

- **Jelly Beans:** 6th May – No meeting, bank holiday
- **Homegroups:** check with your homegroup leader for this week's meetings.
- The informal **Friendship Group** will meet again on Thursday at 2:30pm at Squires Garden Centre, London Road (A24), Washington, RH20 3BP.
- The next **Bread Stall** will be on Saturday 25th May within the Village Market.

Pastoral Team: If anyone has or feels a need for help from the Pastoral Team, please feel free to contact John Watson or via the Church Office at any time.

There is also a box for prayer requests in the foyer of the village hall. Prayer cards for requests are available with the box.

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 on the table in 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.

Church Information



If you would like to know more about our church, find out what it means to be a 'member' or arrange a visit from our Pastor, please complete a form and place it in the offertory box or contact the Church Office.



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Cover image:

Pulborough Brooks BAPTIST CHURCH



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Welcome!



Next Sunday, 12th May 2019

10:30am –Family Worship Service and Communion
Bringing God’s Word: David Howling

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

This is **Week 18** of the **Pulborough Village Prayer Rota:**
See <http://pbbaptist.co.uk/index.php?menu=downloads>

Looking Ahead

A working Party is planned to help Fiona with her garden in the morning of the 18th May at 10am. If anyone would like to help, just turn up on the day and bring some gardening tools if you have any.

On 19th May, we will be having another **Fellowship Lunch**, this time a picnic! Do make a note in your diary to be with us.

Tickets for the Big Church Day Out can be purchased online at the cheapest group rate by going to <http://bcdo.group/2019/the-hub>

Devoted to Prayer

Father God, may we be grateful for all that you have given us and make us compassionate toward all those who are suffering every kind of distress at this difficult time. May we hold back nothing and hasten to be the ministers of prayer and mercy, like the disciples of Him who went about doing good in times of need. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

Hebrews 7:25

Faith and the unexpected turn of events: Early in the morning two ladies were walking up to the tomb of Jesus. They were carrying spices which they wanted to use to embalm Jesus’ body with. Perhaps they had asked some of the disciples beforehand, “What do you think? We want to go and embalm Jesus, as a last act of service to him. Is this is good thing to do? Is this a godly act of service?” I assume that everyone in their circle of friends would have said, “Yes, it is a good and godly thing to do. Go ahead... just be careful that the Roman soldiers don’t see you, they might not like it.”

Here is an example of “faith”. Two young women offering themselves to serve God to the best of their abilities, even willing to take risks, prepared and equipped to serve. They come to the tomb and find the tomb empty. Their plans and God’s plan are not overlapping at all. It is almost as if God is saying to them, “No, thank you. I don’t need this act of faith and service.”

For many years I was mainly taught that faith means “speaking to the mountain and commanding it to be moved into the sea.” Faith was a means of overcoming difficulties. Faith was a powerful tool in my Christian life-skills box. Which is great - as long as the mountain moves every time you speak! But it didn’t! That set me thinking. This way of faith held no answers for when things take an unexpected turn, which happens frequently in the Bible: Joseph expecting a great future but ending up in prison. Moses expecting to be a great deliverer and then became a fugitive for years. Abraham expected a baby and had lots of sheep and many house moves instead.

Things took an unexpected turn for the two ladies on Easter morning. Is it not “faith” too, to simply trust God during the times when things don’t go my way? I have thought of a phrase, “Faith is being able to go with Plan B.” What do you think?

Frank

