

*Dates for your diary:*

Jelly Beans Toddler Group:	10:00am September 10 <sup>th</sup> "Cows in the Kitchen"
Friendship Group Meeting:	2:30pm September 13 <sup>th</sup> at Wyevale Garden Centre.
Village Market Bread Stall:	No market in August. Next market: Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> September.

**Pastoral Team:** If anyone has or feels a need for help from the Pastoral Team, please feel free to contact John Watson, Maureen Watson, Barbara Morgan 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/](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 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.



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*

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 or contact the Church Office.

Please contact the Church Office, the Pastoral Team or Andy Twilley for pastoral matters.

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**Cover image:** Autumn evening in Sussex

# Pulborough Brooks

## BAPTIST CHURCH

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



# Welcome!

# THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM

Every so often when I talk to people who don't go to church and I tell them what I do for a living, they will say; 'Well, I'm not religious.' I like to reply by saying 'That's OK, neither am I'. Too many people think that as long as they perform some sort of ritual every now and again, that somehow makes them OK with God. Unfortunately this kind of thinking also pervades the Christian church, and it's not new. Jesus was constantly confronting meaningless empty forms of religion that came from unbiblical practices and traditions. (see Mark 7:1-23)

On one occasion the Scribes and the Pharisees noticed that the disciples were not washing their hands 'correctly'. It was not that their hands were dirty, just that they hadn't washed them 'according to the traditions of the elders' (Mark 7:5). The popular belief of Jesus' time was a belief system based on hundreds of years of traditions, to the extent that the Scribes and the Pharisees had become purveyors of an empty, meaningless and hypocritical religion. Their worship was aimed at the right God but offered in the wrong way. God was not interested in their sacrifices, He wanted their hearts. The whole point of the sacrificial system was to demonstrate the seriousness of sin and the costliness of forgiveness but their hearts had become so hard it meant nothing to them.

God is not interested in empty religion, He's not interested in all the religious things that you do, He's interested in what's going on in your heart. That's what He cares about, that is what He is paying attention to and that's what He wants you to pay attention to. You see, being a Christian is not about following a procedure, it's about following a person. God wants to have a relationship with you and God wants you to be mindful about how you approach that relationship.

*David*

## *Devoted to Meeting Together*



### *This weeks Home Groups*

See your homegroup leaders for details.

*Next Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 10:30am*

Family Worship Service

Bringing God's Word: David Howling

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

### *Special Homegroup Notice*

The homegroup that previously met at Peter & Jill Jones' house will re-start on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the home of Jenny & Colin Gloster, 9, Downlands, Pulborough.

### *Looking Ahead*

On September 28<sup>th</sup> at The Old School, Storrington, the local Bible Society group invite you to 'Treasures at Home' – an opportunity to have your antiques & curios described (and maybe valued) by Rupert Toovey. Admission tickets at £12.50 (include wine & cheese) are available from Peter Meadows.

### *Looking Further Ahead – 'Rock'*

The choir for the Roger Jones musical has had a first rehearsal but still needs more members! Also, accommodation for those performing is required. Please see Peter for details if you think you may be able to help. **Tickets are now available.**

## *Devoted to Prayer*

Father God, please encourage our pastor by the power of your Spirit. Let his soul be refreshed with the love of Christ. Let him have faith for the future. Help him to keep pressing forward even when the way is littered with landmines. Let him be refreshed by the fact that your grace is sufficient for him. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



[To the Church in Laodicea] "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me"

**Rev 3 : 14, 20**