

## EMILY GOODING



Liskeard Prayers' Lent faith stories, as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro, seem to have been a great blessing to many, and inspired others. Emily Gooding has sent her story in, following those of her mother, Meg Ward, and her sister, Lucy Salter.

"I was fortunate to be brought up in a loving home, and taken to church by my Mum. I made the choice to follow God at a young age, and was confirmed at 11. However the biggest turning point for me was going away with my school (and boyfriend) at the age of 15 to a Christian Union weekend, led by Mike Pilavachi. It was during this weekend that I was filled with God's spirit, and knew His unconditional love for me. The bible verse 1 John 4v19 "We love because he first loved us" resonates with me, as God showed me how much He loves me, so that I can love Him.

From this point on I knew with a certainty that God was real, and that God loves me, but the rest of it is a continuous process of discovery of more of the truth of God, and of his purpose for my life. I continued to follow God, and have been grateful for the kindness he has shown me. I went on to marry my boyfriend, who had encouraged me to go on the CU weekend and was so instrumental in my walk with God. We were very young by current standards to get married, we started dating at 15, were engaged at 19 and married by 21. We have been happily married now for 16 years, and have four children.

I have been in Oxford for 16 years and we are involved in a large church there, where I currently run the Toddler group. God has answered many of my prayers over the years. I have seen people healed, and the lonely put into families. I have heard some amazing testimonies over the years, and mine certainly feels boring in comparison! Thankfully God calls everyone to different roles, and being a Mum is a great calling."