



CELEBRATE: Family Story

Mother and daughter Rachel and Sarah Mckay, who have attended and served at Celebrate North West for several years, explain how Celebrate has been a great faith builder for their family.



RACHEL: It's very hard to describe Celebrate to anyone if they have not been. However, I would encourage everyone to take a risk and give it a go. I was not keen to go, as our children were little at the time. I could not get my head round how this was going to be in anyway enjoyable or helpful for us! It was John, my husband, who felt drawn to go.



Going to Celebrate is probably one of the best things we have ever done. I did not realise church could be like that. I think we caught a glimpse of how church really is supposed to be through Celebrate. Most importantly, our children loved it. Moreover, although they are grown up now, they have carried on being involved in our local church as a result of their experience at Celebrate.



SARAH: I am so thankful for Celebrate and so grateful for the impact that it has had on my life. Through Celebrate, I have discovered the love that Jesus has for me and how He wants to be my buddy as I adventure through life. I first came along to Celebrate when I was 8, with my three younger sisters, Grandma, Mum and Dad. I have some great memories and, looking back now at the age of 21, I realise how special it is to be able to share my faith journey with them. Celebrate is all about family; in fact, it *is* a family. No matter where you're at, how chaotic life is, the welcome and support that you need always seems to be provided by the wonderful people that you meet.



There's always time to chat, catch up and get to know people and Jesus better. I have made some awesome friends, especially through Joel's Bar and taking part in the Release programme.

I currently serve at Celebrate North West, being an MC for the first time in 2018. Celebrate has really nurtured my leadership and enabled me to discover a real confidence in myself. At Joel's Bar, I discovered that to be the best MC, I just needed to follow Jesus' loving example: be completely myself and root myself in my identity as a daughter of God. This has changed my life. It's something that does not only apply to being an MC. I receive so much from Celebrate and it is awesome to be able to give something back.

Celebrate events aim to inspire and equip people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life today.

<https://www.celebrateconference.org>