

## LORRAINE STIRRUP



We hear Lorraine Stirrup's faith story as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro.

"The year of 1998 proved to be a challenging year for our family. My husband Les had to make a move to Scotland for business purposes. At that time I was finishing my degree and our daughters were still at separate colleges of further education. Our son Peter was just fifteen and did not want to leave his school and his friends.

Les and I prayed long and hard through this period. I was afraid our house would not sell as we had had it on the market previously for nearly twelve months. However, after putting it on the market again, it sold within three weeks. In which time Peter had to leave school and stay with friends in Scotland to begin the Scottish school term. Faye moved to Cornwall and after a while got a post at the Royal Cornwall Hospital. Dawn went off to Durham University. It was deeply concerning to have to be separated over such distances. We were all missing one another as well as relatives and friends. We all kept in touch with friends we had left behind us in Stourbridge, but eventually people forget you and you realise most of them were only social contacts. But my best friend Doreen, twenty years older than me, kept in touch. She prayed for us all. She wrote letters to me of peace and comfort. She gave me words of prophecy. She read her bible frequently and would often ring me up with words she had received through prayer. She lifted me up so much in this way, that I was able to focus properly again. This happened over seven and a half years.

Les, Peter and I went to the local Anglican Church where the fellowship was welcoming and involved. We took part in regular bible study and the vision that the church had for the future. All of this was going on as we had the deep uncertainty of not know what would happen in our own future. Faith should not doubt, but I doubted many things and most of them quite selfishly. But the time came when I was able to give that over to God. After this, many things changed. Les and I became a thriving part of the community, helping with churches together and local group activities. Dawn got her degree and went to work abroad. Faye continued working in Cornwall and Peter did well at the local academy. He went to university in Edinburgh.

As a whole, being a Christian family kept us together. Leaving your home and place of comfort to go to somewhere strange to you is uncomfortable. But isn't this what Jesus did? When I think of that, I realise we were on a journey with him. Jesus didn't leave us at any time, although I sometimes felt alone, I held on to that promise. Jesus say's "I will never leave you or abandon you. When you walk through the waters I'll be with you, you will never sink beneath the waves. When the fear of loneliness is looming, remember I am at your side".