



Broadfield Christian Fellowship

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

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NewsFlash!

Sunday 18th October 2026

This morning 10.30am: Morning Worship in the Social Hall, including Communion

Worship: Kevin Gordon

Amy Orr-Ewing: "Forgiveness: Biblical Forgiveness"

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

Tuesday 7.30pm: Home Group at Ben & Pauline's home

Wednesday 9.15am: Coffee Shop in the Social Hall

Including UKHarvest Community Food Hub from 10.30 – bring a shopping bag and fill it from a selection of groceries and rescued produce for a suggested donation of £5

Saturday 4.00pm: Christian Family Hang-out in the Main Hall – Leaving a Godly Legacy

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

Amy Orr-Ewing: "Forgiveness: A Healer for Trauma and Anxiety"

Thought for the Week – from Caroline

Proverbs 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Ephesians 4:31 "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice..."

Ephesians 4:27 "And do not give the devil a foothold."

I don't yet know what today's forgiveness video will say, as I only know that it is entitled Biblical Forgiveness. I do know that forgiveness is a command. We sometimes hear of people who say, almost instantly after something horrific has happened, "I forgive." I may be wrong, but I sometimes wonder how deep that forgiveness has gone.

To me, forgiveness and emotional healing take time, rather like the description of grief as being like the layers of an onion. We can make the decision to forgive by saying, "I choose to forgive," but working through that decision is an emotional journey. The length of that journey will also depend on the depth of the wound. Even more importantly, if we haven't entrusted our lives to Jesus, some acts of forgiveness can feel virtually impossible. We need the strength, power and love of Jesus to help us.

During that journey, bitterness, anger and the desire for revenge can surface many times. When they do, we must remind ourselves: "I choose to forgive," even when our feelings have not yet caught up with our words. The devil is only too happy to feed us countless reasons why we have every right to remain angry or seek revenge. He hates forgiveness. He wants our hearts to become hardened so that we cannot hear God clearly, and he wants to put a roadblock in the way of our healing and spiritual progress.

I won't be talking about forgiveness every week, but as it is a course we are following, I feel this is the perfect time to share something of my own experience.

In Matthew 18, Jesus tells the story of the unforgiving servant. The master forgave his servant the enormous debt he owed, but on his way home, the servant refused to forgive a fellow servant who owed him money. When the master heard what had happened, he was angry and handed the unforgiving servant over to the jailers to be tortured until he should pay back all he owed (Matthew 18:34).

When my husband "jumped ship" and left me with numerous problems, I expected God to deal with him severely. I was riddled with anger and bitterness, and I wanted revenge. As far as I was concerned, it was ALL his fault. I had given the devil a foothold even before this happened, and my heart had grown hard, although I didn't realise it at the time. I was tormented by negative thoughts and feelings, and life was extremely hard. If anyone told me to "just forgive", it only made me angrier.

Fortunately, I did hear God, but it took a long time for me to see my part in the breakdown of my marriage, to begin to see things from God's perspective and to realise that I was damaging myself more than I was damaging my ex-husband. Over time, I experienced the freedom that forgiveness can bring. Although I still have painful memories, they no longer cripple me. Through this experience, I have learnt compassion and empathy for others who are trapped in unforgiveness, and I want to see them set free.

Forgiveness may begin with a choice, but with Jesus beside us, we can allow Him to lead us through the journey towards healing and freedom.

Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'

(Matthew 19:26)