



Growing up, I went along to church because my mum wanted me to. I enjoyed volunteering with the children's groups but didn't embrace having my own relationship with God. In my first year of university, there was just a lot going on in my life and I became withdrawn from pretty much everything and everyone. I wasn't connected to a church but in that place, I decided to start praying and seeking God on my own. As I continued this journey, I wanted to find a church. Trent Vineyard was top of the list because of my mum's recommendation, but it was during lockdown so I could only watch the online services at home. Even though it wasn't in person, I enjoyed the worship and talks.

Then my family and I caught COVID and my mum was hospitalised. It was such an emotional time for me and I really needed reassurance from God so I signed up for an online women's event I'd noticed being advertised at Trent. The morning of the event, a friend randomly sent me a song from a music album called "Beauty for Ashes". The organisers of the women's event had also sent a lovely gift package to my home. As I opened it I saw that it had the same theme, "Beauty for Ashes", with

a Bible verse they had chosen for me which spoke directly into my situation. The rest of that day will forever be imprinted on my heart. As I shared what was happening in my life with others who I'd only just met on Zoom, they prayed and cared for me. I felt completely surrounded by God's love and came away knowing that I wanted to make Trent Vineyard my home. Shortly afterwards, there was an online baptism service that really touched my heart.

Some of the people getting baptised had not known God for very long but were taking this step. I felt God saying to me that I didn't have to wait to be this perfect person to get baptised and that He was just after my heart. So I got baptised a few months later which really strengthened my relationship with Jesus and felt like a way of breaking down any barriers that were stopping me from having a full relationship with Him. Since then Jesus has continued to change my life. I used to be so anxious about everything but I have much more hope now. Every day, I step out in confidence knowing that God is always with me and all I need to do is fully trust in Him.