



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!

Sunday 4th November 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*

This evening 7.00pm: Town-wide service at Crawley Baptist Church

Monday 6.45–7.45pm: Prayer time in the Church

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 2.30–3.30pm: "Dave Time" In the Church Quiet Room

5.00pm: Friday Meal in the Social Hall

5.45–7.00pm: *Alpha* in the Church Quiet Room

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: Vivienne Evans; Speaker: Ian Johnson

Financial summary for October 2018

Income: £4,137 (including £2,007 Gift Aid tax rebate), Expenditure: £1,906

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 main entrance and we pass an offering bag round once a month. 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.

The offering for the Indonesia Tsunami appeal raised £168.43

Diary Dates

Friday 8th – Sunday 10th March 2019: Church Weekend at Ashburnham Place with Faith Forster & Ben Trigg

Saturday 3rd – 10th August 2019: Revive 2019 at Ashburnham Place – bookings now open at revivelive.co.uk

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

See overleaf for Thought for the Week

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Proverbs 19:11 “Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offence.”

I was listening on the radio to a report that the police just don't have the time or manpower to respond to so much hate crime (or what people consider “hate”) that is reported and it made me think about how what's offence to one person isn't to another. For example, a woman reporting to police wolf-whistling builders. Now crudity and vulgarity offends me but wolf-whistling never has, in fact at my age it would be fantastic. I don't mind being called darling and sweetie by either men or women, in fact I like it but I know some people really can't stand it.

An excerpt from an article in *Beyond Today* magazine by Becky Sweat says this:

“I can't believe you let your kids eat toaster pastries! They're all sugar and trans fats!” a friend told me recently. She was over for coffee and couldn't help peering into my open pantry and seeing the box of toaster pastries.

I could feel my hackles starting to rise. What would motivate someone to make a remark like that?! It would never occur to me to critique what other people have in their kitchen cupboards. Still, I told myself my friend probably meant well. After all, she studied nutrition in college and that was “her thing.” In her own way, she was probably trying to show concern. So I simply smiled, shrugged and replied, “You're right. They're not exactly nutritious. But once in a while I buy them for a special treat.”

This response is what I call the “Value-the-Other-Person's-Perspective” approach. You let the other person know you can see some truth to what she just said. Sure, it would have been easy to take offence at my friend's words, but why? In the broad scheme of things, does it really matter that my friend doesn't agree with all of my grocery purchases? Obviously, it doesn't. If I would have challenged her on what she said, that may have led to an argument. Instead, after my response, my friend smiled back. Then we began to talk about something totally different, and had a pleasant conversation.

I wish I could say I always respond to offensive remarks in this way, but I don't. Sometimes I let other people's careless, blunt or insensitive words rub me the wrong way. I feel hurt, upset, insulted, snubbed, slighted or wronged. I'm not able to let the comments just slide.

Chances are, you can relate. From time to time, probably most of us find ourselves offended by something someone said, or perhaps did. You don't get invited to a party that everyone else you know is going to. Your boss commends your co-worker in the company meeting, but doesn't acknowledge any of your efforts. You don't receive a thank you card for the birthday gift you gave someone. Your son sits out on the bench the entire baseball game, while the coach's son and his circle of friends play the whole time. It can be so difficult to overlook these kinds of annoyances.

Yet, we must. The Bible admonishes us to not be over-sensitive: “Do not take to heart everything people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. For many times, also, your own heart has known that even you have cursed others” (Ecclesiastes 7:21-22).

We know that part of the fruit of God's Spirit is love. In 1 Corinthians 13:5, we're told that a vital aspect of love is to not be easily provoked or stirred to anger.

Those who really love God's law and understand His Word will not allow small irritants and annoyances to drive a wedge between others and themselves. They know how easy it is to cause others offence. Proverbs 11:12 says, “He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbour, but a man of understanding holds his peace.”

Certainly, these verses are not telling us we should never confront another person about a serious problem. There are times when we do need to go to our brother, as commanded in Matthew 18:15-17. However, confronting others should not be something we are doing on a regular basis. You don't want to be the proverbial “contentious woman” (or man) who is just itching to be offended, all-too-ready to tell others off and put them in their place. No one wants to spend time around someone like that.

Of course, some people aren't “confrontational,” but may get just as offended. Rather than pick a fight with the offender, they stew about what the person said or did, harbouring all kinds of negative emotions. That's not good, either. These kinds of feelings can grow and fester, and turn someone into an angry, bitter, miserable person. It can also lead to grudges. I know people who have spent years estranged from once good friends over relatively small offences.

The fact of the matter is offences are going to come our way. When they do, it's okay to admit that it hurts. However, we don't have to get upset about it. We can choose to not be offended. It says in Colossians 3:13 that we should be “bearing with one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.”