

## 50th Anniversary Rememberance

I was visiting St Mikes this summer and was so blessed by the warm welcome that I received. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces after so many years. With the 50th anniversary this year, I was reminded of the huge impact that St Mikes had had in my life.

It all started when I brought my daughter Gillian for baptism, Father Murray asked me to commit to attending church for 3 months to which I agreed. During baptismal preparation he asked me if I knew Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and I didn't know what he was talking about but it certainly got me thinking! After the baptism I was asked to join a bible study group and, as we studied, the babies slept on the carpets around us. I was also befriended by others and felt so loved and accepted for the very first time in my life. Four months later a 'Life in the Spirit Seminar' was offered and I couldn't get there quick enough! I learned about the Christian faith and especially that Jesus was God's Son who died on the cross for my sins and was willing to give me a new life. I then understood what Father Murray had been asking me. After the fourth week I was sitting in the car in my drive way and I was convicted of my sin and asked Jesus into my heart to be my Saviour and Lord. What peace and love I felt! It was beautiful! In the fifth week we were learning about the Holy Spirit and afterwards I had hands laid on me I was filled with the Spirit, which empowered and strengthened me.

My life changed radically! I had been seeing a psychiatrist for acute anxiety but the peace I had received from

Jesus removed my need to go! At the same time I lost all desire to drink alcohol, a habit that had helped me to relate to others socially, and was also convicted to remove myself from an unhealthy relationship. What joy filled my life and I couldn't stop telling everyone about Jesus!

With help from Father Murray, and others in the congregation, I began to grow in my faith and learnt to spend time with God in prayer and to study His word. I wanted to be part of everything! My husband didn't know what was going on and I was convicted that my main ministry was to him. God gave me a desire to be in the choir but I was unsure, and I remember Louise Young saying that God often gave us the desire of our hearts. I joined the choir and it was such a joy to sing God's praises and the fellowship met all my spiritual needs as well. I was part of bringing praise music to the parish and sharing it around the diocese. What awesome days!

There is so much more, so I will just give a couple of examples. One was God's amazing provision was when my son Martin was 6. We needed a piano and I only had a small amount in the bank to pay for it. Renting was too expensive and we had no knowledge of what to buy, so I prayed and asked God for one. Next Sunday I was talking to Linda Martin, and she said they had one at their house not being used. I went there and saw this marvellous piano and said I would buy it. It was exactly what I had in the bank! Martin became quite a musician through that!

Another provision was God's healing in my life. Along my journey I became very depressed and broke down in one Sunday service. Prayer at communion wasn't enough and I stayed after church pleading to God for help. Vina Sweetmen came and talked to me and told me to go to the doctor and get anti-depressants and then she agreed to give me some counselling. With Jesus help, through Vina, He brought healing, wholeness and freedom from thing in my past.

I could go on with story after story of His specific provision in my life. God provided for my all my needs. Even after I moved He provided a church community for me to grow and to serve. We have just moved again to Florida and it has been hard starting all over again but I have found a

Church Community that is alive and active in the work of God and I am in the process of finding my place in the body.

How exciting to remember what God has done; how He has loved and cared for me over the years and also given me a heart for others. My journey continues!

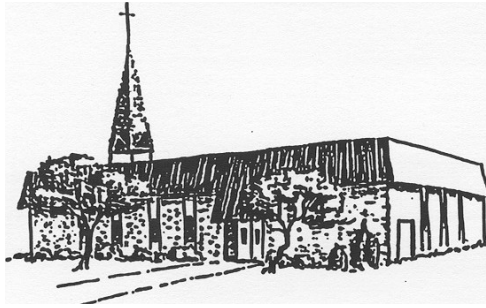
I pray that as we remember what God has done in our lives, it will increase our faith and increase our desire to surrender more and more of our lives to Him.

Thankfully submitted by

*Fiona Andrews*

## My experience at St. Mikes

My husband Tom and I just had a five year old and were looking for a Church as we had just moved into the area. We decided to shop around for a church to attend and especially to have our son join a Sunday school group so decided to go to the nearest church closest to Mayfair street where we lived then.



One sunny Sunday we dropped into St. Michael and all Angels not knowing what our first experience would be. We did not

hope for anything as we were looking to look at other churches and thought we had nothing to lose.

The service went well and Rev. Cameron's service went as any Anglican would go. Suddenly, it was nearly the time for him to give his sermon and I remember him coming down and saying "The spirit is willing but the body is weak ", running off to use the toilet and leaving the congregation waiting.

Tom and I thought that was so real and funny at the same time and thought, this could be our church and the rest as they say is history.

We do not have regrets joining the church as we fell that the church members have always been warm and welcoming. The church has a feeling of family and we have been members for over 20 years because of said reason.

*Dawn Schanz*