

## SHERI STURGESS



Sheri Sturgess answers the question, “Why am I a Christian?” as part of [#speakout2016](#) launched by the Diocese of Truro. Sheri has held a range of paid and voluntary lay roles at parish, diocesan and national level within the Church of England.

“Why am I a Christian? Because I can't not be! If I believe, as I do, that Jesus is the Son of God, then I have to do something about it.

The foundations of my belief were laid in childhood, through attendance at Sunday School, plus the influence of the headmistresses of both my primary and secondary schools. These weren't church schools but both ladies had a strong faith, and so Christianity was part of our daily school life.

In my teens I read a book that really explained what Jesus had done for me, and that it needed a response, and so I made a commitment for him, and truly became a Christian. But at this stage my faith was still very private.

Life circumstances meant that there was a period during my 20s when I drifted away, my wilderness years, if you like. But God wasn't finished with me! A business associate asked me “Are you a Christian?” and I found it was impossible to say “No”, or even to prevaricate – I just had to say “Yes”. That led to me becoming involved in my local church, St Martin's.

Then one Sunday morning something amazing happened. I still can't describe it in words; it was just a very intense spiritual experience in an ordinary Sunday service, but I knew that this was some sort of turning point. That's the point my faith stopped being private and I really became part of a church family. I became ever more involved at St Martin's, first as Treasurer, then Administrator, and then that led to working at the Diocese, where I have had various roles, paid and voluntary, for 19 years.

More recently I have come to know more fully the power of prayer. Last November, our daughter gave birth to very premature twins, and initially we didn't know whether they would survive. We have prayed so hard for them, as have so many of our friends, and many Christians across the country. As I write this, they have just left hospital after 100 days, and are now at home. I am convinced they are with us today, not just because of the skills of the doctors and nurses, but especially because of the power of prayer. Praise God!”