

Dates for your diary:

Jelly Beans Toddler Group: Next meeting: 8th January - "Hello to 2018".

Friendship Group: Meeting at 2:30pm Wyevale Garden Centre, Thursday 11th

Village Market Bread Stall: Next market: 27th January

Visit from the Pastoral Team: If anyone would like to receive a visit from the Pastoral Team, please feel free to contact John Watson, Barbara Morgan, Jill Jones, Maureen Watson or Karen Banner or via the Church Office at any time.

Shopping online: Don't forget that you can support PBBC by doing your online shopping through :-

www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/pulborough-brooks-baptist-church/



If you would like to support the ministry of PBBC, there is an offertory box available at the entrance to the hall. If you are a tax payer we can claim 'Gift Aid' on your contribution. This is very easy to do, simply use one of the envelopes provided, or speak to Barbara for more information.



If you would like to know more about our church and what it means to be a member, why not pick up one of our 'Get Connected' leaflets; that should tell you all you need to know about becoming a member of PBBC.

Church Information

And Finally...

If you would like to know more about our church or arrange a visit from our Pastor, please complete a form and place it in the offertory box.

Our Pastor, Rev'd. Dr. David Howling, can be contacted via the church office.

(Please note that David is not available on Mondays)

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Pulborough Brooks

BAPTIST CHURCH

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"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands"

Ps 19:1

Welcome!



Jesus spent a lot of time and put a lot of effort into teaching his disciples what they needed to know in order that they might be effective as his followers. In the parable of the sower - which we looked at way back in November - Jesus used a parable to explain how God was going to work in their lives and what tactics the enemy was going to use to try to snatch them away. In this follow-up parable Jesus switches his focus back to his disciples to tell them what they had to do to understand his parables and how to get the most benefit from his teaching.

You see the disciples were confused about why Jesus spoke the way he did, and most of the time, they found his teaching difficult to understand. If we are honest with ourselves we have to admit that there are times when Jesus' teaching goes straight over our heads as well.

In the parable of the lamp, Jesus explained that he was not trying to hide the truth from us by speaking in parables. After all, Jesus is the light of the world (John 3:19) and a light is most effective when it is placed on a lampstand, not under a basket (Mark 4:21). The key to understanding the metaphor of the lamp is verse 24; *"Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given—and you will receive even more."* Jesus is not saying that he is hiding the truth from the people by using parables. Instead he is revealing those truths to those who really listen.

This is vitally important because the more we listen to God, pray, study the Bible, and think about what we've learned, the more understanding he will give us. He will reveal himself to us more and more the longer and more earnestly we seek him. *"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. I will be found by you," says the Lord.*" ~ Jeremiah 29:13-14

David

Devoted to Meeting Together

This weeks Home Groups

See your homegroup leaders for details.

The Tuesday group meeting at Peter & Jill's will re-start on 9th January and the Thursday group on 25th January

John & Maureen's morning group in Storrington will re-start on 16th January .

Next Sunday, 14th January 10:30am

Family Worship Service with communion
Bringing God's Word: David Howling

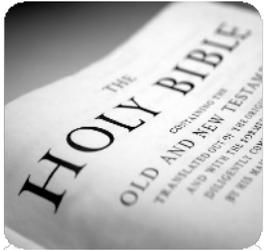


Join us for pre-service prayer 9.45-10.15am, every Sunday, in the Rother Hall.

Alyson Heath will be giving a presentation about her trip to Sierra Leone last November when she took part in a heads conference and visited over 12 schools including Kenema which is linked to St Mary's school. The village hall has been booked for **Thursday, January 11th at 7.30pm**. The talk will last approx one hour, tea and coffee will be provided and there will be no cost.

Devoted to Prayer

Dear Lord, We thank you that you know our way and you have a plan. We thank you for all this past year has brought, for the struggles as well as the blessings, because we know that you work through all things and will use them for good and for your glory. We confess our need for you again, for the fresh filling of your Spirit. We ask that you would make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for your refreshing over us and for your deep peace within. In Jesus name, Amen.



"For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age"

Titus 2:11~12