

## Coming Up...

- Jelly Beans:** No meeting this Monday, re-start in January
- Homegroups:** Thakeham group meetings will restart on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
Storrington group normally meets on Tuesday morning  
Pulborough group meetings will restart on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
Please check with your homegroup leader for meetings in the Christmas / New Year period.

**Friendship Group:** No meeting this Thursday, will re-start on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The next **Bread Stall** will be in the Village Hall in the new year!

**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.

- Office:** 37 Dean Way, Storrington, RH20 4QN.
- Tel:** 01903 417162
- Email:** [admin@pbbaptist.co.uk](mailto:admin@pbbaptist.co.uk)
- Website:** [www.pbbaptist.co.uk](http://www.pbbaptist.co.uk)
- Cover image:** Double rainbow from Swan Corner (Rhianna)



# Pulborough Brooks BAPTIST CHURCH

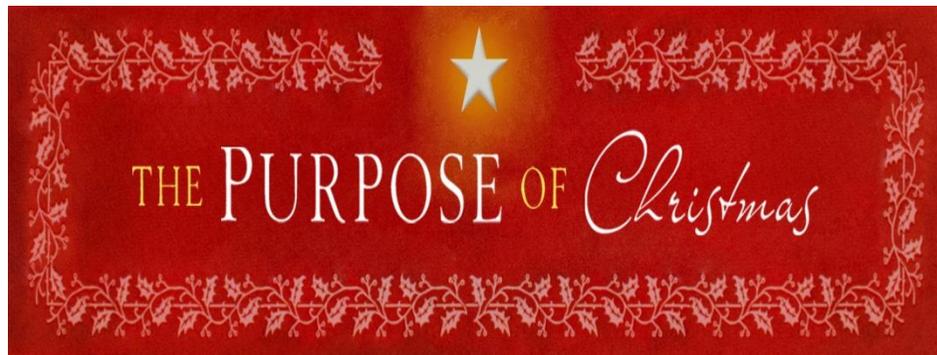
[www.pbbaptist.co.uk](http://www.pbbaptist.co.uk)



"I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

**Genesis 9:13 (NIV)**

# Welcome!



As I was preparing for this morning's sermon, I came across a quote from a Pastor who I think had something interesting to say about nativity scenes. He said this; *"Among the figurines of angels singing praises; among the wise men bearing gifts; among the shepherds bowing in adoration and above the virgin holding the child she had just given birth to; I would add a large banner that reads, 'Think about it!'"* I couldn't agree more. I suspect that one of the reasons why Christmas means so little to so many people today is because so few people take the time to 'think about it!'

If folk would just stop for a moment and 'think about it' they would realise that there is far more to see in the manger than just a baby. Here in the manger is the Son of the Most High. Here is Emmanuel – God with us. Here is the Saviour - Jesus. Here is the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace. God's Love is shown to us in the manger, there is Power in the manger, the Glory of God shines in the manger and there is an everlasting Hope in the manger.

Hope is a difficult commodity to come by these days. Our hope dims with every negative story we hear, every report of violence we receive, every personal tragedy that we experience. But the baby in the manger offers to us all a glimpse of true hope. As the shepherds, the wise men, Mary and Joseph all encountered the Christ child for the first time, they would have remembered the prophet's words: *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a HOPE."* But as the great reformation theologian Martin Luther once said of the nativity story; *"It is of no value only to believe that this story is true if we do not accept it by faith."*

*David*



*Next Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019*

**10:30am –Family Worship**

A special service led by John Harvey

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

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This is **Week 51** of the **Pulborough Village Prayer Rota**:

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

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*Coming Up...*

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>** Join in the 'Big Sing' at the URC at 4pm.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Day service at 10:30am

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*Devoted to Prayer*

Heavenly Father, you have sent your light to shine on earth and have revealed your heavenly power in Jesus Christ. In spite of all the darkness and evil, we rejoice because we have a Saviour. May men's hearts be drawn to you to give them light so that they may thank and praise you for all you have done and are still doing to bring the whole world into your hands. O Lord God, let men be moved by the opening of the heavens. May their hearts awaken and their sadness give way to joy in Jesus Christ our Saviour. Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven and may your name be glorified and honoured. Amen.

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For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder and His name will be called "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

**Isaiah 9:6, RSV**