

## EDEN BERNARD-JOHN



Eden Bernard-John tells her faith story as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro. Eden is in the last year at University and in the summer will start her new job in Plymouth training to become a Chartered Accountant. Congratulations Eden!

“I wasn't raised in a Christian household, but I did attend a C of E Primary School, and I felt that my time there taught me a lot about God; I never doubted his existence. Through my primary education, I saw the Bible and its lessons as a fundamental part of my education; I guess in hindsight this was the beginning of my journey as a Christian. Not only this, but the lessons I learned dramatically influenced the person I am today.

When time for Secondary School arrived, the lack of daily prayers and hymn-filled assemblies came as a bit of a shock to the system, and it took me a while to adjust to the idea that not all children shared my beliefs. After a year, I was in a Methodist boarding school and found myself happily back into the routine of frequent prayers and hymns, as well as the attendance of Church services and Chaplain meetings, allowing my knowledge of the Lord to grow. Furthermore, despite it being 'uncool' at that age to be a Christian, I was lucky enough to have a number of Christian roommates and housemates during my time at boarding school, and I felt that my faith deepened through the relationship I shared with my peers.

Another - somewhat unusual - peak in my journey through Christianity took place at the age of 13/14. I found an interest in Michael Jackson's music and quickly fell in love not only with the music, but also in the strong lyrics. His lyrics taught me the value of kindness, selflessness and love; and the messages within his music only deepened my desire to develop as a Christian. Not only this, but his faith pulled him through so many unimaginably low times, and I admired this greatly.

When I returned to Liskeard at the age of 15, I immediately joined St Martin's, and soon after was Baptised, and the following year Confirmed. From the get-go I felt at home at St Martin's, and feel like I have such a great support network within this ever-growing Church family. With their help, I have continued to grow as a Christian and strengthen my relationship with God; I am so thankful for the huge part He plays in my life.”