



Growing up I only went to church a few times, mainly for the occasional family wedding. As I got older I often felt lost and alone in the world. I searched for something to fill an emptiness inside of me but couldn't find anything that would fit. I never thought I would find my missing piece in Christianity. That would have been the last place I would have thought to look. After my marriage broke down not long before COVID, my sense of not fitting in with the world grew and as we went into the first lockdown, I decided to search for a local church running the Alpha course. I honestly don't know what caused me to do this, other than a sense of wanting to feel God loved me. If He did exist and loved me, I thought it might help me love myself more and find peace.

Trent Vineyard was the only place I could find running Alpha online and so a couple of weeks later I found myself in a small zoom meeting with others who were curious and starting the journey. I enjoyed Alpha and found it answered a lot of my questions but also raised many more. During the course, I was at home one Sunday watching Trent's online service and the hosts led a prayer for people who wanted to give their lives to Jesus. I said the prayer with them and immediately

experienced a deep sense of peace and was filled with the Holy Spirit. I'm sure that was the moment I became a Christian. I wasn't a Christian before it, but afterwards, I certainly was. I was baptised about 18 months later which was a really special experience.

My journey of faith since then has not been straightforward. Fitting an established secular life into a Christian understanding has been challenging. However, I am building up a repository of memories of when God has brought me through difficulty, and has been there when I have asked for help. Looking back I can see that God guided me to Trent at just the right time. I know I wouldn't have felt comfortable walking through the doors of such a large church without the cushioning of that Alpha online group. I'm so grateful for this because I now love being a part of Trent and particularly my small group who've been such a support. Despite my struggles in adapting to my new life as a Christian, I can honestly say I would not change a thing. Knowing the love of God and seeing His grace working in my heart every day is such a blessing. I want to spend the rest of my life as a disciple of Jesus.

Changing Lives