

## Baptism Testimony.

One year and 13 days ago I said a prayer to invite God into my life, I'm now going to tell you a brief story as to why I did and what led to it!



As a child I attended St. Peters church in Westfield where I was a member of the choir and wore a silly hat! I also went to guild which was a kind of church youth group. Every Sunday my sister would drag me out of bed to go to church. I really didn't enjoy it but she was stronger than me. I really had no idea what it was all about. When I got older and bigger and started to win the fights I stopped going. I didn't give up on the religion thing all

together though I did used to watch father Ted and the vicar of Dibley!

Then about 16 years ago I met a friend who was a Christian. I used to listen to a lot of what she said but wasn't really convinced by it all, but to keep her happy I went along to Welton Baptist church and was introduced to some lovely people most of who are here today. Although everyone was really friendly I still just didn't quite get it and got quite scared by men running around waving flags!

Anyhow the years passed by and I went through some rough times and some of the things my friend had said about God and how he would always be there for me would come into my head and I even found myself praying sometimes!

Then in August last year another friend of mine Sarah asked me to go along to the Sunday service at the Big Top Festival because her daughter, my God daughter had won a colouring competition and was going to be presented with a certificate. I had my doubts about going but went along to be supportive. Sarah and I would nudge each other as people were raising their hands whilst singing. Then someone read out a testimony and I looked around and I wondered what it was that was making them all feel such emotion. Then during a song I found myself really taking notice of the words. Then it was like someone had attached a giant magnet onto my heart and was tugging at it really hard and I found myself smiling. Poor Sarah didn't have a clue what was going on, but it was then I started to understand what God and the Holy Spirit were all about, and after all those years I could understand what all those people were getting excited about and trying to tell me. After the service I got chatting to Sally, Gavin and Sharon and they recommended I went to the Alpha course, which I did.

The course was life changing for me, It answered all the questions that I had doubts over, and made me reflect on life and things that had happened to me. I soon realised that I couldn't go through life anymore without God there to help me and guide me. There were however certain questions that I felt too embarrassed to ask so when I joined the Somerset wagon house group with Jonathan, Paul and Lee, we bonded very well and all felt comfortable enough to challenge Jonathan with our more personal questions. This helped me a lot along with my more normal friends at my Tuesday night house group and not forgetting to mention how lucky I've been with the help and understanding of my friends and family who haven't just thought I'm weird in doing this, but have understood and supported me. So thank you.

So there you have it. That's a brief reason why I decided to make my commitment which I did with Mike and Sharon as my witnesses.

If you're wondering what difference it's made then I'll tell you.

In my work it means I can feel satisfied that if I physically can't do any more for my patients then I know I can pray for them.

In life in general I no longer face problems alone because I can talk to God about them which I have done. All I can say is, I know that I can cope with situations and feelings now with his support that before would have just destroyed me. And when I'm expecting to lose control, I ask God for help and I feel an immense feeling of calmness. Coincidence? I don't think so!

The only question I have now is to myself and that is "why didn't I do this years ago?"



**Aby and Paul after their Baptisms**