

# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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## NewsFlash!

### Sunday 20th January 2008

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

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

**Monday:** 10.45 am Pastoral Group meets at Martin & Katie's home  
8.00 pm Leadership Group prayer meeting

**Tuesday:** 7.30 pm House Group at Martin & Katie's home

**Wednesday:** 9.30 am Coffee Shop in the Social Hall (*until 11.30 am*)  
3.00 pm 'Design & Play' consultation event in the Community Centre  
*To view and comment on the displays and designs for the new play area (until 6.30 pm).*

**Friday:** 5.00 pm A light meal with tea or coffee in the Social Hall

**Next Sunday:** 9.00 am Open up and set up hall for worship  
9.30 am Prayer meeting in the Social Hall  
10.00 am Tea and Coffee and an opportunity for prayer  
10.30 am Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Worship: Vivienne Evans; Preacher: David Evans.*

### Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Job 36:15 "He delivers the afflicted in their affliction and opens their ears (to His voice) in adversity."

It is always very hard to see our loved ones suffering but there is more to it than meets the eye. I have had many traumatic experiences in my life but seeing my dear mother's suffering in her nineties with dementia topped the lot.

We eventually had to put her in a home which appeared all very nice but as it happened they didn't seem to have a clue about her condition. My daughter Ashlee visited her Grandma as often as she could and prayed earnestly, as I did, that God would help her and save her as she wasn't a Christian. Ashlee found it very distressing to see her Grandma and one day asked God, "please, whatever it takes save her."

One day when Ashlee was driving home from a particularly gruelling visit she could contain her anger no longer. She was furious with God and let him have it with "both barrels." She shouted at him through her tears, "how can you call yourself a loving God, how can you allow this to happen to Grandma, how am I supposed to trust you? You just don't seem to care – in fact, since I asked you to help it has all got worse. Grandma is being neglected, misunderstood, starved, shut in rooms alone, tied to a wheelchair, shouted at and abused. She's lonely, frightened and in the pits and what are you doing about it?" Then Ashlee said she heard God say, "didn't you ask, 'whatever it takes?'"

You see we can spend a lifetime building barriers and fortresses around our lives, which we enforce with rebellion, pride, and stubbornness and which we think will protect us from hurt but in fact it blocks our way to God. Sometimes the only choice God has is to allow a "demolition ball" to break the wall of our lives down.

One day, two weeks before my mother died, Ashlee found her Grandma sitting in a chair looking tranquil and in her right mind (to a point) which astonished Ashlee. Ashlee shared the story of Noah with her and what faith he had in God. She was able to interact with her about the things of God and in the end Grandma asked Ashlee, "how do I have faith what do I need to do?" Ashlee replied that she had to believe what she was telling her like Noah had to believe God.

I never saw my mother like this, but at times when I feel so sad about her suffering this story comforts me and Ashlee always assures me that Grandma suffered for a reason.

### Church Weekend 2008

Once again this will be at Oak Hall Manor in Otford, Kent, from **28th-30th March 2008**. This is the weekend after Easter and a week before the end of the school term. The cost will be £70 for adults and £45 for children aged 4-15.

We need to pay the full fees in advance **this month**, so it is important we know how many are coming. Please fill in the form below and hand it to Pat or Irma with a deposit of at least **£5 per adult** in cash or cheque payable to Broadfield Christian Fellowship. If you have any problem paying the balance, have a word with Dave or Kevin and we'll sort something out.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children aged 4-15: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children under 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit enclosed (£5 per adult): £\_\_\_\_\_