



# 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 25th June 2017

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

**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: David Evans*  
7.00pm: Town-wide service at Crawley Baptist Church

### Thought for the Week — from Caroline

**Mark 14:7** *The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.*

**Deuteronomy 15:11** *There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be open-handed toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.*

I have used these two scriptures but I am not actually going to write about the background of them but rather our approach to poverty and wealth. Jesus is stating quite clearly that we will always have the poor, there is no political party that can eradicate that, of course we can do a lot to alleviate their suffering but Christianity as I see it is not just about meeting the financial and material needs of people but rather to guide and teach us how to live a different way, God's way, and to open our eyes to looking at ourselves, taking on responsibility, examining the flaws in our characters that have held us back and being transformed in our thoughts, words and deeds. I have been a Christian for many years; I didn't grow up in a Christian home but started going to church in my 30s and it's taken me a very long time for the "penny to drop" and live my life God's way (I'm still working on it). God has taken care of me financially and materially and used many Christians to help me in this way of which I am extremely grateful but it is my surrender to the Holy Spirit and being teachable that has brought the changes I needed. It seems to me that many judgments are made about poverty and wealth, not all wealthy people are greedy and self-serving and not all poor are helpless victims; I don't think you will ever hear in church, *For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat."* (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

I have been at a meeting when someone had prophesied over them that God would bless them with wealth and obviously God

knew he could trust that person with it. In the story of the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-27) it wasn't the fact that he was rich that was the problem but that he was unable to part with it, meaning it was his main source of security rather than God. But we all have many different sources of security, some even in their illness and disabilities (which can be a source of income to them).

[www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-helping-the-poor](http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-helping-the-poor) says this:

*The man who stands on the street with a sign that reads, "Will work for food" may not be served best by giving him money. Perhaps he is sincere but how do we know that he simply wants to receive money so that he can continue his addiction to drugs or alcohol. The fact is that only God knows. I heard of one pastor who stopped and invited one man with such a sign to breakfast and when the man went with him to eat, the pastor asked him if he would like to mow the church's lawn for money. The man refused and said that he could not take the heat. Did the pastor do the right thing? I believe that this man gave the unemployed man the benefit of the doubt, but when he offered to provide a short-term job for money, the man refused. Sometimes giving out a gift certificate for a meal is better than giving someone you don't know money because you may be enabling their addiction and their unwillingness to work for a living as the Bible commands (2 Thessalonians 3:10).*

I don't agree that God sends troubles but He does allow problems and difficulties or even job loses to break our pride and bring us to the end of ourselves and to seek His help (it's happened in my own life). I do believe that every situation should be brought before God as only He knows and we should not fall into the trap of taking biased and extreme views of the poor or the rich. *People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.* (1 Samuel 16:7)

### Diary Dates

**Saturday 29th July–Saturday 4th August:** Revive! 2017, "All for One" with Roger and Faith Forster and special guest speakers Stuart Bell, Steve Clifford, Jake Isaac and Ian Christensen. Bookings can be made at [ichthus.org.uk/revive](http://ichthus.org.uk/revive)