

**Mark:** I am 45 years old. My mum and her mother used to go to church. Sometimes I went with them and occasionally on my own. I felt I was brought up in the Christian church and that was the right thing to follow, but when I got into my teens this all stopped.

About nine years ago a local welder, Justin, moved into his workshop in Seabeach Lane which is at the back of where I live. We got talking about our work. After the break up of his marriage things had become hard for Justin. At this time he began to follow Christ and things began to change in his life. I was quite struck by this change and I began to realise this was the right faith to follow after all.

I was struggling with doing up my house. I was on a project to convert it into flats. Money was a problem and the project was stuck. Justin asked if I'd like to come to church. He explained what it had done for him and that trusting Jesus was what made the difference.

So I began to come to Living Stones with him. It seemed quite a laid-back, friendly church – not like the image of traditional church I had. I started to come regularly. I was invited to go on the Alpha course. This opened up the doors to Christian life for me and introduced me to becoming a Christian.

I realised I needed to have faith in God and Jesus. This means a commitment to follow Jesus all the time, doing the right things and not wrong things. I used to have a bad mouth and I now know I must learn not to swear – even when I hurt myself at work! I haven't been a really bad person but I know going my own way is wrong and I need to go God's way now. I know Jesus has washed away my sin when he died on the cross and I am now forgiven.

I have now been baptised and I want to follow Jesus for the rest of my life.