

KATE CRUMP



Whilst Lent is over, Liskeard Prayers' faith stories continue as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro. Here is Kate Crump's story. Kate was part of St Martin's Church throughout her teenage years, relocating to Gloucester at the age of 18, and is still living there, although a regular visitor to Liskeard.

"I was introduced to Jesus and Christianity from as far back as I can remember, and for that I will be eternally grateful!

I had parents and grandparents that not only told me about their faith in Jesus and what it meant to follow him, but they also lived it! They practiced what they preached and I could see by the way that they lived their lives that their faith and love for God and others mattered above everything else....it wasn't a 'Sunday only' faith; it was intrinsically part of who they were. They were great examples of what it is to be a follower of Jesus.

However there came a time in my life when I began to question all that I had known. Is this God really real or just a fairy tale? Do I believe all this because I was brought up by Christians? Does it really matter anyway; there are plenty of good people in this world who aren't believers. Surely a loving God wouldn't allow suffering on the scale that I'm seeing happening in this world?

I grappled with these questions for some time. It was important for me to come to my own conclusions and to discover the answers to some of these questions myself. I read lots of literature (including parts of the bible). I discussed these questions with people from different backgrounds and with different beliefs but I came to see that the question I really needed to answer for myself was, 'Who do I say Jesus was/is'? If he really was who he claimed to be, the Son of God, then that meant a radical rethink and a choice that I would have to make. Do I believe him or not? Do I put my trust in him and try and live my life in the light of his ways and his values or do I reject him and his claims and get on with life answerable to no higher deity.

So I grappled with this question: was Jesus a madman, a bad man, or was he who he said he was...The Christ, the Son of the Living God!? I read and investigated a lot around the subject. I knew that historically Jesus lived on this earth over 2000 years ago; there was plenty of evidence to support that fact. I also knew that he had definitely been crucified and that there were many eye witness accounts regarding his resurrection. After much soul searching I took a step in faith; and that's what it is, faith! I have never regretted it! I believed for myself that Jesus really was who he claimed to be. It made sense! Incidentally the Roman Centurian who stood facing Jesus as Jesus breathed his last on the cross said, 'Truly this man was the Son of God!'

I also came to realise that faith in Jesus is a gift! We can choose to accept the gift or reject it. It has nothing to do with how good we are or about good works. We can't earn it! It is available to everyone! That's what makes Christianity so different to any other religion, as far as I can see. It's not about us; it's about what Jesus has done for us in order that we might be free to be in a relationship with him now and after death."