

NIKKI CARTER



Nikki Carter tells her faith story as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro. We chose 1 March for Nikki's as she started work that day as the new parish administrator at St Martin's Church.

"I don't remember a time I didn't believe in God. I was brought up in a loving Christian family, went to Sunday School and attended a Church of England Primary School. To me the bible stories I heard were fact, I loved hearing about God! And then...I started Secondary School! Suddenly I had deep rooted insecurities, I yearned acceptance and friendship. It wasn't cool to be part of the Christian Union and being a Christian meant missing out on all the fun! I rebelled against my family, against school and against God. I yearned acceptance and thought doing things my own way was a lot cooler and a whole lot easier!

When I was 15 I joined a Christian led youth club and during this time I asked Jesus into my life. Despite this I was still only prepared for things to be on my own terms and thought I wasn't good enough to call myself a Christian - that I didn't deserve God's love. I didn't understand what Grace was and so I continued trying to do things my own way.

During my time running from God I never doubted his existence and no matter how hard I tried to put him into the back of mind it was clear to me that he was calling me to have a relationship with him. The biggest turning point was actually a really gradual thing. Slowly I learnt to trust God, place my burdens into his hands and give into God's love. As hard as it was I needed to allow our relationship to be on his terms not my own. I needed to let go and let God take control of things.

I would never say getting to this place made everything easier – letting go and giving someone else control is never going to be easy. And life doesn't suddenly turn into a bed of roses just because you become a Christian. But I know now that I need Jesus in the calm and in the storms, to trust Jesus with the small stuff and the big stuff. God loves me, whether I consider myself good-enough or not. He knows me, and loves me regardless."