

## Some other Dates for your Diary:

**Village Market** - Bread Stall; Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 24<sup>th</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**Jelly Beans Toddler Group**, Meets from 10:00am on Monday mornings (term time) in the Arun hall. The next session will be on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**Friendship Group**, - Meet up for a cup of tea and a chat from 2:00pm-3:30pm on Thursday afternoons at the RSPB café Wigenholt.

**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 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/](http://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 don't you 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:*

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

**Our Pastor**, Rev'd Dr. David Howling, can be contacted on 01903 741709 (please note that David is not usually available on Mondays)

**Email:** [revdavidhowling@gmail.com](mailto:revdavidhowling@gmail.com)

**Church Office:** 6 Cootham Brow, Storrington, Pulborough, RH20 4JP. Email: [pulboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:pulboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com)

**Church Website:** [pbbaptist.co.uk](http://pbbaptist.co.uk)

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

# Pulborough Brooks BAPTIST CHURCH



[www.pbbaptist.co.uk](http://www.pbbaptist.co.uk)



# Welcome!

# The God of COMPASSION

As Jesus preached the good news of the coming of the kingdom, healed diseases and cast out demons, his ministry rapidly gained popularity. Everywhere he went crowds grew, expectations were high and demands were great. Every once in a while an event unfolded that left a lasting impression, such as when a leper came to Jesus (see Mark 1:40-45). Mark tells us that when this unfortunate man approached Jesus he broke all the rules. Lepers were 'unclean' and weren't supposed to come within 50ft of anyone. But Jesus looked beyond that fact and had compassion on him.

Mark tells us that; *"Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!" Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed."* (Mark 1:41-42) Notice it wasn't just that Jesus looked at him and said, "I've got something you need, come here. OK, now you're better." No, the word "compassion" suggests something more.

True compassion requires a practical attention to someone's needs. It doesn't require us to feel, it requires us to act. Sympathy says, 'I feel bad that you're hungry.' Empathy says, 'I know something about how you feel: I was hungry once.' Compassion says, 'Let's go get something to eat.' Sympathy and empathy don't require us to do anything, but compassion will cause us to reach out to those in need just as Jesus did for the person in this story.

In our contemporary culture it is unlikely that we will come across anyone who has leprosy, but it is very likely that we will find people who feel just like the man Jesus met – isolated, alone and forgotten by the mainstream of society. It's not just the physical suffering, though there may be plenty of that. It's the isolation, the loneliness, the feeling that nobody wants to be around them. When's the last time you made the effort to reach out to someone like that?

*David*

## *Devoted to Meeting Together*



**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**, Village Market, 900am -12pm Arun Hall.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**, Family Worship Service, 10:30am, Arun Hall.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April**, Church Members Meeting, 7:30pm Brooks Room.

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April**, the friendship group will be meeting at the RSPB Café, 2:00pm – 3:30pm.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April**, Family Worship Service, 10:30am, Arun Hall.

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

## *Devoted to Prayer*

Lord, open our eyes  
that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.

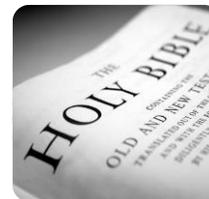
Lord, open our ears  
that we may hear the cries of the hungry,  
the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.

Lord, open our hearts  
that we may love each other as you love us.

Renew in us your spirit.  
Lord, free us and make us one.

**Amen**

*(a short prayer from <http://thedailyprayerblog.blogspot.co.uk>)*



*"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble."*

1 Peter 3:8