

Ian - The Hexagon Benefice

My faith journey began in my childhood, deeply influenced by my mother. Without her, I would not have been introduced to the church or to God. Her encouragement and support have been instrumental in shaping my faith. She would take me to church services, and I have fond memories of the traditions of Christingle and other services at Christmas. These early experiences laid the foundation for my relationship with God.

Throughout my youth, my mother encouraged me to attend church, and I maintained a connection with my faith. However, as I grew older, this relationship diminished. It wasn't until I joined the Army that my faith became more prominent in my life. The military's strong ties to Christianity and faith provided a renewed presence of the church in my life. During deployments and challenging times, I turned to military church and its "Padres", the physical church space, and to God for solace and comfort.

Some more challenging periods in my life particular during and immediately after my military career, where I faced loss and hardship, I found calm, solitude, and time for reflection within church spaces. The support and conversations with the military's Padres were also invaluable in helping me navigate through these tough times.

Now, having left the military, I am wanting to formalise my relationship with God by being more physically present in the Church attending services and affirm my faith through confirmation and to share Communion with the rest of the congregation.