

Over the Summer months our midweek reflections will offer us time to reflect on the story that runs through our Bible from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelation.

After that we will look at how Christians throughout the centuries have lived the Word of God with a range of different emphases.

As we do that let the Word sink into your life and reflect on how you first felt God and the church in your life and how you continue to feel God's presence.

Last week we looked at the sweep of the story through the Old Testament.

In Jesus day the scriptures were what we now call the Old Testament.

So when Christians eventually wrote down the stories of the New Testament, they wanted to stress that Jesus linked back to the great prophets and the story told in the Old Testament,

So Mark says in Chapter 1:

verse 2:

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah

"See I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

Verse 3:

the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Today we look at the story of the New Testament.

The New Testament is a collection of 27 books.

Four gospels that detail different pictures of the ministry of Jesus.

The rest of the books, some of which were written before the gospels, consider ways in which the early Church experienced and lived out God's message, Jesus Christ in their lives.

Like people today it includes a range of ideas and experiences which don't all fit neatly together.

It is a collection of books and letters that give the early experiences of the church as it grows and spreads from

a handful of followers of a Jewish prophet to the church we know today.

In the New Testament we find a range of views of how faith works. A range of views that anchor the diversity of the church we know today.

We get a glimpse into how faith and households worked in the early days of the church as we read the letters of Paul and James

There is a speech of encouragement to the Hebrews. and at least two different insights into the politics of the early church through apocalyptic revelation: either resistance as described by John in the book of the revelation or accommodation as in the letters of Peter to the Christians spread through the world.

This week we will look briefly at the Gospels  
How well do we know the stories of Jesus?  
We all know the nativity story don't we?

See how well you get on with the quiz on today's  
Wednesday break page on the website?

Mark starts his gospel with these words:  
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God.

Why do you think he does that?

Let us worship God