

Our children ended up helping with worship

Scott and Jo Morgan have been at Harbour Church for less than a year - but their children have taken a key role upfront

Who are you?

We are Scott and Jo Morgan, and our children are Kezia, who is 9, and Noah, who is 7.

What church are you part of?

Harbour Church in Portsmouth.

Why did you start going there?

Kezia, who has Down Syndrome, is at St Jude's C of E Primary in Portsmouth, which has a really good ethos of inclusion. The parents of her friend invited us to the Harbour Church Christmas spectacular for a couple of years and we enjoyed it.

Then the parents of one of Noah's friends invited us to a normal service at Harbour Church. Although we didn't see ourselves as Christians at that point, we went to see what it was like. That was October 2023 and we've been regularly ever since.

I, Scott, had no faith background, but I had an unusual experience sitting at traffic lights on St Mary's Road. It was as if my mind opened instantly, the Holy Spirit came, and all the things we'd been taught about suddenly seemed real.

It took me three weeks to tell Jo. She had been to church and been christened and confirmed. She had prayed in various situations already, so her move towards faith was a bit more gradual.

We joined an online Alpha Course this year, as we still had questions. Because we were joining from our



Noah, Jo, Kezia and Scott Morgan

own home, it felt like a safe space where we could discuss things we might not discuss in person.

During one of the sessions, which I, Scott, had to attend online from a Park and Ride in Oxford, I gave my life to Jesus. And we had such a strong sense of connection with that group, we still meet with them every other Tuesday.

What do you love about the church? We have felt very welcome there, and Kezia and Noah love the Sunday School groups. And we feel very connected with our friends from our online Alpha group. They feel as close as the group we're part of for parents of children with Down Syndrome.

Kezia uses signs and actions to help her to communicate, and Harbour

quickly brought her up to the front, so that she could show others how to use these signs in worship. She is upfront most weeks.

Then in the summer, we went to Focus, which is the annual camping holiday for churches in the Holy Trinity Brompton network. The Rev Katherine Message, who works at Harbour, was leading one of the worship sessions called 'The Big Wake Up' and asked Kezia and Noah to go on stage to show people how to do the signing.

We thought it would just be in front of a few people, but it was in the main big top. So they were singing and dancing in front of hundreds of people. The Kids Club at Focus was fantastic and we were very proud to see them at the front and clearly enjoying themselves.