

Our congregation is so open and welcoming

Catherine Rayment felt welcomed to St Peter's Church, Titchfield, despite her fears about her son's behaviour

Who are you?

I'm Catherine and I'm married to Dennis with three children, Daniel, aged 14, Denny, 13, and Latisha, nine.

What church are you from? We've been attending St Peter's Church, in Titchfield, since we moved here in 2022.

How did you start going to that church?

I was actually in a hostel for those suffering from addictions for around 18 months when my now husband Dennis walked through the door and we formed a relationship. Things started to get better from there. I moved out of the hostel and we started a family.

Our second child was born with learning difficulties, and we needed help when a third child came along. It was difficult to manage my son's needs, and I was quite an anxious person, so I was hardly leaving the house.

But a woman from Homestart prayed for me, and about a week later, people were asking me where my new confidence had come from. I realised things had changed when this lady had prayed for me. That's



Catherine Rayment, from St Peter's Church, Titchfield, and her daughter Latisha; above: with the whole family

where my journey started.

When we moved from Locks Heath to Titchfield, we decided to go to church, I was nervous as my middle son struggles with his behaviour and I often felt judged as a bad parent by others because of that. But in fact it was completely the opposite



at St Peter's. I never felt on edge, just very welcome and included on what's going on.

What do you love about your church? Dennis and I married three years ago, and we go to church pretty much every Sunday without fail. It has become a routine in our lives, and it helps us to navigate through life. Dennis is a sidesperson and our eldest son gets involved too.

I think faith helps me to understand why things have happened in my life, that everything happens for a reason. Church helps me to understand that God is at work in our lives. And the fact that they have been so welcoming is part of the reason that I love being there.