

New friends happily share and listen to one another's stories. We are, after all, the sum of our story. And every life is shaped by some story. This is ours.

"Once upon a time" is a familiar line that begins many stories but that's also how the Christian story begins. It's told in a book we call the Bible. Through unnumbered smaller stories, the Bible tells one seamless and grand story, a metanarrative for all exists.

The story is of God establishing his eternal kingdom by his Spirit and through his Son, Jesus Christ. Our story is also much like other stories in that it has a beginning, twists and turns, a climax and an end in which everything is resolved (and in our story, happily "forever" after).

Then again, this story is different from any other story. It has God for its author, redemption for its theme and Jesus as its hero. More, the Christian story claims to be the one true story in a world of many storylines, all false competitors.

This is because, more than anything else, it is God's story. And because of its divine origin, it offers a universal, comprehensive revelation of how things came into being, why life is as it is and where the world is going.

Stories are often difficult to believe because they seem fantastical, above and beyond anything we might dare to dream. This is exactly what makes the Christian story so difficult for some people to believe. It's also what makes it true.

It reveals and promises far more than anything a human being could conceive.

Our story begins with a God who is three in one, a world created out of Trinitarian love, an unimaginable single catastrophic act of folly, a broken creation gone awry, a tragedy of sacrificial love, a dying God raised to conquer death as a foretaste of forever, a world invited to share in God's eternal kingdom and a new creation restored to perfection. This makes the Bible the story of stories, the "once upon a time, for all time" story.

Seem too good to be true?

We understand your doubt. But that's because it is the truest of all stories; the one and only of its kind.

It explains everything, provides us with love for God's creation and gives us reason to hope beyond all expectation.

So don't let its incredulity frighten you away.

Give us the opportunity to tell you more.

Every Sunday morning at 9:30am we gather to hear more about God's story, our story - your story.

You're invited to join us.

We've told you our story.

Come tell us yours.

That's what friends do.