

# Dramatic healing led to faith commitment

**Harrison Wavell** explored the Christian faith after experiencing God’s healing. It sparked his creativity and led to confirmation

WHEN Harrison Wavell fractured his neck playing rugby, he was told the slightest knock could leave him paralysed.

He wore a neck brace for five months and was largely confined to sitting in a chair. Then a consultant told him that the fracture wasn’t healing. His future looked bleak.

His mum took him to Carisbrooke Priory where they prayed for God to heal him. Despite Harrison’s scepticism, two months later, the consultant told him he was virtually healed. He’s since made a full recovery from his injuries.

That was in 2016, and was the start of a journey towards faith.

Harrison was born on the Isle of Wight and was baptised at St James, Yarmouth. Growing up, he’d not been involved with church, but always considered himself spiritual. His journey included research into eastern religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Daoism which he was inspired to learn about after travelling in Asia.

After his rugby accident, when the consultant said that his double fracture wasn’t healing, he was faced with the possibility of having to have two vertebrae fused together.

“They told me that even the tiniest of knocks could have caused paralysis,” he said. “It



Harrison Wavell (right) at the sea baptisms on the beach

was very precarious and I wasn’t even able to walk very much – I mostly sat in a chair with a neck brace on. I’m quite an outdoors type of person, so the prospect of paralysis was terrifying.

## ‘I started looking forward to Sundays and going to church’

“My mum did some research and discovered the Priory at Carisbrooke, and we went to see about healing. It was one of the trustees, Bob White, who asked if he could pray for me. He stood behind me, held his hands over my neck and prayed a beautiful prayer.

“I was initially very sceptical, but a couple of months later, I had another CT scan and the consultant said it was 70-80 per cent healed. The consultant was visibly surprised. I was still a little sceptical, wondering if my body’s natural healing had kicked in, but very grateful. Looking back, it was the start of my journey towards Christian faith.”

In 2021, Harrison was off work with Covid. Struggling to sleep one night, he decided to try and relax by putting on a guided meditation between 2am and 3am. As part of that meditation, he was asked to open the door to a ‘spiritual being’ who had come to offer guidance.

“Because of my previous studies, I approached the door expecting

to see Buddha or a Tibetan Lama,” he said. “But when I opened the door, the spiritual being waiting there was Jesus. I welcomed him in and he sat down with me and demonstrated how I could repair some of the damage I had done in my life. He got up to leave and just said the word ‘love’, as if that was the one and all-important thing to remember.

“Shortly after this experience, I woke up again in the middle of the night with the words, ‘Matthew 4:20’ insistently repeating themselves, only stopping when I got out of bed. I found a Bible and discovered that Matthew 4:20 refers to the calling of the first disciples where Jesus says to Peter and Andrew, ‘Come, follow me’ and it says, ‘At once they left their nets and followed him.’

“I really had no intention of becoming a practising Christian but I was intensely curious and wanted to find out more, so I started reading the Bible and going to church. I’d previously found the words in the Bible impenetrable, but now I saw them in a new light and it made sense to me.

“I started looking forward to Sundays and church, and I committed myself to a daily contemplation and to learning all I could about Jesus. My search led me to a book by Adyashanti called *Resurrecting Jesus*, which profoundly reshaped my understanding of his life and message. It was the final nudge I needed.

“I’m now following Jesus and truly beginning to appreciate the Christian faith which I had dismissed in favour of Eastern traditions. Interestingly, it’s through my understanding of Buddhism and Hinduism that



Harrison Wavell

I’ve been able to make sense of Christianity. Although there are some crucial differences, they share a lot of universal truths.”

Harrison who is married with two children, found a home at Christ Church, Totland, near where he now lives. He joined a confirmation course with four others from the parish who wanted to declare their Christian faith publicly.

This culminated with Harrison ‘reaffirming his faith’ with others being baptised in the sea, and then being confirmed by Bishop Jonathan. He was delighted he could publicly declare his Christian faith in front of family and friends.

“Both the re-affirmation of faith in the sea in September and the confirmation in October were powerful experiences,” he said.

“I’ve always had a strong connection to the sea, as I’ve always been into surfing. And long before I read any Scripture, I had a sense of connection to God through nature – so the origins of my faith journey relate to the sea.

“And the confirmation was also powerful, but in a different way. It left me with a deep-seated sense of peace and feeling very blessed.”

He’s also written poems that describe something of his recent spiritual experiences. “Going on this journey has really revived the creative impulse in me,” he said. “I’m really grateful that sometimes, when I’m in silent prayer, I’m inspired to write poems. I always have written poetry, but it’s now taken off in a new direction.

“Most of all I’m grateful for the new beginning that has opened up for me. So much of what was keeping me stuck has gone. In Corinthians, St Paul writes, ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!’ In my case, this is absolutely true.”

## LOVE

As an echo to every blow return Love.	let it drown out the sound of guns.	Love is the glue that binds us
Let those who would destroy, ensnare, and seize what is not theirs	If hearts be darkened, lost in fear, then one by one	and reminds us who we are beneath our earthly scars.
know the invincibility of Love.	our light grows dim, what sun is left for us?	If you can do nothing else but Love, then Love
No river is separate from the sea to which it runs;	What hope? What hymn?	For Love is quite enough.
let the love in you come through to meet us,	Love is more than just a pretty thing to long for –	by Harrison Wavell