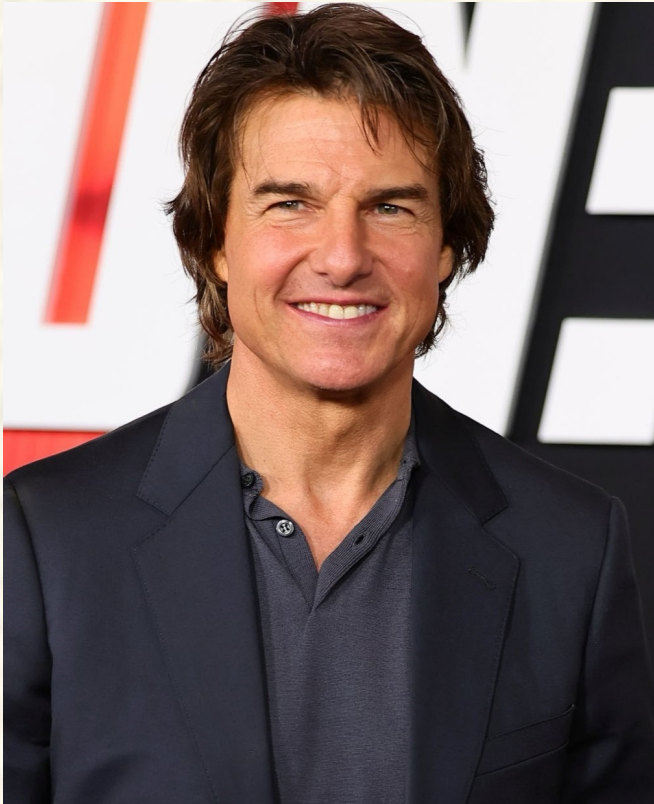


***“why bother with ...”***

A funny group of people in Viaduct Road who  
don't look like ...



# ***“why bother with ...”***

A funny building that doesn't  
look like ...





***“why bother with ..”***

A place that doesn't put on shows  
like ...



***“why bother with ..”***

A place called Calvary Evangelical

Ch \_ \_ \_ \_

= CHURCH

= not a building but \_\_\_\_\_

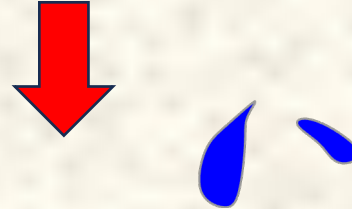
N.B *Church* = all Christians in the world (time)

OR *Church* = a localised group of Christians

## ***“why bother with ..”***

N.B Church = all Christians in the world (time)

OR Church = a localised group of Christians



Some things are truth for both ... w \_ t

But people only experience water ....

Same with church – real experience on the small scale



# ***1. God bothers with church ... a lot***

Ephesians 1:19-23

Christ is like a King with a “footstool” of victory and command.

What other part of the body is related to Christ?

How much did God put under Christ’s feet?

What purpose does he have in mind [“for”]

➔ Q: How much do you think God is bothered?

➔ A: enough to run the whole world for the church

## ***2. The church is the place where even Gentiles can get the promises that believers in Israel looked forward to***

Ephesians 3:2-7

Mystery = not known before.

Did the OT understand how this would happen?

→ If you only read the Hebrew Scriptures, you wouldn't get the picture (v.5)

→ But the apostles and prophets have the insight through gospel: Christ's cross and resurrection (not apart from that)

→ E.g. temple: 2:21

## ***2. The church is the place where even Gentiles can get the promises that believers in Israel looked forward to***

Ephesians 3:2-7

➔ Gentiles = ??

➔ The place of including all sorts of ragged, outcast, no-goods, losers, misfits

How did they get involved in this?  
(v.7)

➔ The place that is on board for God's purposes in the world (1:11)





### ***3. The church is the place where God shows his supreme wisdom and craftsmanship***

Ephesians 3:10

e.g. musical instrument

→ that's clever ... what plans!

→ What skill!

→ What creativity ... from such unlikely material

Made known to whom?

Made known by what?

→ “to the praise of his glory”



## 4. *A place of wonderful human connectedness*

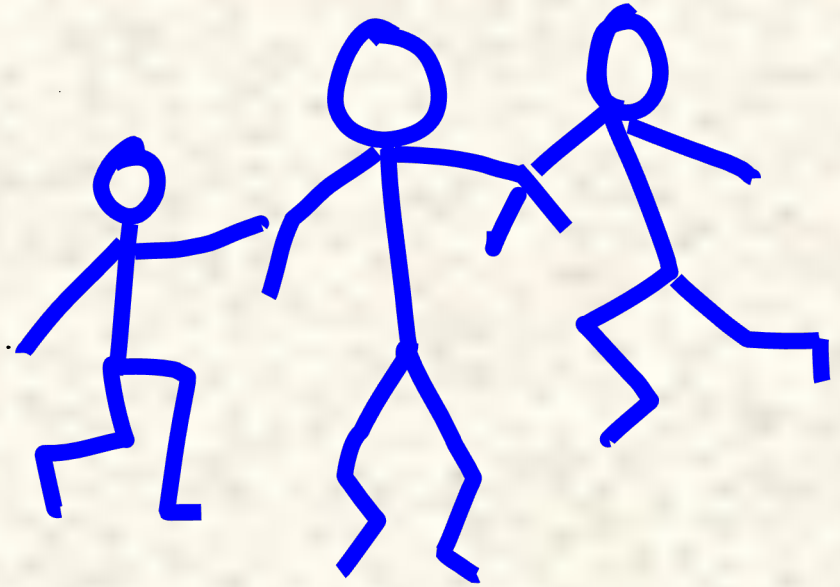
Ephesians 4:1-6

Many people but one ...

Therefore be:

- h\_m\_l\_
- g\_n\_l\_
- P\_t\_\_nt
- Bearing with one another in \_\_\_\_\_

➔ Do you want to be connected ... or essentially alone in the universe?





## ***5. A community where ordinary life really matters to God***

Ephesians 6:7 “serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord ... the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do ...”

- Talking about : marriage, family, work = life



This is a \_\_\_\_\_

You get it when \_\_\_\_\_

➔ v.8 God will reward ordinary life – turned to gold

# ***5. An army equipped with powerful armour***

Ephesians 6:10-17

Truth / reliability = ???

Righteousness (rightness) = ??????

Gospel message = ???

Faith = ?????

The word of God = ???



<https://www.tastesofhistory.co.uk>

➔ This is the army that has powerful armour

➔ The alternative is to be unprotected in a deadly spiritual battle (v.12)



## ***“why bother with church ..”***

There are lots of things that might seem more important:

- Shopping
- Cleaning
- Playing football
- Watching TV
- Doing homework
- hobbies
- Earning more money
- Resting
- ➔ so don't bother too much about church?...

## ***“why bother with church ..”***

1. God is bothered about church
  - He **runs the world** for the church
2. This is the place where **international people** come to benefit from the promises to Abraham, Moses, David etc – by the preaching of the gospel
3. It's the place where **God shows off what he can do** with unlikely material
4. It's the place where human beings **get connected**
5. It's the place where **ordinary life** matters to God
6. Its where the **powerful armour** is put on

➔ Are you bothered?