

Bob Whittock-Knott

I was born in St. Martin's hospital Bath in 1950 and brought up in Farnborough with my sister and two brothers.



I attended Farnborough school and Timsbury secondary modern and was taken to chapel by a lady who liked to hear me sing. I hated going really and only went because I had to.

In 1965 I joined the army as a boy soldier in Shrewsbury. I became a bandsman and served in the Light Infantry for 25 years. There were hard times, yes, but also many opportunities as I was able to travel the world.

I have always believed in God but did not show it in any way. I was "one of the lads" and took a full part in all aspects of army life.

During this time, I was married to Andrea and we had 3 children, Andrew, Karen and Neil. In 1990, I left the army and it was at this time that my marriage to Andrea broke up. I lived in Winchester for 3 years but then my Father invited me to come and live at home again which is how I ended up living in Laburnum Grove and working for a local coach firm.

At Christmas time in 1993 I bought tickets for the works Christmas do for myself and my family but my Father couldn't go so I asked my friend to find me a woman for the night. They invited Sue. We were engaged within the month and married just 8 months later.

I knew that Sues and her family were Christians and had always been very involved in the church. I didn't mind her going but went very rarely myself, sometimes at Christmas but not often.

In 2002 we moved to Radstock and a few months later my father died which is when I started to think more about there actually being a God. After this I began going to church more regularly, usually to support my grandson Robert and even more after Simon and Alex's son Rocky was born. Simon's church made a big impression on me. It was enjoyable and the humour helped me understand what was being said. The people were everyday working folk like me and I found I could relate to them.

Wes, my Chiropodist, was also a Christian. As he did my feet he would talk to me about God and I began to listen. He would pray for me and the family and invite me to things like a skittles night to meet other people from the church.

Wes is one of those people who "call a spade a spade" and he began suggesting that I was a fraud! This really got to me as I have always been known as a very genuine person. When I discussed it with Sue, she explained that he was saying that inside I believed things, but I was not ready to let people know about it or let it affect my life.

I had always thought of myself as a Christian but was beginning to realise that there was something else to it. At that point I started coming to Welton Baptist Church with Sue with the aim of trying to find out what I needed to do to be a real Christian.

People at church in particular Paul Cosh, began telling me about the Alpha course. Paul told me all about the course and how it had affected his life. Well, in the end I ended up going to the Alpha course at Manor Farm. One week they spoke about evil and the Devil and I went away knowing that I didn't want any part of that and decided it was time for me to do something and make a commitment to Jesus Christ. I went to see Wes and we prayed together in his front room and I became a Christian.

I am still the same old Bob that you all know but my heart now belongs to Jesus. I still love you all and will always be there for you, except that I'll have Jesus with me as well. On the very first Alpha course meeting, there was a story about an old black & White television which had a very poor picture. It wasn't until the aerial was plugged in that the picture became clear. I feel like that TV. I've got the aerial!!

On the course, we all had names so we could remember each other. I called myself Bumbling Bob. Angelic Angela has now renamed me Baptised Bob.

I would like to thank all the good friends who have helped me get where I am today in particular the people on the Alpha course. I would also like to thank George and Harry for being my God Fathers.

