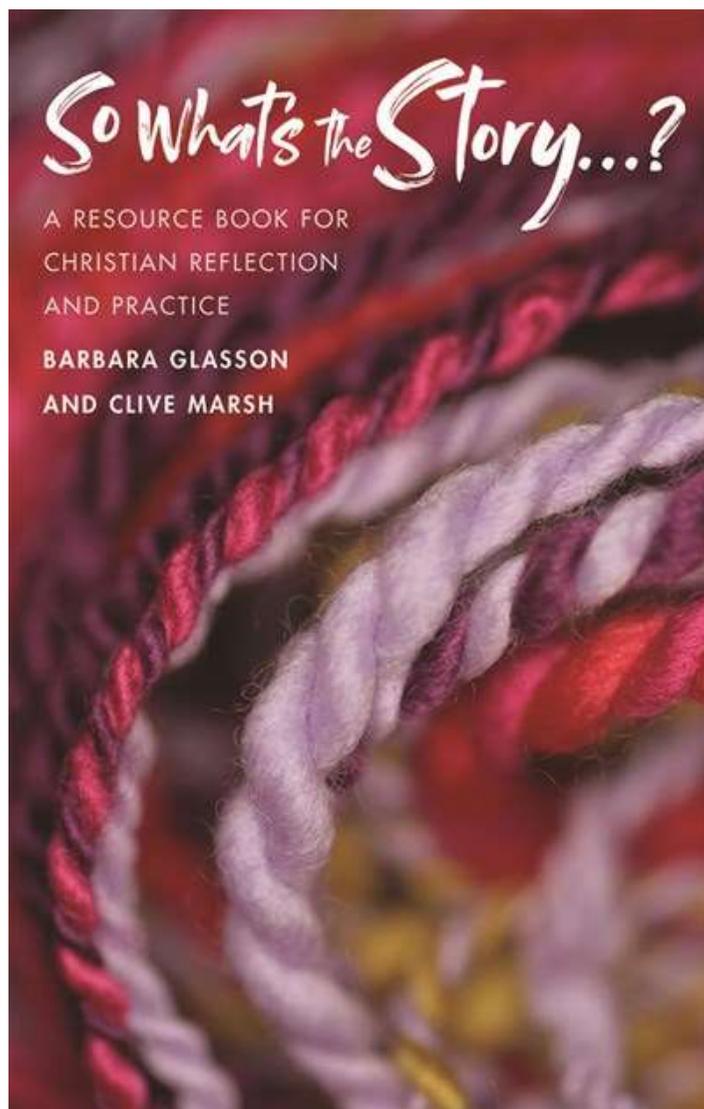


Recommended Summer Reading from Methodist Publishing



Circuit Prayer Diary

July 2019

## Stories

When we read the gospels we find many examples of when Jesus told stories to help His teaching.

Many of the events of the gospels are told in the form of individual narratives of single events.

Most of us who came across Old Testament stories at school or Sunday School can remember at least some of the story details even if we haven't read them recently.

At Methodist Conference last week the President, Rev. Barbara Glasson and Vice-President, Professor Clive Marsh shared some of their personal stories both secular and directly spiritual.

One of Barbara's more memorable anecdotes was about developing with her father the skills of carpeting a car!

Barbara and Clive have set the theme for conference and for this coming year as "**So What's the Story**" and have also jointly brought out a book of the same title encouraging us . They are encouraging us to share our stories too.

Though incidents like the car-carpetting training aren't obviously theologically or pastorally important everything we do and all the things we experience shape who are and may touch the lives of others.

A deacon from our District shared a little of her story in the debate on marriage and relationships at Conference in order to help us understand how complex gender issues can be. Because of her situation hers must be a particularly complex and almost unique perspective,

A little of my recent personal story will be in the next issue of Grapevine....and was submitted before I went to Conference and before I was aware of the theme.

**What of your story could you share ?**

A prayer from the opening chapter:

*Thanks be to God*

*For the story told in me*

*For the story held in me*

*For the story entrusted to me.*

*Help me to tell it*

*To honour it*

*To celebrate it*

*To live it*

*For the love of Jesus.*

*Amen*