



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!



Sunday 10th December to end of 2023

This morning	10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion <i>Worship: Kevin Gordon</i> <i>Lighthouse Assembly with Gunilla Johnson</i>
<hr/> <i>We offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our worship today</i> <i>If you would like to know more about us, please ask one of the leaders</i>	
Monday	9.30am: Little Lambs Play & Sing Toddler Group in the Social Hall 7.00pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom
Tuesday	7.30pm: Home Group at Steph & Shell's
Wednesday	9.15am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall
Saturday	11.00am–3.00pm: UKHarvest Family Fun Day at the Apple Tree Centre, Ifield Avenue
Next Sunday	9.00am: Open up and set up hall for worship 9.30am: Prayer Meeting 10.30am: Carol Singing on Broadfield Barton 11.00am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall <i>Christmas Explored</i> 12.30pm: Christmas meal, all welcome, please let Viv know the numbers
Monday 18th	4.30pm–6.00pm: BCF Children's Party in the Youth Hall 7.00pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom
Tuesday 19th	7.30pm: Home Group at Steph & Shell's
Wednesday 20th	10.00am: UKHarvest Community Food Hub in the Social Hall <i>Bring a shopping bag and fill it from a selection of mixed groceries and rescued produce for a suggested donation of £3.50</i>
Sunday 24th	4.00pm: Church of England service in the Church
Monday 25th	10.30am: Christmas Day worship in the Church with the Church of England
Sunday 31st	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 <i>Reflections on the past year and looking forward</i>

See overleaf for Thought for the Week

Diary Dates

Saturday 23rd/Sunday 24th March 2024: Church Weekend at the De Vere Horsley Estate, East Horsley, KT24 6DT
Adult shared room £120, single occupancy £145, booking forms to follow soon

Saturday 3rd–10th August 2024: Revive 2024 "Fearless and Free" at Ashburnham Place – bookings now open at revivelive.co.uk – special Jubilee camping offer, see www.revivelive.co.uk/jubilee-2024/

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

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Lord of the Messy Manger by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

If you think your life is an utter disaster, that God could never use a life as messed up as yours, think again. Let me point you to some familiar Bible stories.

1. Joseph's brothers hate him so much that they sell him as a slave and make their father believe he has been devoured by animals, "but God meant it for good" to save thousands from starvation.
2. Sampson lusts after a Philistine girl – not the nice Jewish girl his parents wanted for him. But the Bible says, "His father and mother did not know that this was from the Lord."
3. King Solomon's son makes a disastrous decision that loses him half the kingdom. What a mess! But God says, "This thing is from me."
4. Jacob is a liar and a cheat and has to flee for his life. He sleeps out in the open with only a rock for a pillow. But when he wakes with a vision of angels, he says, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it."

Your life may appear well-ordered on the surface, but underneath there may be disarray. Brokenness, pain, shame. Things you seem utterly incapable of fixing.

The good news, my friend, is that God is bigger than your messy life. He is not impotent. He is not confined by your boundaries. He is God! And he is unafraid of working in messy situations. In fact, he gets a kick out of surprising us with his amazing grace.

What are your points of pain? What is the mess that you are struggling with? Maybe, just maybe, God is able to take your mess, and out of it bring blessing.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

How bad can it get? A girl gets pregnant. Her parents are utterly shamed. Her fiancé – not the father – is ready to dump her. And then he is told, "Do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit."

How bad can it get? The girl is in labour, far from home with only a cave-barn where she can lie down and have her baby. The only place to put her newborn is a manger. A cattle trough. We imagine it with fresh, fragrant straw plucked from a bale of hay. But I doubt that the cave was stocked with neat bales stacked against the wall. The straw that night was neither fresh nor fragrant. Life was a mess – but God was in it.

God sees Mary with her tiny infant and sends a host of angels to announce the birth.

"Behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."