



God's story: playing our part

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LECTURE STRUCTURE (Aims and approach)

1. **So what's the story?** To explore the Bible as God's sacred story which we are invited into...
2. **Where do we/I come in?** Placing ourselves within God's invitational story...



(1) So what's the story?

The Bible in 50
words?!
Sacred story



Ways to think about God's story

1. THEMATICALLY:

Golden threads woven through Scripture
(Psalm 103);

2. CHRONOLOGICALLY:

N.T Wright's 5-Act play idea (Star Wars?);

3. GEOGRAPHICALLY:

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8



The Bible as God's invitational story

“...the Bible is God's authoritative story for understanding who God is and who we are”

(Helen Collins *Reordering Theological Reflection* London: SCM, 2020 p. 61)

The Bible as trustworthy and true

“... God is uniquely revealed through the pages of Scripture, and the Bible is thus worthy of our trust obedience and love”

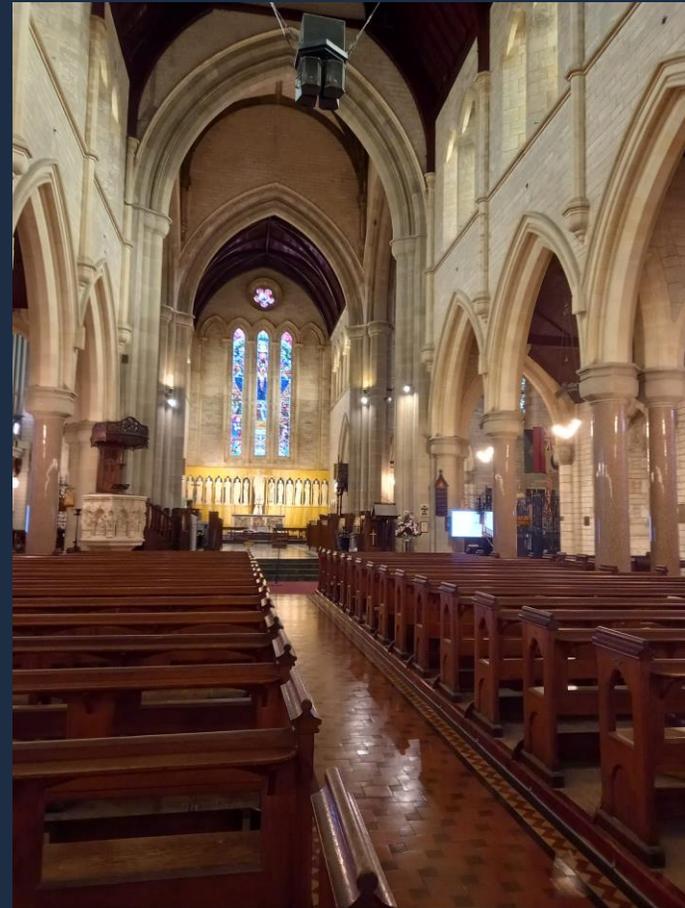
(Helen Collins *Reordering Theological Reflection* London: SCM, 2020 p. 62)

The Bible as God's Story: some observations

1. The Bible contains many diverse voices. There is a special concern for the poor and marginalized and in the end the voice of God draws all humanity towards Jesus.
2. The sacred story of the Bible is invitational story: *my* story, *your* story matters to God and is woven in to *his* story.
3. We read the Bible story through the eyes of faith but this is no blind faith! Theology is 'faith seeking understanding' and our faith is informed by our study.
4. The Bible is '*the*' script to understand life: it doesn't claim to provide answers to every issue that arises in life but it points us to the Lord of life!

5 mins - response

- Write in the chat your main takeaway point or points from this session so far...
- Looking back over the teaching sessions so far, type into the chat a couple of new things you have learnt or questions you have come away with...



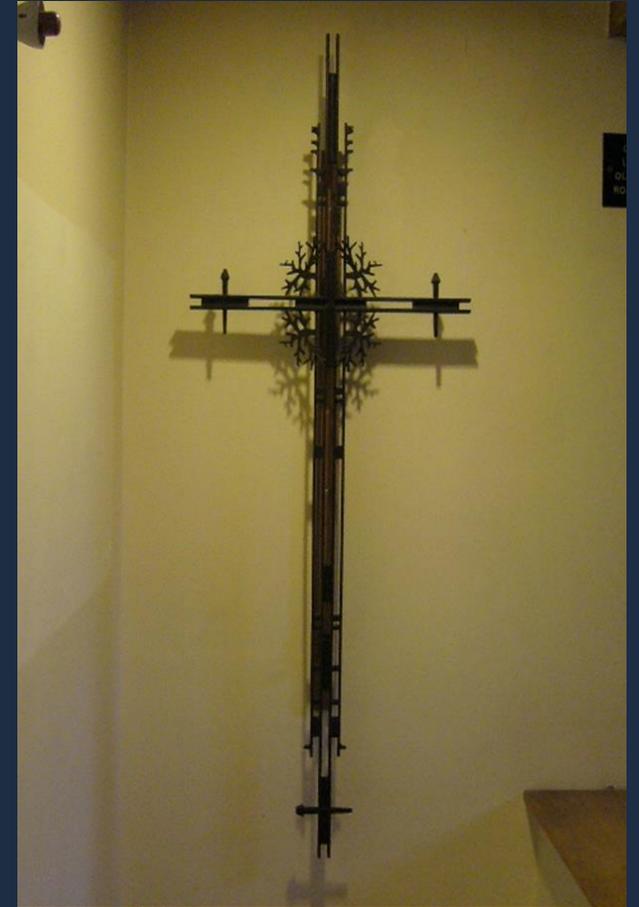
(2) Where do we come in?

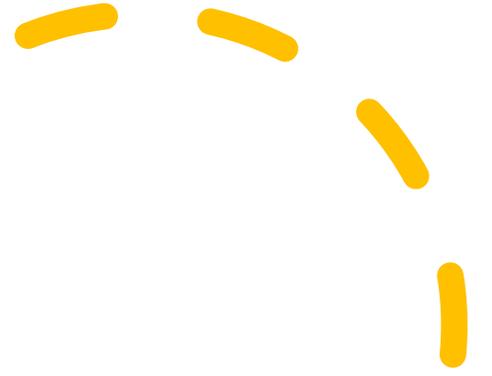
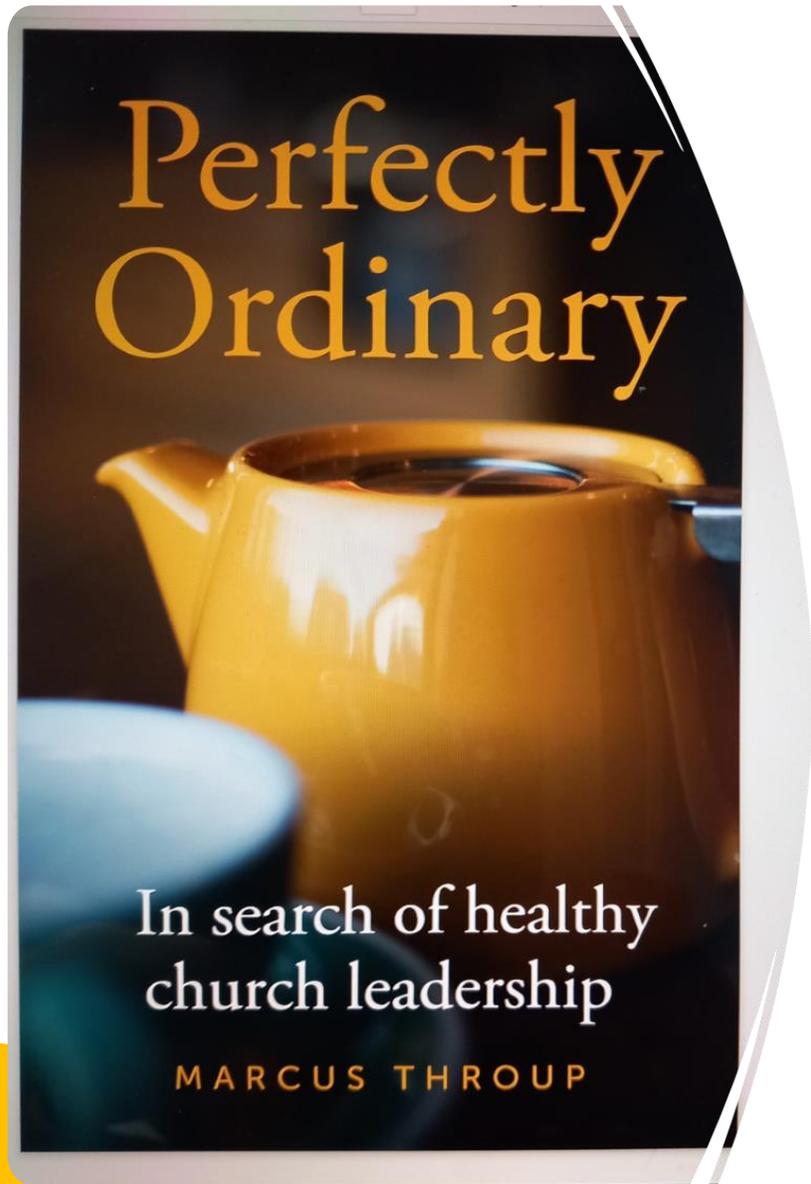
- Part of a historical movement which begins and ends with Jesus (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)
- Apostolic tradition/legacy: handing down of precious thing
- Our mission and role, should we choose to accept it...



Where do I come in?

- Psalm 139: one in 8 billion, a unique DNA code – I mean something to God!
- My story links to His story – His story is woven into my story and my story is grafted into His story. My name is written in his book!
- As disciples of Jesus we are all 'ministers' small 'm'...
- Society has lost 'the' script, often it seems it has lost the plot! In our day to day lives we can gently showcase the truth and role-model the story.





Available now and just
in time for Christmas!



Bengel's maxim: "Apply yourself totally to the text: apply the text in its totality to yourself"