

# I like choral tradition - and a worship band

**Amanda Sim** has learnt to appreciate diverse worship styles at our cathedral and St Wilfrid's, Cowplain - thanks to her son Christian

**Who are you?** Amanda Sim, a dental hygienist who is just about to start ordination training.

**Which churches are you part of?**

I initially came to faith in our cathedral, and went on placement to St Wilfrid's, Cowplain 18 months ago.

**Why did you start going there?**

My son Christian was at Portsmouth Grammar School and expressed an interest in joining the cathedral choir back in 2012. I was an agnostic and came from a family background that used to laugh at Christians for being weird. But I'd always had a genuine interest.

I went to hear him sing and was amazed at how formal and how beautiful the worship was. I went to every service he sang at, and the pivotal moment came when I found Jesus during the sung liturgy on Good Friday 2013. I was blown away by David Price's setting of *The Passion*. From then, I was able to experience the presence of God each time I went.

Christian's faith was also



**Amanda Sim and her son Christian, who is now 14**

developing. He was baptised and we were confirmed together in 2015. I went on a 'Living Faith' course, and realised I felt called to ordination. Christian became head chorister in 2017, and - among other things - sang for the Queen in the Royal Albert Hall and preached at Evensong. He's now retired from the choir, but will join Cantate this autumn.

In 2018, I went on placement to St Wilfrid's Church in Cowplain, and discovered I also loved being there too!

**What do you love about your churches?**

When I go to the cathedral, I

always sit in the same place, and there is something about the beauty of the building, the tranquility and the music that gives me a spiritual regeneration.

The fact that it is so peaceful means that you can focus on God without any real distraction, and the connection to God is almost overwhelming. I always hear from God when I'm there.

St Wilfrid's has fed me in different ways. The first time I went, what hit me was that this was a real community centred on Jesus. They are at the centre of the Cowplain community, and are bringing people from outside the church to hear the gospel.

It's a busy, vibrant church, and the sense of belonging is wonderful. At the cathedral, I hear God, but at St Wilfrid's, I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

I can worship God during an informal service at St Wilfrid's with a more contemporary worship band. My spiritual home will always be the cathedral, but I feel very comfortable in them both.