

## JILL PRYOR



As we continue with [#SpeakOut2016](#) from the Diocese of Truro, Jill Pryor tells us her story about what it means to be a Christian.

“I was privileged to be brought up in a Christian family in Bath with two older brothers. A large part of my life was Sunday school at the Baptist Church two miles away, and then the youth club. Many of us are still in touch today. I was baptised at the age of 14, after a firm grounding in what it means to be a Christian and know a loving Heavenly Father. We were encouraged to take the Scripture Union exams in the Sunday school. Not sure it would be appropriate today; exams are scary for children.

Lots of us also went to Baptist summer schools. As well as learning about Christian values, the fun we had together with 100 or more other young people will stay with me forever and has prepared me for the ups and downs in life, of which there are many.

As a Christian I believe in a loving God. Therefore, love is at the top of my list of what it means to be a Christian, along with faith and prayer. Communication with a loving God is essential.

In this world it is never going to be easy with so much suffering and man's fight to win their own beliefs projected into our living rooms almost immediately it happens. Yes, we are human first and then Christian. So we measure short of what is required of us.

Forgiveness by a loving God is a prayer we offer up daily. We will be much criticized by the secular world. As Christians we do not set ourselves aside, but remain part of our community, and hopefully do so with a loving heart and a big smile.

In Lent, leading up to Easter, rather than giving something up I hope to do something more and endeavour to express my joy. We know that Jesus died for the forgiveness of our sins. So we need not be depressed about past failures. Instead, we look forward and are positive that our future is with a loving God.”