



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 19th February 2017

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion
Worship: Kevin Gordon; Speaker: Mike Keeping

*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 5.00pm: Ichthus Celebration at Dietrich Bonhoeffer Church, Forest Hill

Tuesday 7.00pm: House Group at Caroline's home
7.45pm: House Group at Ben & Pauline's home

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
Led by Sam Cole and Desmond Thomas

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Eli's Sons

1 Samuel 2:12–3:19

In 1 Samuel 1-2 we read of the birth of Samuel; his Mother Hannah dedicated this long awaited son to God and he was put in the care of Eli, a high priest and judge and leader of Israel. Eli had this position for a lifetime and it would be passed on to his children. Eli raised Samuel and became his mentor and Samuel went on to become the last judge and the first prophet of Israel. Eli did a good job with Samuel but failed miserably with his own sons Hophni & Phinehas who were unrestrained in their behaviour and had no respect for Eli or God. They were eating meat with fat still on it (cooked in a way that suited them), sometimes before it was sacrificed so it was in fact meant for God. They were also sleeping with the woman who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting, a practice strictly forbidden. The people complained to Eli so Eli spoke to his sons (2:23-24) and said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the LORD's people is not good." This was a feeble rebuke to men hardened by their sin and of course they took absolutely no notice of this "softly, softly" approach. Eli should have taken action, he should have banned them from the priesthood, but he did nothing. Eli did neither himself or them any favours by tolerating their sin, in fact it brought about their deaths and a curse forever on his family line (read on). Although Eli may well have been preoccupied with his duties, that was no excuse, even Samuel, young as he was, brought Eli a warning message straight from God (read chapter 3). Eli compromised his faith. Jacob W. Byers in his teaching "The Sin of Eli" says this, "God hates such things in our children no less than He did in the sons of Eli; and if we permit anything in our home or meetings that desecrates the sacredness of God, we become partakers of the evil and will have to give account of the same." Pretty harsh and confronting our children can make us very unpopular and tempers will rise up, but God must come first. Eli is a warning to us all, he was a righteous man, he wasn't an unbeliever but he was a miserable example of a leader. "But he was a man whose inconsistencies and failures ultimately marred his testimony, spoiled his legacy, and brought his own family to ruin. His life is a tragic cautionary tale."

Financial summary for January

Income: £1,915 (including £400 tax rebate), Expenditure: £2,607 (including £1,200 towards Church Weekend)

The Fellowship is solely dependent on your offerings to function and we thank everyone who gives regularly or occasionally. There is a box for offerings on the table by the front door; please speak to Kevin if you would like to give by Standing Order or would like a Gift Aid declaration – if you pay tax, the value of all your gifts is then increased by 25%. Standing Order and Gift Aid forms are also available on the tables.

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 Irma 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.