



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!

Sunday 19th May 2024

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including communion
Led by Steph & Shell's Home Group

*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 Walk, meet at Diane's home

Tuesday 7.30pm: 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: Viv Evans
Speaker: Caroline Wainwright*

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

1 Samuel 1:7-8 “Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, ‘Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don’t you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don’t I mean more to you than ten sons?’”

Having read this, my immediate reaction was, “What’s the matter with these biblical men?!” Isn’t it obvious to anybody with just a smattering of emotional intelligence that not only is she getting bullied by his second wife, but she’s desperately longing for a child. On top of that, Elkanah's insensitive remark that her relationship with him could mean more than ten sons, in my eyes, verges on ignorance. Maybe it was different in their day, but the role of a mother is not the same as the role of a wife. I, for one, wouldn’t want a husband that needed to be mothered, and even though Elkanah loved her and she him, she needed a child to nurture. Hannah’s rival Peninnah, Elkanah’s second wife, had already given him many children. In those days, to be barren was a disgrace, so Peninnah had the upper hand and tormented Hannah. On top of all this, poor Hannah, when she is in deep but silent prayer, just her lips moving, and vowing to God if He will give her a son she will dedicate him to Him, she’s accused of being drunk! Read the story. When she does eventually have a son, who is Samuel, she does as she vowed and takes him to the Tabernacle and leaves him in the care of, again in my opinion, a rather weak priest, Eli, who has both poor parenting skills and poor leadership. Eli’s sons were wicked: they had no regard for the Lord (1 Samuel 2:12). Eli is judged by God for his neglect to punish his sons. It seems to me the strongest and bravest character in this story is Hannah. What an amazing lady. The point of me telling you all this is firstly we need emotional intelligence if we are to help people and not add to their anguish, and secondly it’s amazing how children can grow up in the most dysfunctional setting and end up being used by God powerfully.

Diary Dates

Saturday 3rd–10th August: Revive 2024 “Fearless and Free” at Ashburnham Place with Graham Kendrick, Les Isaac, Christen Forster, Mark Bonington and Lucy Grimble – bookings open at revivelive.co.uk – book by **31st May** for special Jubilee camping offer, see www.revivelive.co.uk/jubilee-2024/

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