

The Key Questions..... Peter Cheshire



How old are you?

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Where do you live?

Between Grove Park and Lee.

Do other members of your family attend BPC?

No. I am not married and my parents are Baptists.

What is your occupation?

I teach German and French at Eltham College.

Do you have any particular hobbies and interests?

Since joining the choir at BPC I suppose choral singing would have to be my main interest – I am also in the school choirs and I am a member of the London Chorus. Singing is amazingly therapeutic and I recently read an article, which said that tests done on singers showed that during a two hour rehearsal they produced chemicals, which bolster the immune system. This could be baloney of course, but singing does at least make you feel good. I also enjoy the opportunity to travel – particularly to India.

What are your musical tastes?

As you might expect from a member of the choir, they are distinctly classical – particularly late 19th Century and 20th Century composers.

Which radio station do you listen to?

Radio 3 – it's nothing like as formal and predictable as people think. Although I quite admire what Classic FM has done to popularise classical music, I don't like their insistence that music should be seen as "soothing" (i.e. safe). Actually it should be challenging and dangerous. And their use of people who know nothing about music as presenters is an extraordinary inverse snobbery – like getting Sister Wendy to do the football commentary.

What are your favourite television programmes?

I watch very little television, although I have been enjoying Michael Palin's Himalaya programmes.

How long have you been worshipping at BPC?

Just over three years. I was confirmed in 2002.

Do you have a specific role at BPC?

As well as being in the choir I have recently joined the Education Committee.

Which other churches have worshipped at?

None since childhood. As a teenager I reacted against the aggressively evangelical approach at the Baptist church we went to and it took about 30 years to find my way to the Church of England.

What were 'first impressions' when you began attending BPC?