

My Spiritual Journey



My friend was going to go to Sunday School. A girl who lived next door to her was older than us had asked her and I wanted to go as well, although I didn't know why. It was to the Baptist Church. At the age of eleven, my friend's mother died and she stopped going, as did our other friends who lived across the road. I still wanted to go and a friend at school went to the Anglican Sunday School so I joined her there. At the age of twelve we were too old for Sunday School so we went to church and sat at the back with the other young people. When we were fourteen, we wanted to be confirmed so we could go up into the Chancel and have the bread and wine like everyone else. We really did not understand why. To be confirmed we had to be baptised. On asking my parents when I had been baptised, I found out that I had not, as they said, they had left it up to me to decide for myself. So I was baptised, with Godparents. The next month I was confirmed. Life went on, I left school and went to work. My friend stopped going to church and we drifted apart.

I met my husband-to-be at work. He lived in Essex and I lived in Kent. We went out together at weekends and he stayed over. I went to church on Sunday and he started to come too, although we didn't sit together as I was in the Church Choir by this time. In time we were married and after three years came to live where we are now, in Sutton-at-Hone. I still wanted to attend church so went to the local one, my husband came as well. We were asked to join a house group and to my surprise, my husband agreed. After a while the leader asked my husband if he would like to be confirmed, he said yes as long as I came to the classes with him. On the last day of the confirmation course, our Vicar asked me if the Holy Spirit was working in my life. I had no idea and wondered how I would know. The Vicar and my husband laid hands upon me and prayed. I was told that I would necessarily not feel any different, but the next day I felt this overwhelming desire to read the Bible. When starting to read it, it was as if I had never read it before. Things were being revealed to me that were not written on the page. It was so enthralling that I found it hard to stop and put it down. My whole attitude started to change gradually as I read it, not all at once but over a period of time. I was literally being 'born again' spiritually, as it says in the Bible. My husband and I went on a Faith and Ministry Course, run by the Diocese, and found it was not as difficult as we expected, so next we embarked on the Developing Ministry Programme. At the end of the course, I felt I wanted to be an Evangelist. I had never wanted to do anything else in my life as much as this. What I did not realise was what I would have to go through. Spiritually I went to hell and back or so it seemed. God revealed truths about my life which I had not realised, hurts and fears were healed, confession and forgiveness came. I now know what it means to be free, as it says in the hymn 'My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose forth and followed thee.' Now I want everyone to be free and know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and friend as I do!

Yvonne Hurrell
Evangelist at St John the Baptist at Sutton at Hone