

SANDY FREEMAN-SANDERSON



Sandy Freeman-Sanderson tells his faith story as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro.

“My mother and I, with my two sisters, lived with my maternal grandmother until I was 10. Our mother contracted TB when I was 8 and went into a sanatorium and died when I was 10. This coincided with our father being discharged from the navy at the end of the 2nd world war. Up to this point I had never been inside a church and the only prayers I had heard were in school assembly.

My father got a job as senior engineer in a power station in London and asked for me to go and live with him, leaving my sisters in Lancashire. A couple of years later he married my wonderful stepmother who loved going to church and took me with her, and I found Jesus. When I was 16 my father very forcefully asked me to leave home and so I went to Liverpool (first train out) and got a job working in a hotel kitchen and I lost my desire to go to church. Just before my 18th birthday I joined the Royal Navy and eventually was rated C.P.O. (Chief Petty Officer) and was seconded to the special forces.

I was sent to Borneo to keep the Indonesian communists from attacking the British colonies. During my time there I did many things that now I feel guilty about, and while there I prayed to Jesus for help and forgiveness. I was brought back into the fold and though I cannot forgive myself, I feel that the Good Lord has forgiven me. I now try to live as he would want me to.”