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Don't forget drama in the Bible

The Bible is full of the most wonderfully vivid stories which have inspired our culture for centuries since the first missionaries reached these shores.

Music, art, literature and dance have all drawn on this immense treasury. Increasingly, though, one gets the feeling that the Bible isn't as well-known as it once was.

References to it abound in Shakespeare, for instance, but nowadays these seem to be easily overlooked by many of us.

Perhaps Lent would be a good time to get back in touch with this rich storehouse of drama, passion, romance, suffering and joy that has sustained so many over such a long period. Last year we celebrated the 400th anniversary of the production of the King James Bible - by no means the first to be translated into English, and now superseded in many respects by more complete versions.

We can easily take for granted the privilege we have of being given access to this extraordinary text. Apart from its literary qualities and cultural resonance, what it tells us of God's loving purposes towards this world is surely a story that we need to be reminded of.