

VANESSA ALLIS



Vanessa Allis tells her faith story today as part of [#SpeakOut2016](#) with the Diocese of Truro.

“As many people know, I grew up in a Christian family, so Church and God were part of our daily family life. As a lot of people remember, my family and I all went to St Martins Church for a lot of my childhood. Bizarrely, some of the best memories from when I was a kid was Dad and I walking to Church on a Sunday and him singing remarkably tuneless and lyric-less songs whilst we were walking. I went to JAM Club (Jesus and Me), I went to youth groups, I went to a Christian Primary School, so God and religion were a big part of my life as a kid.

It was during my early teens that I remember it just suddenly clicking that the story of Jesus dying on the cross for my sins wasn't just a story. It wasn't some story told to kids during morning assembly; Jesus actually died for me. This is still baffling to me right now as I'm writing this on a tube in London.

This isn't to say that I haven't struggled with this. During my late teens, I really struggled with being a "bad Christian" and my friends asking me questions about my faith and me not knowing the answers. To be honest, I still struggle with this now. I have just about accepted that I don't know all the answers and I never will and that there is no such thing as a "good" or "bad" Christian. God's teaching me, though, that Jesus died on the cross for me and He loves me and the pressure that I put on myself to be "good" or to have every answer really isn't important when someone loves me as much as Jesus does.”