

## LESLEY CARTY



Lesley Carty tells her faith story as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro.

“I was brought up in the Church of England - baptism, confirmation, Sunday school, youth group... So many seeds were sown in that time - though some would take years to bear fruit.

By the time I reached seventeen I was unhappy, rebellious and questioning - not about God’s existence, perhaps, but about social justice and peace and art and relationships - how to live. It was in the middle of this mess that God reached out to me, and I gave my life to him.

Belief had become real experience, but there was a long way yet to go... lots of different churches - then no church at all... years of wandering in the wilderness, but upheld, forgiven, guided, through all the mistakes and failures, supported, restored, given a chance to try again...

It was in another difficult time, many years later, that God gave me a glimpse of the true cost and extent of his healing and transforming love; and at last I stopped trying to serve him in my own strength. I can’t change the world - or my community - or even myself - by my own efforts; but I can be part of what he’s doing.

Thank God he doesn't wait until we have all the faith and understanding and commitment we're going to need to follow him before he starts to work in our lives. He gives us just as much love as we can bear; starts transforming just as much of our life as we're willing to give him. And he will use any and every means he can to do so...”