



# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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## NewsFlash!



### Sunday 23rd July 2023 and August

**This morning** 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Worship: Viv Evans*  
*Kintsugi Hope, week 6: Resilience*

*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

**Saturday** **Depart for Revive 2023 at Ashburnham Place**  
*"Pursuing The Unshakeable" with guest speakers Pete Greig, Noel Robinson and Rachel Jordan-Wolf*

**Sunday 30th** **No service in the Social Hall**, you are welcome to join with the Church of England in the Church at 11.00 am

### August

*This will be the Last NewsFlash until Sunday 3rd September. We will be meeting as usual on Sunday mornings from 6th August, which will be a "Bring and Share" and on 20th August the Church of England will be joining us in the Social Hall. Unless advised otherwise there will be a Prayer Walk at 7.00pm on 7th and 21st August and a Prayer Meeting on Zoom at 7.00pm on 14th and 28th August. Home Group will continue on Tuesdays at 7.30pm unless otherwise arranged. Little Lambs Toddler Group will resume on Monday 11th September and Coffee Shop on Wednesday 6th September, apart from Wednesday 16th August when UKHarvest will be coming for the monthly Community Food Hub.*

### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

To me, courage is identified through the overcoming of fear and resilience is born through adversity. If you could go back and view my life you would be amazed that I'm even alive let alone as sane as I now am. The dictionary says resilience is the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness. When I was 11 my mother took me away from the convent where I was so unhappy and set me up in the school where she taught. It was so much better, but one day the English mistress suddenly said in front of the whole class, "Caroline, your mother has given me permission to slap you down if you get out of hand." My mother had obviously spoken to this teacher in private, not knowing this teacher would use it as a means to humiliate me. That was the beginning of many people dominating and slapping me down in life. I remember also, when I was on remand at Pucklechurch Remand centre in the late 60s sharing a "room" with a girl who had murdered her husband. This girl was a "pussycat" compared with the resident psychiatrist, who was a hateful woman who took great delight in smashing me down, your jaw would drop at some of the things she said to me. There are many more incidents, but as a non-Christian, although I would withstand the psychological beatings, they brought the wrong learning opportunities, the wrong sort of recovery. A survivor, yes, but broken, fractured, fearful and trusting no one, manipulating a path through life, being led unknowingly by the devil. However, when I became a Christian, resilience took on a whole new form. God teaches us to perceive a setback as a learning opportunity. Trying something multiple times without giving up. Committing to a challenge and seeing it through. Where the devil pulls down and sets out to destroy and weaken our self-esteem, God will build you up, strengthen you, repair you and fill the cracks with gold like our Kintsugi series is teaching us. There are many instances of resilience in the Bible; Joseph (of the coat of many colours), Esther, Daniel, to name a few and Jesus Himself who demonstrated that a man can persevere even when rejected and subjected to cruelty even when one is perfectly innocent and righteous. Matthew 24:13 says: "...but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." And Nelson Mandela said: **Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.**

*Pucklechurch Remand Centre was destroyed in a riot in 1990. It is now HM Prison Ashfield.*

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