

## Testimony: Confirmation

My journey started when I was little, and I went to St Paul's church with my family. Soon enough, I was baptised (Although I was too small to remember it) and that's where my journey started. I continued to attend church regularly although we did have to stop coming for a few years due to the covid pandemic. But soon enough we did come back and our priest, Rev'd Lisa spoke to my parents about Confirmation. Revd Lisa asked me how I felt about taking the next step on my Christian journey and then it was decided that I would be confirmed. So I started taking confirmation classes with Rev'd Lisa, ( and my mum and little brother too!) over the next few months and learned in a lot more detail about the story of the bible. In a few weeks I will be confirmed and will continue on my journey.

Luke Garland

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School lessons in religious education sparked my interest in the bible. So much so that I joined the local Sunday school and eventually the local church. Years passed by and because of marriage, children and countless hard knocks from life my time at church sadly dwindled. Fast forward to the present I am still unsure if it was just pure luck, a happy coincidence, or, divine intervention that I had the pleasure of bumping into the Reverend Lisa who was doing some heavy squats at our local gym and I got chatting to her about faith. An invitation from Revd Lisa to attend a service at St Paul's church was eagerly accepted and my new journey began from there. The feeling of warmth and genuine welcome generated toward me by the members of the congregation at St Paul's has been so lovely and the feeling of belonging again is amazing. The honour and privilege to witness and share in the Holy Eucharist in the presence of Christ is an exciting feeling that, I am soon to experience through being confirmed of which, I am looking forward to with eagerness and much joy. Thank you Reverend Lisa.

Stephen Riley

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I was raised as a Christian and I would say that I have always had a strong faith, I have always felt God with me and I have leaned on Him in difficult times during my life. I have always prayed a lot and have always felt God with me in those moments of prayer. I sought out Churches with good teaching and house groups and Bible study groups as an adult and I met my husband through a friend who ran one of those groups which he had started going to. I am very grateful to be married to someone who shares my faith, we were married at St Paul's, Woodhouse Eaves and we look forward to raising our son, who will also be baptised at St Paul's, to God's light. Revd Lisa encouraged me to take the next step in my faith in being confirmed. At the same time as our son being baptised, I shall also be confirmed at St Paul's, which is something I am very much looking forward to.

Rachel Markham

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'My earliest introduction to faith started from a very early age but I guess at that age I never really understood what it was all about. As I got older I started to ask more questions, sang hymns at school and went to Sunday school with my sister. I loved it when I got my very own children's bible and remember precious times in singing along to Songs of Praise with my grandmother. At the age of 19, I fulfilled my dream and joined the British Army for 9 years, Then I joined the Royal Navy and furthered my Armed forces career. Later into my Naval Career I married my amazing wife and have two beautiful daughters. I regularly used to help set up and conduct readings at our church services at sea where I used to pray for my safety on deployment and for my family and friends. This really helped me in my faith. I have since moved to Woodhouse and one day whilst I was out walking, I walked past St Mary's Church. I was absolutely taken in by it's beauty and knew I had to go there. The memorial of the wellington bomber really hit home and to this day I always pay my respects. I recently met a good friend whose story of Faith absolutely inspired me to pieces after I read his autobiography. After speaking to my sister who is like a rock to me throughout my entire life, we both agreed that we would go to church. For me that church was St Mary's in Woodhouse. When I first opened that door I was apprehensive but I was instantly made to feel welcomed and everyone seemed so friendly. When I met Revd Lisa she put my mind at ease and gave me great confidence, I really did feel like I belonged there and the church feels like a second home to me. I attend every Sunday when I am not working and the service gives me strength to believe in faith to a point where I would feel empty if I did not attend. Revd Lisa talked to me about being baptised which became the basis and starting point of my Christian journey. Since being baptised and repenting my sins I am finding the strength to become a better person in life. Although it may take me some time, I know through making my promises to God at my baptism, I am being transformed. Currently I'm really enjoying my 'God- talks' with Revd Lisa to understand the meaning and importance of the Holy Eucharist and am looking forward to being Confirmed in May. I believe that I truly am on a sacred journey to believing in my faith all thanks to the love of God and the Holy Spirit and am truly gracious for this. Amen' 🙏

David McMullan