

Jelly Beans: Monday, 2nd December - “Babies Can” & “Happy to be Me”
Homegroups: Thakeham group meets on Monday evening
Storrington group meets on Tuesday morning
Pulborough group meets on Tuesday evening
If in doubt, check with your homegroup leader.

Friendship Group: Thursday, 5th December is NOT at a garden centre this week. Please contact the church office for details.

The next **Bread Stall** will be in the Village Hall on Saturday, 14th December, the **Christmas Market**.

Pastoral Team: If anyone has or feels a need for help from the Pastoral Team, please feel free to contact Louise Twilley 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.

Office: 37 Dean Way, Storrington, RH20 4QN.

Tel: 01903 417162

Email: admin@pbbaptist.co.uk

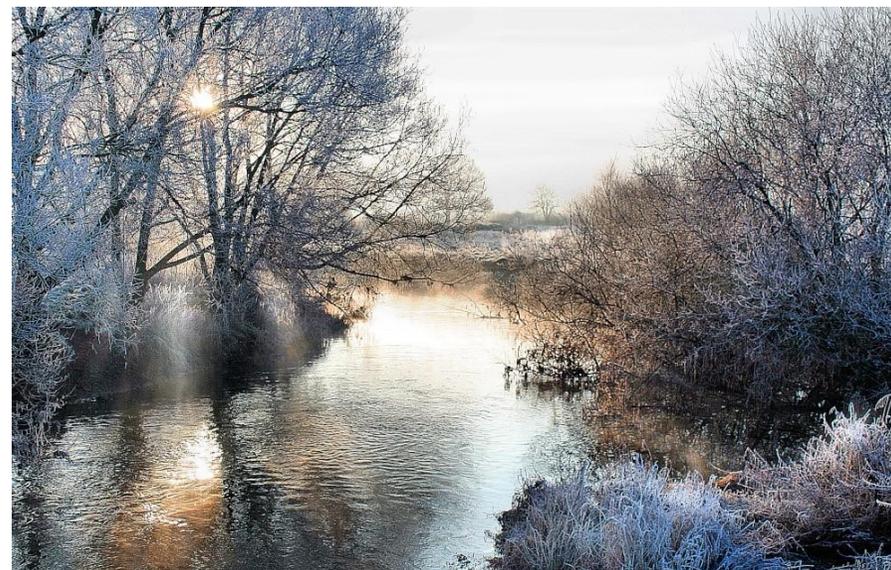
Website: www.pbbaptist.co.uk

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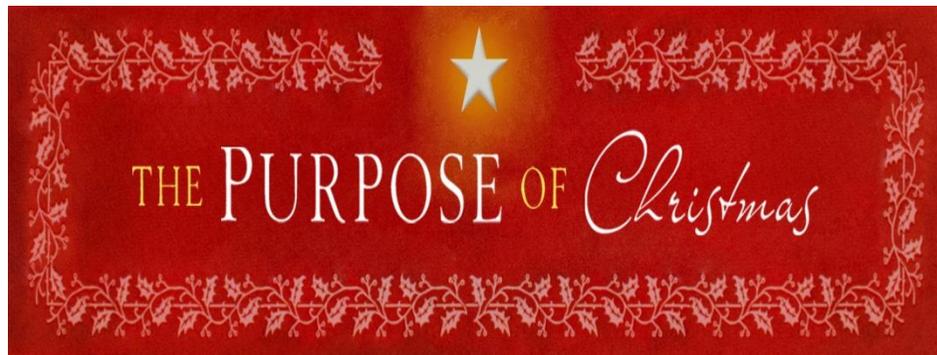
Pulborough Brooks BAPTIST CHURCH

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“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul!” **Psalm 23 : 1,2**

Welcome!



This morning we're beginning a new Christmas series called "The Purpose of Christmas." The big idea is to move beyond 'surviving' the Christmas season to really celebrating it. So often the reason why people struggle at Christmas is because they take their focus off Jesus.

Rick Warren puts it like this: *"Ironically at most Christmas parties the person whose birthday you're supposed to be celebrating is completely ignored. He's never even mentioned. Although Jesus is the reason for the season, he's often overlooked or merely mentioned along with Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, Santa Clause, the Grinch, the elves and a long list of celebrated fictional characters. He's often overlooked."*

If you feel as though Christmas is an ordeal rather than a celebration and you're getting ready to switch into survival mode, the chances are you're focusing on the pressures and overlooking the presence of Jesus. It's so easy to fall into this trap. After all there is so much going on, so much to think about that it's easy to lose focus and overlook the wonder of our Saviour's birth. It's too easy for the Good News of God's amazing gift to the world to become peripheral rather than central. The best antidote is celebration!

We need to celebrate because it's through remembering what God has done for us that our faith is strengthened. So this Christmas I want to celebrate. I want to celebrate that, because of Jesus, I've been saved. Because of Jesus, I don't have to pay for my sins. Because of Jesus, I have God's power in me today. Because of Jesus, there's a place reserved for me in heaven. Because of Jesus, I can keep growing while I'm here and changing and I don't have to be the same.

David



Next Sunday, 8th December 2019

10:30am –Family Worship 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 48** of the **Pulborough Village Prayer Rota**:

See <http://pbbaptist.co.uk/index.php?menu=downloads>

Jelly Beans

Jelly Beans had a brilliant start to Advent with 30+ calendars finding their way into as many homes. The response was very encouraging. With 24 days of opening calendar doors, please pray daily for our Jelly Bean families that they become intrigued with the story of Jesus' birth.

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8.
Thank you, Betty.

Christmas Services

With Christmas rushing towards us, it may be helpful to make a note of our services:

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| Sunday 15 th | Normal service at 10:30am.
Afternoon Carol service at 3pm. |
| Sunday 22 nd | Normal service at 10:30am.
'Big Sing' at URC at 4pm. |
| Wednesday 25 th | Christmas morning service at 10:30 am. |
| Sunday 29 th | Normal service at 10:30am. |

Devoted to Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to reflect upon my own life. Show me the areas of darkness in me. Where I have become hardened to the plight of others or where I have lost the will to do good, Lord help me. Bring your light and your forgiveness and help me today to walk in your light. Allow me to see that in the darkest places it is possible for the light to shine brightest. In Jesus name, Amen.



"See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power and He rules with a mighty arm. See, His reward is with Him and His recompense accompanies him. He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart; He gently leads those that have young."
Isaiah 40:10,11