

**Turns out they were right**

Baby of Nicola Newman 01.10.15 01:10am F675314 were the words written on the tiny little piece of plastic that became the jewellery around my baby boy's wrist the moment he was born.

'It'll change your life,' I had been told on many occasions by many people. I genuinely thought that this was just another case of other people telling me how my life will unfold, like the parent who insists on starting each sentence with 'you know what you want to do . . .' like I need to be told how to change my car insurance and how to hold a conversation with a plumber .

Turns out they meant something different. They weren't referring to the amount of money I won't have in my bank account or the series on Netflix I will never see. They weren't referring to the games I won't play on my Play Station or the nights out in town with my mates. They weren't referring to the fancy restaurants I will never go to or the bed time later than 10 o'clock.

Turns out they were referring to the dramatic expansion of my capacity to love in an all-consuming manner. I love my wife with every fibre of my being and when we got married I thought I finally knew love. I did . . . but through that I now know something different, something more, the evolution of love.

They were right. 'It'll change your life.' Well I can tell you that they were right. I am a father and I have a son and my entire world, my entire existence has become something beyond my poor understanding of those words 'it'll change your life.'

I live to wake up at four in the morning and give him a cuddle because he is scared, misses his mummy and daddy or just has wind.

I live to come home from work and play with him in the bath, making every second of his life as happy as I can.

I live for my boy, I live for my wife, I live for my family. I live for love.

Turns out they were right and like my father before me I look forward to the day, and each one between then and now, that I spend with my boy and turn to him to pass on the baton by uttering the immortal words 'you know what you want to do . . .'

'It'll change your life,' they said. Turns out they were right.