

**Jelly Beans:** Monday, 9th December - "Preparing for The Special Baby"

**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:** No meeting this week, will re-start in the New Year on 9th January.

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/](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.

*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:** Vestrahorn Islands, Iceland



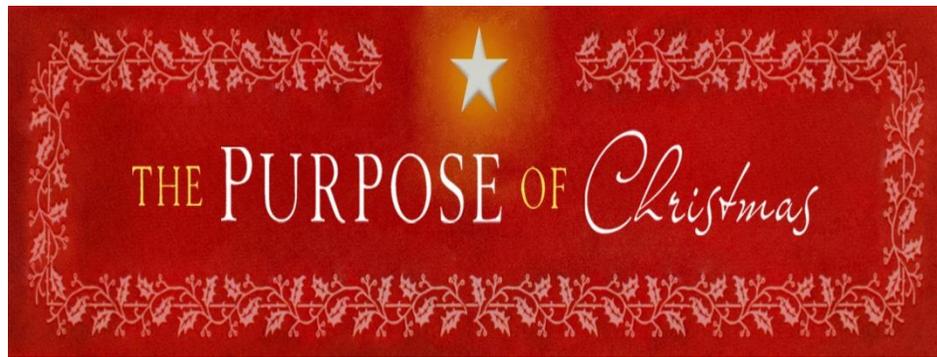
**Pulborough Brooks  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

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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!*



So last week we began to think about Christmas as a season to celebrate rather than as an ordeal to survive. To do this we need to focus on Jesus, because if you're not focused on the presence of Jesus it's all too easy to succumb to the pressures of the season. Succumbing to those pressures sucks the joy out of Christmas quicker than you can say cranberry sauce! Key to focusing on Jesus is to remember everything that he has done for you. And there-in lies the problem because unfortunately we are forgetful people. Especially at this time of year when there is just so much to remember and so much to get done.

Fortunately, by taking a leaf or two, (or three) out of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' we can find plenty of things to celebrate just by considering Christmas's Past, Present and Future. When we look to Christmas Past we are reminded that once we were dead in our sins, but God being rich in mercy gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead (Ephesians 2:1-5). And after raising us to new life he placed His Spirit within us. God's Spirit lives in you right now – that's Christmas Present! As for Christmas Yet To Come - we have a hope that is steadfast and certain. Death has lost it's sting and there is a place reserved for each of us in heaven.

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you've been forgiven of your sins - that's Christmas past. You have a personal relationship with God - that's Christmas present. And a glimpse of Christmas Yet To Come assures us that our destiny has been determined. Sins forgiven, the Holy Spirit within us and a place reserved for us in our Father's house; now that's worthy of celebration.

*David*



*Next Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2019*

**10:30am –Family Worship**

Bringing God's Word: David Howling

**4pm – Carol Service**

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

This is **Week 49** of the **Pulborough Village Prayer Rota**:

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

### *Jelly Beans*

Tomorrow is our last session before Christmas and we will be concentrating on "Preparing for The Special Baby". Families will already be following the Christmas story as they open the doors of their Advent calendars. Luke 2 v19 tells us "but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often". Please pray that our Jelly Bean Families, like Mary, will take the story to heart and think about it often.

Jelly Beans will be back on Monday 6th January 2020 with a new and exciting programme about "Creation".  
Thank you, *Betty*.

### *Christmas Services*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Normal service at 10:30am.**

**'Big Sing' at URC at 4pm.**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas morning family service at 10:30 am.**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Normal service at 10:30am.**

### *Devoted to Prayer*

Heavenly Father, we surrender ourselves to your love, the love in which Christ comes to us. Like children we say every day "Lord Jesus, come, come! Even if we cannot see you today because times have changed, come into the world, come more and more into Your world. Send more and more of your nature, your goodness, into all hearts. Come quickly to bring an end to the adversary, an end to world power with its sinister, hostile character. May bright day, clear light from the Father in heaven, dawn through you, Lord Jesus." Amen.



"And will not God bring about justice for His chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you,, He will see that they get justice and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

**Luke 18:7- 8, NIV**