



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

☎ 01444 400521 – Email: fellowship@broadfield.org.uk – Web: www.broadfield.org.uk



NewsFlash!

Sunday 10th November 2024

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall

Worship: Viv Evans

Freedom in Christ session 7, "Forgiving From The Heart"

*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 9.30pm: Little Lambs Play & Sing Toddler Group in the Social Hall

7.00pm: Prayer Meeting on Zoom

8.00pm: Leadership Support Group meets at Steph & Shell's

Tuesday 7.45pm: Home Group at Steph & Shell's

Wednesday 9.15am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall

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

Freedom in Christ session 8, "Renewing The Mind"

Thought For The Week – from Caroline

Hosea 14:9 *Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the Lord are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.*

I watched this week the 4-part drama called "Until I Kill You." I am not suggesting you watch it, some would not want to because of the violence and bad language, but that is part of some people's stories, and we can't always turn our heads away. In 1994, Delia Balmer survived a terrifying attack at the hands of serial killer John Sweeney. How she survived is an incredible story. Delia Balmer went through an ordeal that almost defies belief. At the hands of her partner, John Sweeney, she was abused, attacked and held hostage – before managing to turn the tables and bring him to justice many years later. Delia is an incredibly strong lady, but it is more than obvious she has not given her life to Jesus and that in the early days of her relationship with John Sweeney she doesn't appear to have any wisdom or discernment about him and missed many "red flags." So many messages could be taught from this drama. One thing that struck me was the deep rage and bitterness that Delia held during her ordeal and to this present day, and how very understandable that is, but sad and not what God wants for her at all. The police let her down very badly and didn't protect her when Sweeney managed to fool the judge and get bail, resulting in him almost successfully killing Delia. Even seemingly clever professional people are fooled by evil when they lack discernment. Later, Delia is asked to testify against Sweeney but is so terrified at the prospect she needs "Dutch courage" (alcohol) to appear, but

what happens as a result is she erupts in uncontrollable fury which hampers the case enormously. I can understand her bad language, her extreme anger and her need for alcohol, however I know had she given her life to Jesus it would be so different. In her own strength, those things were her aids. A psychiatrist said of Delia, when the police wanted her to be a witness again many years later, "It's her anger that's holding her up, if her fear is greater than her anger she may well take her own life." In church, we can be a mixture of Christians and non-Christians, we can't expect non-Christians or new Christians to conform to the standards we think they should portray straight away. If Delia turned up at church, it would be too easy to judge her behaviour without knowing her story. If she were to come out with the "F" word, which she did quite frequently, I suppose we would gently remind her of the children present but at the same time allow God to minister to her His way at a pace she could cope with. There could definitely be no suggestions of forgiveness for Delia until she addressed her anger, as that would ignite her even more. God is patient, He deals with people at His pace and theirs, not ours. I've thought a lot about Delia this week and there is so much more that could be said.

The words from *Hosanna* I love so much:

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like You have loved me
Break my heart for what breaks Yours
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity

Advance Notices

Sunday 24th November, 5.00pm: Christ the King Sunday joint service with the Roman Catholics and Church of England in the Church, followed by refreshments

Saturday 2nd–9th August 2025: Revive 2025, "The Call of Christ" at Ashburnham Place, bookings now open at revivelive.co.uk, new discounted rate for 18–24 year olds

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)