



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!

Sunday 26th March 2017

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion
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*

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: Ian Johnson
7.00pm: Town-wide service at Crawley Baptist Church

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

GOD'S UNFATHOMABLE MERCY

Ezekiel 18:23 *Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD.*

I have been thinking about the London terrorist Khalid Masood and what I am about to write is in no way softening his actions, looking for excuses or even saying the outcome should have been different – his death was the consequences of his actions – but my aim is to show God's immeasurable mercy as best I can. My first reaction to seeing him laying on the stretcher with the paramedics attending him was to think, "Well he has blown it, he won't get to heaven," but then I thought, "I don't know that." If he had died instantly that would most probably have been the case, but he didn't die instantly and none of us knows what happened as he lay dying. If, in that short space of time he saw Jesus and had a revelation of who Jesus was and repented and asked forgiveness for the terrible crime he had just committed, Jesus would have forgiven him. I know that if I had lost a loved one at Westminster that day I could not write in this way and for us to forgive can be a long journey but that doesn't detract from God's mercy, which is unchanging. Khalid Masood who was born Adrian Elms was, we have heard, a polite and friendly schoolboy (not a mouthy belligerent teenager) so somewhere along his path of life he made wrong choices. For whatever reason these choices had hardened his heart and slowly a foundation of anger, bitterness and hatred grew. There, but for the grace of God, anyone of us could go. When my marriage ended I was unforgiving, angry, bitter, resentful and in my mind it was all him and very little me, but it was both of us, and if I hadn't eventually forgiven and allowed God to show me, reveal to me, heal me I would have ended up a hard, bitter grumpy old lady poisoned by wrong thoughts and attitudes. Norman Tebbit, referring to the death of Martin McGuinness, the Irish terrorist turned peacemaker, said, "The world is a sweeter place" after his death and he hopes "he is parked in a particularly hot and unpleasant corner of hell." Well it definitely didn't make it a sweeter place for Norman Tebbit, you could see the bitterness etched on his face and demeanour. I can understand his hurt and anger of course, who couldn't with his wife paralysed for the rest of her life, but his unforgiveness is only hurting and damaging him. Remember forgiving is NOT letting off (so many people think it is, that's why they can't do it). Martin McGuinness may well be in heaven and Norman Tebbit is in a kind of hell of his own making. And what about the poor mother of Keith Bennett, murdered by Myra Hindley? She was understandably broken for the rest of her life but God would still have forgiven Myra Hindley and I think she did seek God's forgiveness and receive it. My own mother was a non-Christian and would get angry with me about my faith but I did manage to say to her at one time, "When you die, if Jesus stretches out His hand to you, take it." She didn't respond to that but I know that if she did take His hand at the moment of her death, even with her last breath, then I will see her again one day and I cling to that hope. Only God really knew Adrian Elms/Khalid Masood from birth to death and what transformed him to what he became (although we know the devil was instrumental in that transformation) but only God knows where he is now and God's mercy is unfathomable and His ways are not our ways (Isaiah 55:8).

Diary Dates

Friday 7th–Sunday 9th April: Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place with Jon and Emily Darby – please let Irma have any payments as soon as possible, or pay to bank account (details on booking form).

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 can be made at ichthus.org.uk/revive.