



# Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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## NewsFlash!

### Sunday 14th February 2010

**This morning** 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall  
*Worship: Kevin Gordon; Preacher: Ian Johnson*

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

**Monday** 10.30am: Pastoral Group at Linda's home  
2.00pm: House Group at Connie's home

**Tuesday** 7.45pm: Bible study in the Church Quiet Room

**Wednesday** 9.30–11.30am: *The Triangle* Coffee Shop in the Social Hall  
10.00–11.00am: Health Walk starting from the recycling centre  
10.45–11.15am: Leadership Group prayer in the Church  
12.00–1.00pm: Prayer meeting in the Church Quiet Room  
6.30pm: Community Centre General Council

**Friday** 5.00–6.00pm: Friday Meal in the Social Hall

**Next Sunday** 9.00am: Open up and set up hall for worship  
9.30am: Prayer meeting in the Social Hall  
10.00am: Tea and coffee  
10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion  
*Worship: Vivienne Evans; Preacher: David Evans*

Well done to Jodie, Savannah, Derek, Riccardo and Ed for completing the 2 hour hike at 6am yesterday!

*Please see overleaf for "Thought for the Week"*

### Advance Notices

**Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th March:** Ichthus Worship, Prayer and Fasting Conference at Ashburnham Place.

**Sunday 14th March:** The founding minister of Broadfield Christian Fellowship, Rev **John Hall** will be preaching at our morning worship.

**Friday 26th March – Sunday 28th March:** Church Weekend at Annan Court – see below.

**Friday 2nd April:** Good Friday march to combined service in Queen's Square.

**Sunday 4th April:** Easter Sunday.

**Sunday 30th/Monday 31st May:** The Big Church Day Out at Wiston House, Steyning.

**Saturday 31st July – 7th August:** Revive! 2010 at Ashburnham Place.

### Church Weekend 2010

This will be at a new venue, Annan Court, near Uckfield, East Sussex (TN22 5RE), from **26th–28th March 2010** (the weekend before Easter). It will be led by Graham and Angela Geddis from Ichthus Woolwich. The cost will be £80 for adults and £48 for children aged 4-12.

We have a limited number of spaces, so it is important that you get your booking in as soon as possible. Please fill in the form below and hand it to Irma with your payment or a deposit of at least **£5 per adult** in cash or cheque payable to Broadfield Christian Fellowship. If you have any difficulty paying the balance, have a word with Dave or Kevin and we'll sort something out.

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

Number of adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children aged 4-12: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of children under 4: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Thought for the Week — from Caroline

*Matthew 5: 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ...*

*John 13:34-35 A new command I give you: Love one another, as I have loved you ...*

*Matthew 23:33 You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?*

Jesus calls us to follow Him and to do the things He does, He tells us to love our enemies and pray for them but when He comes into contact with the Pharisees he calls them snakes and vipers. In chapter 23 He also calls them hypocrites, blind guides, blind fools, like white washed tombs, full of wickedness and so on. So how do these scriptures tie up?

It's because we talk about tough love but rarely do it. We live in a "mushy love" society. This likewise influences the Christian perception of love presented in the Bible. Yet tough love is as old as God, He used it throughout the Old Testament to save the Israelites from Hell.

This is what J. Grant Swank says in "Tough Love":

Jesus: the Truth

How then could one reckon Jesus to be the embodiment of divine love when He so pointedly exposed the charades of religious fakes all around Him? It was because Jesus 1) knew them to be His enemies, 2) was determined to love His enemies, 3) and so loved them by attempting to shock them out of their spiritual stubbornness. He knew anything less simply would not work.

What kind of reputable divine love would Jesus have shown if He had coddled the Pharisees, played up to them, tried to win them over with political gimmickry or psychological game-playing?

Jesus could have nothing to do with any of that nonsense, for Jesus was Truth. Truth could not compromise itself by playing out anything but sheer honesty.

I have always thought that if you major on the "mushy love" in teaching and avoid the straight-talking that is definitely needed at times, it's going to cause those Christians who are brave enough to speak out to somehow feel guilty that they have overstepped the mark or been unloving. It takes guts and courage to do it as you risk being unpopular, criticised and shouted down and in Jesus's case executed for it. Leadership of any sort (particularly parent-child) actively applying tough love from a heart of love, in spite of being misunderstood and considered hard-hearted, will reap the rewards now and for eternity and make the church stronger.