



# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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## NewsFlash!



### Sunday 16th July 2023

**This morning** 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Worship: Kevin Gordon*  
*Kintsugi Hope, week 5: Understanding Grief*

*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** 9.30am: Little Lambs Toddler Group in the Social Hall  
7.00pm: Prayer Walk, meet at the Church

**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: Viv Evans*  
*Kintsugi Hope, week 6: Resilience*

### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Genesis 37:34-35 “Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. ‘No,’ he said, ‘I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.’ So his father wept for him.”

There are many instances of grief in the Bible, Jacob was cruelly lied to as his son Joseph wasn't really dead, but the pain of loss and supposed death was to remain with him many years. Many characters suffered grief; King David, Job, the disciples, Naomi and Ruth, Martha and Mary, Mary, Jesus's mother and many more. Jesus Himself took himself off to a quiet place to grieve for John the Baptist, and He wept at Lazarus's tomb. Interestingly, Jesus wept for Lazarus even though He knew He was going to raise Him from the dead. Maybe He felt the intense pain from Lazarus's sisters, I don't know. What I do know is the pain of loss is very intense and debilitating and comes in many forms; death, divorce, illness, estrangement from a loved one or family, miscarriage, an empty nest, loss of a pet, recovery from abuse, betrayal from a friend, loss of livelihood, the list goes on.

The depth of pain and how we react can differ greatly, and there are things we need to learn not to say. For example, I dislike intensely to hear people say, when an old person dies, “Well, they had a good life and at their age it's only to be expected.” How do they know what sort of life they had and if they are old you've had a long time loving them. Also, do not look down on a person who is in the depth of despair about a pet. The relationship a person can have with a pet can be as deep as a relationship with a human, so don't judge them. Also, with a miscarriage, it's the painful knowledge that you never had a chance to be with that little new member of the family. I grieved over my broken marriage for many years, riddled with “if onlys” and “what ifs.” But Jesus doesn't want us to be in pain for great lengths of time, He wants us to trust Him with our pain, to take our questions, doubts, fears and even our anger to Him. One of my big questions was, “Where is my Mother? She wasn't a Christian.” I didn't have the comfort of knowing she is with Jesus, but I can only trust that Jesus does what's right and I don't know what happened in her last moments. Jesus understand our grief, just rest assured in that.

Len Elphick's funeral is on Thursday at 12.00 noon in St. Richard's Chapel at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium

### Diary Dates

**Saturday 29th–Saturday 5th August 2023:** Revive 2023 “Pursuing The Unshakeable” at Ashburnham Place with Pete Greig, Noel Robinson and Rachel Jordan-Wolf; bookings still open at [revivelive.co.uk](http://revivelive.co.uk)

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