

Lauren: My Story

I think it's always hard when you've been brought up in a Christian family to know exactly when you started to know Jesus as a reality in your life rather than just something you've been taught about, but for me he's always just been there, and the possibility that there wasn't a God and that Jesus wasn't real has never come into my mind. From when I was young my parents read me bible stories and took me to church and Sunday schools, and we had lots of family friends who were also Christians, that were open about their faith and constantly teaching and guiding me. So I've always had a solid grounding in God.

School was slightly different as throughout most of my school life I didn't have any friends who went to church or who shared the same beliefs, I had good friends and wasn't teased, but school life and church life didn't really mix, and sometimes this was hard. It wasn't until 3 years ago, when I took my options that I finally met a friend who did go to church and shortly after that I found out that my mum and her friends had been praying that I would, more confirmation for me that God is real and that he cares about me. Also at about that time we came back to Leigh Road Baptist Church as mum and dad found that the church that we were attending wasn't really meeting Caleb and my needs as there were very few children there, and no other teenagers apart from me.

Over the past few years I've made some good friends and it's been great to be able to talk openly and discuss my faith with them in our youth groups here at Leigh Road. I've gradually come to have a much closer relationship with God and at our weekend away in November last year, where we really met with the Holy Spirit I realised God wanted me to get baptised and publicly affirm my faith. Since then I've felt even closer to God and to my friends here, and I'm so happy to be getting baptised at the same time as Annie and Tom.

I'd like to thank the Space leaders, David and Lois, and, David and Natalie and my beautiful family for helping to guide me on this journey, so here I am declaring my faith. Thank you for listening and God Bless.