



When people write testimonies they often begin with life before they came to know Jesus: I seem always to have been aware of him in some way, though early on as a sort of all-the-year-round Santa Claus or as a neighbour I had a nodding acquaintance with, to whom I made friendly gestures and received some in return, and from whom I requested favours.

But – Jesus, exciting Lord! when I joined school friends in Christian gatherings – I recollect lively, Jesus-centred singing, food and Godly activities. Later I swore allegiance to him, tearfully and sincerely, fired by the message brought to us by the eloquent Billy Graham.

Late teens – God was present in the candlelight during lengthy Sung Eucharists at my parish church, just ‘visible’ in the grandeur and ceremony – a gold robe and bells, the all-boy trebles chanting the Litany. In life outside these institutional and mystical experiences I spoke to God, spoke much more than listened at that time; but I believe he gave my life light.

Pass by many years. In the 70s I felt I should be sharing our good news as I did when I was at school – God gave me the opportunity to worship in a church community I gave my heart to. I began a children’s evening group (I already had a Sunday class.) This was a good time of prayer and play and witness and I left it only when husband’s new job took us away. Leaving Sale and this church was sad for me – I came to Bexley with little enthusiasm at first.

God has stayed by me in my less-than-fervent times, my long lapses and weak spots. I’ve learnt to listen better now and he speaks to me in quiet, liturgical worship and in the uninhibited let-it all-out of the Holy Trinity Brompton worship style, ‘Be the fire in my heart, be the wind in my sail’; in the Holy Spirit-intimate times I have experienced in the Alpha course and conferences. I have been told I could work more on my spiritual life, so that is a target.

I work for a special school, a prison and a phone line, outside of church life – I see these activities also as God-directed. I give talks at our informal service – this service encourages less-committed people, some who may be looking for marriage or baptism for their children, to feel comfortable in a church setting.

I began the Faith and Ministry course in 2002, went on to the Developing Ministries Programme and was accepted to train as an Evangelist while I was recovering from a serious accident. I thought I couldn’t possibly manage it but Canon Jean provided me with support and a local priest as a tutor until I could join the class and complete the training. We had a lovely commissioning evening on the 19th November 2006 in Rochester Cathedral.

I had a badly broken pelvis and leg but through the brilliance of medical science and technology, and with the ever-present support and prayers of the parish and the diocese, God put me on my feet again - so I guess I must use them to walk his way!

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