

Mary Walton, Prayer Co-ordinator



I was confirmed at thirteen and attended my local church but as no one spoke to me, I soon gave up. I did try reading the Bible and occasionally tried different churches.

When I was twenty years old I met a young man called Reg. He was a teacher at a local school and living with his parents. After we had been out together several times he told me that his parents were religious and to keep the peace he went with them to church on Sunday evenings. He asked me if I would like to go with him and I was very happy to say yes.

It was

a new experience for me, there was no prayer book, people prayed as if they were having a real conversation with God. I often felt that

when the preacher spoke he was actually speaking to me. The people were so kind and although we giggled a bit on the back row no one told us off. They genuinely seemed happy that we were there. I still had the notions that if you were born in England and had been christened you were a Christian, until one Sunday when a man gave his testimony. He said that he became a Christian in a field in October. This really started my thinking. After talking to my young man, I discovered that he had committed his life to God when he was young but on leaving home to study had fallen away and now was a believer but not a follower. In 1965, an evangelist called Tom Rees visited the church. After he had spoken he asked those who meant business with God to come forward to be prayed for. I knew that this was my moment that I had to give my life to God. I didn't know what Reg would say but I made the decision to go forward and I was suddenly aware that Reg was by my side. We were married one year later. I will be always be grateful to the members of that church who loved, nurtured and guided us in those early years. We moved to Devon in 1972, brought up our two boys and have proved God true to his promises in all the ups and downs of life.

I have been involved with KYB for thirty years, firstly with my minister's wife introducing the KYB studies in the Torbay area. My own study group has been such a blessing over the years and has played a great part in my own spiritual growth.

It has also been my privilege to work on the South West and the National teams with women who have a heart for God's word and a desire to encourage others to study it.