

## Peter—God of all the world

After three years ministering and living with Jesus, as a leader in the church, we might think Peter would be self-sufficient. Turns out that, when God needs to send a corrective, guiding message to his people, it's going to take another extraordinary encounter.



In one incident, God speaks to Peter through a vision (three times!), in the audible voice of Jesus (v14), by the Spirit (v19) and through the witness of other people. This is a message which God certainly wanted to ensure was received, and it becomes pivotal in Church history.

Sunday 19 July  
Keith Barnard  
Preparation: Acts 10

## John—God's glory revealed

John, probably an itinerant prophet and teacher, is in exile on Patmos when he has an encounter with God which he recounts in the special language of apocalyptic literature.

The political, military and religious leaders of the world were working together to exalt Caesar as Lord and crush all contenders to that claim, including the Church. God gives a revelation of his glory and power, and a behind-the-scenes glimpse of world events from the heavenly perspective. So powerful was John's encounter that persecuted churches throughout the ages have returned to his letter for hope and courage.



Sunday 26 July  
David Burfield  
Preparation: Rev 1:9-20

## God Encounters

28 June to 26 July



Forefront's first value for 2015 is "Seek God". What happens when God meets with us? Throughout the Bible, God touches the lives of different people. In each case, he has a purpose: to call, to bless, to discipline, to teach. What can we learn from these different encounters so that we can understand God— and ourselves?

*A caring community with every member equipped to demonstrate Christ, working with others to advance God's Kingdom in Chard and the world*



## Abraham—God of grace

Abraham first appears—under his ‘old’ name Abram—in the genealogy in Genesis 11, where we quickly learn he was on his way to Canaan with his father when the family was side-tracked. In chapter 12 the LORD speaks a command and a blessing, and obedient Abraham embarks on a life of encounters which will shape our understanding of God forever. Indeed, there are 76 references to Abraham in the New Testament, making him second only to Moses in importance to Gospel teaching.

We will look at two key ‘encounters’ in Abraham’s life—on the journey to the promised land (Genesis 12), and in the greatest test of his faith (Genesis 22).

Sunday 28 June  
Nigel Marsh  
Preparation: Gen 12:1-9, Gen 22:1-18

## Moses—God’s call to serve

Moses is tending sheep when God calls him to some different shepherding—to round up his people in Egypt and “bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land”.



We tend to remember Moses’s life as a series of encounters with God—the burning bush, the Red Sea, atop Mount Sinai—but his success derived from his faithfulness to those revelations, leading his people for 40 years in a desert. “Moses is faithful in all my house”, says the LORD in Numbers 12, explaining why Moses’s encounters with God were different to those of others.

Sunday 5 July  
Derek Burnside  
Preparation: Exodus 3

## Elijah—God of comfort

Elijah bursts onto the Biblical scene in 1 Kings 17, with a fully-formed relationship with the LORD. He announces a drought, then God keeps him alive through it.

But Elijah has more to learn (and teach) through a unique set of circumstances. Despite an astonishing series of public miracles, he becomes a terrified and oppressed refugee (1Ki 19:3). “I have had enough, Lord,” he protests.

God’s healing comes in a revelation of himself. Not in the drama of storms, earthquakes and fire, but a gentle whisper that speaks straight to his soul. He is answered, re-commissioned and provided with a companion, Elisha, and a fellowship of 7,000 who have not bowed to idols.



Sunday 12 July  
Jo Kerr  
Preparation: 1 Kings 19