



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!



Sunday 12th February 2017

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall
Worship: Vivienne Evans; Speaker: David Evans

*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*

This afternoon 4.30pm: The Lighthouse Project 20th Birthday Celebration at St. Andrew's Church, Furnace Green, followed by party nibbles

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: Kevin Gordon; Speaker: Mike Keeping

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Isaiah 55:8 *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.*

I have been thinking about comfort zones and all the different forms they can take. Let's focus on our theology (the study and nature of God and religious belief). We can be very set in our thinking and how we view God and how He works, and we can be there for years. Let's look at Saul of Tarsus before his conversion in Acts 9. Saul was a Pharisee of the strictest sect, indeed of the hypercritical type, so witheringly rebuked by our Saviour. He was incredibly knowledgeable, his training rooted in the scriptures of the old Testament, and although a Jew, was also a Roman citizen. He hated the people of The Way (that's what Christians were called) with a passion. His fanaticism and persecution arose from the intensity of his conviction. But, "he persecuted in ignorance," he regarded Jesus, as his teachers did, as a false Messiah, a rebel, a blasphemer who was justly commended to death. He was determined to exterminate the dangerous sect from the face of the earth. Saul was brutal in this, he overlooked many murders and tortures and was delighted at the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian Martyr. I don't imagine anybody could have convinced him otherwise.

Now let's look at Ananias, called on by God to pray for Saul after his conversion (read it in Acts 9). Ananias is a disciple of

Jesus (Jesus was no longer on this earth) but very little is known about him except that he was a devout follower of Christ, he obviously prayed and heard God when He spoke, he was incredibly obedient, he trusted God, he had a prophetic gifting and was willing to lay down his prejudice and fear to go to the aid of the dreaded Saul. I think my reaction would have been a John McEnroe moment: "God, YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS, you know the man's reputation and deeds." I may well have questioned whether I heard God correctly, who knows?

Both of these men had their very different theologies turned upside down because God had an agenda far removed from their way of thinking. Saul had to be knocked of his feet and blinded in a mighty show of God's power in order to rethink but brave Ananias was open to God and humbly obedient to this vast life-changing request from God. That Christianity spelt RISK.

Saul wasn't just an unpleasant man that Ananias didn't like, he was literally his enemy. The other disciples must have struggled with accepting Saul, who had now become Paul and also needed help from God to overcome fear and suspicion. What a wonderful testimony of their teachable and trusting hearts and of God's grace in the whole situation.

Diary Dates

Friday 7th–Sunday 9th April: Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place with Jon and Emily Darby – Booking forms are now available on the tables, please hand to Caroline (while Irma is away) with any payments.

Saturday 29th July–Saturday 4th August: Revive! 2017, "All for One" with Roger and Faith Forster and special guest speakers Stuart Bell, Steve Clifford and Jake Isaac. Bookings are now open at ichthus.org.uk/revive, 10% discount for payment in full by 17th March.