

Here is a bit about Alison's personal experience:

*“.. Faith has always been a massive part of my life, but I was quite reticent trying a new Church – the usual fears of where to sit, sitting in someone’s seat, the difference of services etc.*

*However, I can honestly say that the morning I attended Mearns Kirk Church for the first time was, as I have mentioned many times, like “coming home”. Everyone said good morning; I didn’t feel like a stranger, but welcomed into a rather large, wonderful family. It’s quite hard to describe the feeling of warmth, comfort, peace you experience from the moment you walk in the door, but it’s unforgettable.*

*I would encourage anyone who is new to the area or, indeed, new to Faith to come along one Sunday – you will truly feel like part of our Church family.’*

Nancy recently joined our church family:

*'Mearns Kirk was not unknown to me as I had been one of Joe’s 'regulars' at the Watchnight service for a few years. But I was very wary of my reception when I decided to come on Sundays and worried about where to sit and how much to give as my offering.*

*I needn’t have worried as I have found everyone most welcoming and only too keen to help. People around me in church offered assistance and made we feel very much part of things.*

*I had begun to wonder how I would go about joining the church when Joe announced from the pulpit that he would be doing Saturday classes for anyone who was interested. My decision made I chatted with Joe and realised that what I really wanted to do was make this my new home and I officially joined the church a few weeks later.*

*Joe’s Saturday classes are very informal. He told us a little about himself and his journey to becoming a minister in the Church of Scotland. He asked each of us for a little personal background information and answered any questions that we had. We talked and just followed where the conversation led, asking for information from both Joe and Bob (Minister in training) about the current role of a minister and how much work was involved. Joe explained what format the service would take that would admit us as members to the church and covered the questions that he would ask us and the answer that would be expected from us.*

*At that service Joe advised that we should get involved and not worry about “stepping on toes”. I have tried to take this piece of advice to heart and I have found that joining in many of the events and offering help where I can has made me feel part of the family and I would recommend it.’*