your way." When you love deeply and sincerely you always run a risk, you are vulnerable to hurt, but NOT to love is far worse. God loves people with such a passion, even foolish, wicked people, that's not because He ignores their wickedness (which will definitely have dire consequences if they don't turn to Him) but He sees what they could be, He sees what they were created for. God's love is not measured by our behaviour, good or bad, but on who we are. There will be rewards and consequences, that's a different subject. I don't think I could ever love a wicked person in the way God does (even though Jesus is in me), I think the best I can do is have compassion on them when they are repentant and want to see them turn their lives around. Then maybe as their lives bear fruit my love would grow but not in the reckless way that God loves. That's because I am not God and to me to think that I could ever love as deeply as God loves smacks of arrogance. But who knows what God may ask you or me to do.

### Diary Dates

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