

My Life, My Faith - by Katrina Mays

I was brought up in a Methodist household and as a child was encouraged to attend Sunday School, however I would have much preferred to have been at The Nook, a nature area just across the road from where I lived at Bedworth, catching Sticklebacks, baby frogs and observing the mesmeric dragonfly dance, a real nature girl at heart, and would make any excuse not to go.

However, the abiding message I did receive from my sparse attendance was that Jesus loved me; He was my friend and wanted me for a Sunbeam.

As a teenager some of the more serious aspects of life began to emerge and as a student at Agricultural College, I encountered Dave.

Dave resembled a dishevelled hippie, but he spoke of this man Jesus with the passion and fervour as some may about a favourite singer or film star, and how he had transformed his life as a once wayward adoptee, angry at himself and the world around him.

Dave introduced me to his Church in Leamington Spa and the amazing people there who were to become my friends and some of the most special people I have ever known.

That Church group became my sanctuary and shelter during some dark and difficult times that were to lie ahead, and Dave and his wife Penny are still precious friends today.

During the interceding years I have had a faith, but not actively practised it and many were wilderness years as a result, although my Mum was ill and frail she was my anchor in the world and when I lost her I felt quite adrift, so decided to go to St John's as I saw first-hand how the fellowship there had sustained her through many challenges.

There have been no light bulb moments, no shafts of light from the heavens, but what I have received is the message of God's love and assurance that he is with me always and will never forsake me, all he asks of me is that I love him, my fellowman as myself, follow his teachings and show that love and message to the wider world as the reflection of that love and the peace that passes all understanding, and that message sustains me more than any trappings that this shallow world ever could. Amen