



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!

Sunday 13th May 2018

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall
Worship: Kevin Gordon; 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*

Monday 6.45pm: Prayer time in the Church (*for one hour*)

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

Wednesday 9.15am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall

Friday 2.30pm: "Dave Time" In the Church Quiet Room (*for one hour*)
5.00pm: Friday Meal in the Social Hall, followed by:
Alpha in the Church Quiet Room (*ends 7.00pm*)

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.



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, including communion
Led by Ian's House Group

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight (*Mark 10:46-52*)

"So he threw off his beggar's cloak, jumped up, and made his way to Jesus." (*Mark 10:50, The Passion Translation*)

I was reading the story of the blind man Bartimaeus being healed and when it said, "he threw off his beggar's cloak," I saw it for the first time as a meaningful revelation, it really "hit me in the face." Wow! That is so symbolic, so inspiring that the Lord had shown me that, and pride started to settle on my shoulder, God had revealed this to ME – that is until I went exploring on the Internet and discovered that countless other Christians knew this and there were even sermons on it.

Bartimaeus had been born blind but his other senses were acute and he knew that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel because he calls Him Son of David and cries out to Him. The crowds tell him to be quiet (he is a nobody on the bottom rung of society) but Bartimaeus is not fazed by them, he is not influenced by other people, he perseveres in spite of his adversity. Jesus hears his cry and responds (He always does to the cry of our hearts), and now that Jesus is calling for him he is encouraged to go. There may well be people who try to "slap you down" but God will provide others to

encourage you and lift you up. Bartimaeus, on hearing Jesus, throws off his beggar's cloak – it was likely his only possession (a kind of security blanket), he would have used it for warmth and possibly to collect his money in. He could have wrapped it around himself tighter as we do when we feel fearful, but no, he threw it off. And then when Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Bartimaeus is specific, he knows exactly what he wants, he wants to be healed and he KNOWS Jesus is the answer. It's interesting how Jesus will ask questions He knows the answer to, that's because He wants us to confront our own hearts. He knew Bartimaeus was taking a risk as he would be giving up the only life he knew and his only means of income, even though his life was miserable, it was his only security (weird as that may seem). Bartimaeus has no hesitation though, he wants Jesus's healing touch and all that it brings, he surrenders to Jesus.

It made me think and say to the Lord, "What is my beggar's cloak? What am I hanging on to? What am I still spiritually blind to in my life?" and Jesus will say to me, "What do you want me to do?" I am asking Him, "Lord, open my eyes to the things in my life I am still blind to, show me where I am hanging on to my beggar's cloak, I want to see more clearly and trust more with the same abandonment that Bartimaeus had, to have his same faith." I know I am not there yet.

Diary Dates

Next Sunday 20th May, 7.00pm (after the Ichthus Celebration): Revive volunteer "meet-and-greet"/Q&A type event where those who would like to volunteer for Revive, or who may be considering volunteering, can ask questions, meet team leaders, and generally find out more of what it means to volunteer and why it is such a rewarding way to enjoy Revive.

Saturday 28th July–Saturday 4th August: Revive 2018 – "Breakthrough" at Ashburnham Place with guest speaker Tim Paton. Book at www.ichthus.org.uk/revive

Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers. (3 John 2)