

**KEY VERSE:**

God looked at everything He had made, and it was very good.  
Evening passed, and morning came. *Genesis 1:31*



**THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER**

Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World  
Charity Number: 1146043



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

8th January, 2017

**Seeing the Light**

**The Shepherds  
see the Light**



**CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES**

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today we are starting a new series on the different type of writing in the Bible. The first part is 'stories'.
- The Bible is full of different types of writing, there are letters, histories, prophecies and stories. All of them teach different things about who God is and our relationship with Him.
- The Bible is made up of 66 different books and is divided into two parts – the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is from before Jesus came, the New Testament tells us what happened after Jesus came.
- The books of the Bible were written by all sorts of different people and each book has lots of exciting things to say.
- As well as having lots of different stories in it, the Bible also tells one big story about God and His relationship with people.
- The Bible starts with a book called Genesis which tells the start of that big story.

## SO WHAT:

- The Bible is a great book with complex characters and a wonderful storyline.
- The start of a story says a lot about how it's going to finish and Genesis tells us a lot about what's coming later.

## NOW WHAT:

- Let's make time to read the Bible and hear the story it tells.
- Let's ask God how we fit into the story of Him and His people.

## LUKE'S LETTERS:

I know it's weird, but I love the Bible. That's probably a good thing for my job. I love the Bible because it's so varied. There are great characters, shocking plot twists, beautiful poems, passionate letters and a fair amount of 'X' rated material. I also love the questions it raises.

Some parts of the Bible are definitely portrayed as history. They give references to historical events, they are backed up by mainstream archaeology and they read as being sensible and credible. Some parts are less convincing. They seem wild and ridiculous, they challenge us to take leaps of faith and they defy the logic that many of us hold dear.

One of my favourite parts of the Bible is the creation narrative, but for many it is one of the hardest parts to come to terms with. All scientific evidence leads us away from believing that God miraculously created the world in seven days, but there it is, in black and white, to start the story off.

There isn't space now to delve into the story but please do ask me if you want to talk about it. If nothing else it will show whether or not people actually read this! The thing I want to say, however, is that I don't believe for one second that whether or not someone is a 'creationist' or an 'evolutionist', or considers the story a historical record or a metaphor, is going to define their relationship with God. Many great Christians have disagreed on this topic for centuries. Neither belief diminishes a person's faith, nor does it diminish the Bible. There is still a lot of truth about God and about ourselves to be drawn out of this story, regardless of how you believe the world began.