



# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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## NewsFlash!

### Sunday 17th June 2007

**This morning:** 10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion  
*Worship: David Evans; Preacher: Ian Johnson*

*We offer a warm welcome to all visitors to our worship today*

**Monday:** 3.00 pm Cream teas at Martin and Katie's home  
8.00 pm Leadership Group at Irma's home

**Midweek:** **Freedom in Christ** groups as arranged (week 9)

**Wednesday:** 9.30 am Coffee Shop in the Social Hall (*until 11.30 am*)

**Next Sunday:** 9.00 am Open up and set up hall for worship  
9.30 am Prayer meeting in the Social Hall  
10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Please bring a testimony or a song to share (or both)*  
11.15 am Tea and coffee  
11.30 am "Steps to Freedom in Christ"  
*For those taking part in the Freedom in Christ groups  
Ends mid-afternoon – bring a packed lunch (drinks provided)*

### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

#### PRAYER

Prayer changes things; it's powerful, it's important. Revelation 8:1-6 says that heaven was silent for half an hour while incense and the prayers of God's people were offered up.

However, I find concentrating on prayer (and particularly prayer meetings) extremely difficult and, to be honest, boring at times. We need to ask God what HE wants to be top on our priority list rather than what we think we ought to be praying for – we may be surprised by what he says. Anyway, if you are anything like me this might help.

First, chat to God anytime, anywhere about anything – that is prayer. Have a quiet time of maybe 1-5 minutes each day to begin with when it's best for you, but there is no law about it and don't think you are the only one with a wandering mind. Henri Nouwen once said, "when we pray, thoughts jump around in our heads like monkeys jumping around in banana trees." So take time to allow the monkeys to settle. The trouble is that some thoughts seem so unspiritual, so I force myself to pray for things that seem more noble, but then there is a gap between what I am supposed to pray for and what I am really thinking about. Roger Forster says this: "We bring ourselves to God just as we are, warts and all. Like children before a loving father, we open our hearts and make requests. We do not try to sort out the

good from the bad. We tell God, for example, how frustrated we are with the co-worker at the office or the neighbour down the street or our frustration with church. (I added that!) Or, in a truly remarkable example, when Elijah prays to complain about a group of youths calling him "baldy" (take a look at 2 Kings 2:24). This doesn't seem like the prayer of a spiritual giant."

You may wonder at offering God prayer that seems so trivial – even selfish. However, nothing kills prayer faster than when I pretend to be more noble than I really am.

Many people have found prayer impossible because they thought they should pray for wonderful but remote needs that they actually have little or no interest in or knowledge of.

Simple prayer is best and HONESTY is paramount (of the greatest importance). God is thrilled that you talk to him and what is truly on your heart he knows about anyway, and you will grow in it and before you know it you will have a noble prayer!

C.S. Lewis wrote that in prayer we must "lay before Him what is in us, not what ought to be in us."

*These thoughts are a mixture of mine and from a book "The Life You've Always Wanted" by John Ortberg.*

### Advance Notices

**Saturday 30th June:** Bob McLeod will be visiting us – more details to follow. See [www.inthecloud.org](http://www.inthecloud.org).

**Saturday 30th June at 7.45 pm:** Ian Edgson and Paul Gruet in concert – an evening of Christian Music at St. Andrew's Church, Furnace Green. Claim your free copy of Ian & Paul's new CD, "Sonic Experiments." Admission free, exit by donation to St. Andrew's new church building fund!

**Saturday 7th July at 7.30 pm:** Dave Bilbrough in concert at Three Bridges Free Church. Tickets £6. See poster on table or visit [www.3bfchurch.co.uk/concert](http://www.3bfchurch.co.uk/concert).

**Saturday 14th July:** Coach Trip to Littlehampton – more information later.

**Saturday 21st July at 11.00 am:** Broadfield Community Centre Fête.

**Saturday 11th – Saturday 18th August:** Revive! 2007: "Faith, Hope and Love Remain" – annual Ichthus camp at Ashburnham Place, near Battle, East Sussex. With George Verwer, Derek Brown, Elaine and Alan Storkey, Roger and Faith Forster. Booking forms on the table.