



# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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## NewsFlash!

### Sunday 12th February 2023

**This morning** 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Worship: Viv Evans; "Talking Jesus" week 1*

*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** 7.00pm: Prayer meeting on Zoom

**Tuesday** 7.30pm: Home Group at Steph & Shell's

**Wednesday** 9.15am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall  
*Including UKHarvest Community Food Hub from 10.00 – Bring a shopping bag and fill it from a selection of mixed groceries and rescued produce for a suggested donation of £3.50*

**Next Sunday** 9.00am: Open up and set up hall for worship  
9.30am: Prayer Meeting  
10.00am: Tea & Coffee  
10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Worship: Kevin Gordon; "Talking Jesus" week 2*

**There will be an offering today and next week in aid of the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal**

### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

John 14:2-12 "My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

As many of you now know, Mareta's daughter Marianne died on Thursday evening. I remember Marianne as a vivacious, vibrant, intelligent young woman with a great sense of humour and, in spite of turbulent times, deeply loved by her family. When I was thinking of her and trying to come to terms with it all – she was only 45 – Cat Stevens's song "Oh Very Young" came into my head. I love this poignant song; I'm not too sure what it's about, some say a veiled reference to the death of Buddy Holly. The lyrics in the first line go, "Oh very young, what will you leave us this time, you're only dancing on this earth for a short while." And later it says, "And if you want this world to see a better day, will you carry the words of love with you, will you, will you ride the great white bird into heaven?"

The fact that Cat Stevens was looking into Buddhism at the time and the title of the Album is "Buddha And The Chocolate Box" doesn't faze me in the least, Buddha means absolutely nothing to me. Heaven is real, Jesus is alive, and the only way to get there is to believe in Jesus and trust Him with your life. Marianne has been greeted there by friends and relatives she knows, and everyone there loves her. People, including preachers, vicars, philosophers, will give highly opinionated views on heaven. They will say with great authority, "There are no animals in heaven, no aborted fetuses." Well I will be just as opinionated and say, "You are wrong, they are there." How do I know? I can't give you a scientific answer, I just know. I believed this even before reading "Heaven Is For Real" by Todd Burpo, a recommended read. God doesn't see death how we see it. We view it through many emotions and experience the deep pain of grief. Our grief is mixed up with if onlys, what ifs, regret, guilt, fear, the finality of loss, and then they say there can be five stages, "denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance," before you finally get to acceptance.

Those of us who are Christians can experience all those things, but we also know we are only on this earth for a short while, and then we are welcomed home by a heavenly Father who loves us. I can't think of anything worse than dying without Jesus, and then realising too late that we've "blown it" and won't be accepted in Heaven. That's why we have to tell people about Jesus, it's a matter of urgency.

### Diary Dates

**Friday 3rd March:** World Day of Prayer, "I have heard about your faith" – 10.30am at The Friary Church, Haslett Avenue West and 7.00pm at Crawley Baptist Church, Crabtree Road, West Green

**Saturday 18th–Sunday 19th March 2023:** Church Weekend at the De Vere Horsley Estate, Ockham Road South, East Horsley, Surrey, KT24 6DU, with Joshua Walker

**Saturday 29th–Saturday 5th August 2023:** Revive 2023 "Pursuing The Unshakeable" at Ashburnham Place; bookings now open at [revivelive.co.uk](http://revivelive.co.uk), 10% discount for bookings made and paid for by 31st May 2023

**Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing. (Isaiah 43:18-19a)**