

Baptism and Confirmation Testimonies November 2019

Paula Bailey

I became a Christian at EdgeFest on the 6th of August this year. I heard someone's story about how Jesus had changed their life and really wanted Jesus to change mine. Since becoming a Christian it's changed me. I feel a lot more relaxed and I'm also doing a lot more things helping on Gurnell Grove. I want to be baptised to be a part of God's family.

Geraldine Qizilbash

I am attending house church on Gurnell Grove, West Ealing since November 2018. In August 2019 myself and a group from Gurnell Grove went to Edgefest a Christian Festival. A man spoke and shares his testimony. I felt his words were really speaking to me and I decided I wanted to follow Jesus. Me and Paula went to the front of the meeting and declared we wanted to follow Jesus and become Christians. Since becoming a Christian I have really felt peace. I want to be baptised so I can share the same love God has for Jesus and be a part of God's family.

Matthew Tate

When I asked Jesus into my life I was five years old. When I was cuddling my mum and dad I asked about how to become a Christian. I prayed to say sorry for my sins and to ask Jesus into my life. Before I asked Jesus into my life I was cheeky in Reception and got in a lot of trouble. But now that Jesus is in my life he helps me to make better choices. The reason I want to get baptised is because I want everyone to know I'm a Christian and part of God's family.

Bing Tao (Eleanor)

I have always been very interested church culture which is a big part of source of literature and life for people around the world. Since moving to the UK over 20 years ago wherever and whenever I see a church, I can't help entering and enjoying the beauty, the tranquillity and the atmosphere there, but it was not until I came to St. Stephen's Church and started my Alpha course here that I found myself entering a thoroughly fresh and new world.

Through the Alpha course, I have gained a more comprehensive understanding of Christianity. Although this is still very basic, it is a new beginning and bright start for me. I have gradually started to understand why so many people in the world follow Lord Jesus. It has provided me with a friendly and relaxing atmosphere and given me opportunities to explore the meaning of life together with friends who have the same trust in Jesus Christ. It is because of this course that I have started to know what the goal of life is and where I go. I have learned so much about Jesus Christ and learned so much from Him. I am determined to put my trust in Him because He makes me become a better person with a more enriched life.

I wish to become a person of God and live the rest of my life in Christ, to turn away from the evil, get out of the darkness, get into His light, rise to new life in Him, be reborn by His Holy Spirit and be faithful to Lord Jesus Christ. That is why I have chosen to be baptised today.

Dele Fasanya

I have been thinking about why I chose to reaffirm my faith and I can only say I kept having this urge after I started this journey to be a Christian (reading the bible and listening to sermons online). I feel at peace with this decision and I am hoping that my faith will be strengthened. This week I read about the prodigal son and apart now having a better understanding of the story, it confirmed my urge and made me realise this is the right thing to do. My journey continues.

Youwen Yang

40 years ago, in a school summer holiday in China, I had nothing to read, but borrowed a Bible from my neighbour,. It was a story book for me. After 20 years, at a Friday night Bible study group in California, I was baptised by James, the group leader with drops of water. Today, for remembrance of the time there, I would love to be renew my baptism vows. Thanks Lord

Weihua Zhang

I am originally from China. Twenty years' ago, I came to this country to work. Shortly someone invited me to a Chinese church. Having no religion or interest, I politely turned down the invitations a few times. However, I went to the church soon afterwards only to accompany a new flatmate who was invited. I was then exposed to Christianity and the Holy Bible in the Chinese Bible Studies and church services. It was a long journey, but God's love drew me to Him and I decided to accept Jesus as my saviour and was baptised in 2007. Since then my view of the world has changed 180 degrees. I felt a sense of belonging and that it was God who found me, a wanderer ever before. Through reading the Bible and praying, I have convinced myself that God is real and those who believe in His Son Jesus Christ will have an eternal hope in Him. God has already poured so much grace on me and my family on our journey, and He still listens, guides and walks with us at present and will continue in the future. Throughout these years, my faith has grown and my heart has desired more to serve Him. I believe that God has much to reveal to me and I ask the Lord to guide, lead and enable me to follow His direction. St Stephen's has been my spiritual home for the last ten years. Therefore, I would like to renew my baptismal promise here to profess my faith. Thanks to the church and Glory be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Nancy Yang

My sister and I were brought up in a strong Christian environment. Our mum would encourage us to go to church, read the (kids) Bible, grace before meals etc...and looking back, I thank her for that. I've never doubted God, I knew He was good and real but I never felt a connection to him at all- we were very distant. About 3 years ago, I went to New Wine with my friends and attended the youth group "Thirst". It was amazing. So much happened in the space of a week and I experienced God's love for the first time. Every year has been just as amazing- even if the weather wasn't! Ever since then, I decided to explore my faith further and took part in the youth Alpha course, where I received a word from God which was very similar to one I got from New Wine 2 years ago. So, I want to get confirmed to develop my relationship with God through Jesus even more and I'm excited to see where He will take me next.

Alice Zhang

Ever since I was young, I have grown up in a Christian environment, which I am very thankful for. I've learnt a lot about God through my parents & Sunday School. Earlier on this year, I took part in the Youth Alpha at St Stephen's and I think it has really helped me to grow closer to God and understand more about the Christian Faith. I am getting confirmed because I want to continue to follow Jesus.

Weicheng Zhang.

I came to this country about 30 years ago. My last job was with British Airway for 19 years and I retired last year due to a health issue. My wife is a strong Christian and often prayed for me and invited me to church. Because I was so busy with work I did not pay much attention on going to church. Two years ago I came to church more often and made my mind to believe in Jesus. I was baptised in August 2018 at a Chinese Christian Camp. I have been attending St Stephen's church for over a year, and participated in the Alpha Course last year. I would like to continue coming to church and have my faith confirmed at St Stephen's. Thank you.

Chris Willis

Growing up in a Baptist church, I made my decision to be baptised aged 14, a couple years after becoming a Christian. Although this was a serious decision and commitment for me at the time, it did not last too long. It was around this time that I faced a lot of difficulties with personal, social, and faith issues. Eventually, I walked away from God. Aged 17, at Soul Survivor, and with the help and support of my youth workers, I came back to faith. But it was a long journey of learning to trust God and others. Since then, he has been the bedrock of my life through all sorts of good times and bad. God called me to give to other young people what my youth workers had given to me, so I devoted my focus on pursuing his ministry in youth work, where I spend most of my time thinking about sharing Christian life with teenagers. A large part of this is showing God as being central in my life. A couple years ago, I started thinking about baptism. I have never regretted getting baptised when I did, but I did realise I have never made that kind of outwards commitment since returning to faith at the end of my teenage years. So, over recent months, God has been prompting me to renew my baptismal vows, and to once again publicly profess Jesus as my Lord and saviour, and central to my faith, my personal life, and my ministry with young people.

Ivy French

If I'm being honest I never really understood what confirmation was before starting the confirmation classes here. For me wanting to be a Christian has been a fairly recent thing. I was brought up in a Christian family and first went to an Assyrian Church at the age of 5. I was intrigued by this idea of God and Jesus but it was never really important to me. I started coming to St Stephens about 8 years ago and this is where my journey with Jesus began. Eventually however it got to a point where I just didn't care about coming to Church, there was always next Sunday, and as long as I went to Church on Easter and Christmas that still made me a Christian. In January 2018 I was invited to come to Youth Alpha and I thought why not it's not in the morning anyway. Youth Alpha changed my life. I'd never felt so connected to anything in my whole life. It was here where I first opened up to God and truly believed. Probably the most important part of Youth Alpha was the one longer session where we got a chance to pray to God. I remember going straight to Nancy afterwards and saying wow I felt God! After that I made a commitment to come to Church because I want to strengthen my relationship with Jesus and learn more about God. Being confirmed is the next step on my journey as a Christian. So that's why I've chosen to be confirmed.

George French

My reason for being confirmed is very important to me. It's the next step in my life as a Christian. I was brought up in church for most of my childhood. We found St Stephens 9 years ago and we have been here ever since. The atmosphere was amazing and this church is the perfect place for me to learn more about God and life as a Christian. I struggled in school and it made me question God's existence. But then I found the Alpha course. It helped me find peace with God and is the main event that led me on this path. At first I doubted being confirmed because I had too little faith. However, after a few sessions I was drawn in and I finally feel I am ready. The next step is big for me because I wonder where I'm going to take it from here. But that answer is simple; just live my life with God by my side.

Ashraiya Sandhu

My journey becoming a Christian started at a young age when I was baptised. When I was younger I didn't go to church frequently but still viewed myself as Christian however about 5 years ago when my family met Jane Maffet at Light up the Lane and she introduced us to St Stephens Church. Soon after this event I started worshipping here and this is when I started to understand my faith a lot more. I began participating with Cool Christians activities and later I joined the Youth Group. Attending church weekly has allowed me to explore more what being a Christian means. I am now at a stage where I truly want to devote myself to my faith and begin my journey.