

The Key Questions..... Tom Cownty



How old are you?

I am 86 years old. I was born near the end of the First World War. My mother told me that I arrived during a Zeppelin raid on London. I sometimes think what a good thing it was that Bin Laden and his friends were not around in those days! Just think what they could have done to London with a hijacked Zeppelin?

Where do you live?

I have lived in Bromley since 1930. We joined the post war max exodus from London to the suburbs.

Do other members of your family attend BPC?

No other members of my family attend this Church.

What is your occupation?

Before I retired over twenty years ago I was a Civil servant in the Department of the Environment at Lambeth Bridge House.

Do you have any particular hobbies and interests?

My main hobby is in photography and has been since I had my first "Box Brownie" about

seventy years ago. Even after I had graduated to higher things I could not bear to part with the faithful old Brownie and kept it for decades till it had almost decomposed. A young friend recently asked me if I had gone digital yet. I told him I was thinking of saving that for my old age. He looked at me in a strange way but did not comment.

What are your musical tastes?

My other obsession is music. I particularly like choral music and the general repertoire of works by great masters such as Elgar, Mendelssohn, Schubert to name but a few. Unfortunately my hearing of late has deteriorated to the point where I no longer fully enjoy the sound of music. Even our beautiful church organ sometimes sounds tinny and discordant (but please do not tell Peter.) I envy the young people of today who have easy access to a musical education and I have always regretted not having such an opportunity myself.

What are your favourite television programmes?

I do not have a favourite TV programme in fact many of them I find deplorable and consider them to be the work of producers with single track minds concentrating on the more sordid aspects of human society.

How long have you been worshipping at BPC?

I have been a member of this Church for about thirty years. I originally came seeking sanctuary "from the madding crowds ignoble strife" and was immediately impressed by the warm and friendly atmosphere at BPC. I have never regretted having set foot in this place and hope that I never shall.