

**Dates for your diary:****Jelly Beans Toddler Group:** Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 10:00am "Christmas Party"**Friendship Group:** Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm at Wyevale Garden Centre, Pulborough.**Village Market Bread Stall** at the **Christmas Market:** Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**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 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 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 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*



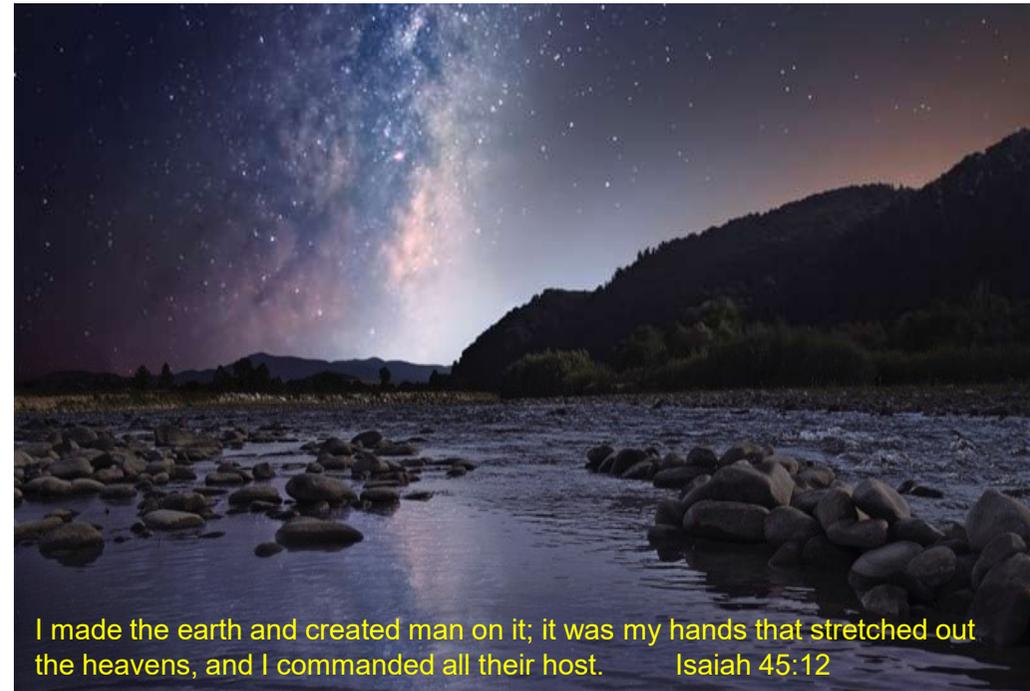
If you would like to know more about our church or arrange a visit from our Pastor, please complete a form and place it in the offertory box.

**Our Pastor**, Rev'd Dr. David Howling, can be contacted via the church office.

(Please note that David is not available on Mondays)

**Office:** 37 Dean Way, Storrington, RH20 4QN.**Tel:** 01903 417162**Email:** [admin@pbbaptist.co.uk](mailto:admin@pbbaptist.co.uk)**Website:** [pbbaptist.co.uk](http://pbbaptist.co.uk)**Cover image:** Milky Way reflected over a river, unknown location.

# Pulborough Brooks BAPTIST CHURCH

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

I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens, and I commanded all their host. **Isaiah 45:12**

# Welcome!



A world without Christ is a world without hope (Ephesians 2:12). Removing Jesus from Christmas removes the very heart of Christmas and leaves nothing more than an empty shell. Trying to fill the void through extravagance and over indulgence simply doesn't work. If you want to put hope back into Christmas you have to make sure that Jesus remains at the centre of it.

But it's not just hope that we seem to have lost sight of during advent. It seems to me that there is a second aspect of Advent that gets lost in the frenetic activity; that is the pre-Christmas spending binge. That is Peace! I would imagine that if you were to ask people which word they would use to describe the run up to Christmas; Out of all the different words that they could choose, I would anticipate that 'peaceful' would not be one of them. So what's gone wrong? What's happened to the peace on earth that the angels promised us when they appeared to the shepherds 2000 years ago? And more to the point, how can we put Peace back into Advent and back into our lives?

Well, the Christmas story reminds us that Peace is for those on whom God's favour rests (Luke 2:14) and God's favour is on those who look to him in faith. God does not expect us to be perfect, he knows us only too well and he knows that we are far from perfect. He has shown us what he wants from us. God is not interested in extravagance or sacrifice, what he expects is for us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with him (Micah 6:8).

Similarly, God doesn't expect us to bring anything to the table because he has already done it all through Christ. In Isaiah 53 we read; *"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."* (Isaiah 53:5) Through his death on the cross Jesus has brought us peace. When we turn to him in faith, God welcomes us into his family and his favour rests upon us. That's where real peace comes from!

*David*

*Devoted to Meeting Together*



**This weeks Home Groups**  
See your homegroup leaders for details.

**Wednesday, 13th December**  
An evening of **Christmas Praise & Prayers**  
With mince pies, tea & coffee.  
7:30pm, Brooks Room at the Village Hall.

**Next Sunday, 17th December**  
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 lobby.*

*Christmas Hampers*

**The Pastoral team** would like to prepare a few Christmas hampers for those who need help. If anyone would like to contribute to this project, a box will available near the offering box. Thank you.

*Christmas Cards*

We will need a few volunteers to assist with delivery of Christmas Cards around Pulborough. Packs of cards will be available for collection in church on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Led by a Star - Friday, December 15th*

The annual procession will start from the Chequers Hotel ~6pm and arrive at the Village Hall ~6:30pm. We will be hosting the burgers stall again and may need a few volunteers. Please see Peter Meadows.

*Devoted to Prayer*

Father God, This is my one word prayer: PEACE.  
I can't see ahead, I don't know what to do.  
Here are all my fears and my questions... [share yours]  
I want to experience your perfect peace.  
Let it be with me just as you say.  
Hold me, God, so I can hear you whisper to me, "You don't have to know the way - I do"  
In Jesus name. Amen



"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep".

**John 10:14~15**