

What were 'first impressions ' when you began attending BPC? I had found at last after many years a quiet and peaceful place with reverent worship and wonderful music – two qualities I had enjoyed at St. Mary's & had missed so much.

Is there any one aspect of the parish or worship do you particularly find attractive at BPC?

I value the supportive fellowship that we share. I will be eternally grateful for the encouragement that we were given when our daughter, Helen, died and for the generosity of those who contribute to the Helen Kirkland Trust Fund for Cardiac Research.

Is there any part of BPC that you feel could be seriously improved on?

I would like us to be less territorial, more welcoming, less self centred and more outgoing. We are a bit too cosy – why aren't we queuing up to be involved in prayer visiting, supporting ecumenical activities such as the Common Ground service, the Lent Course and getting involved in the Town Centre Chaplaincy. I value the Youth and Healing Services on the second Sunday.

Is there an aspect within the Church of England, which you feel is particularly important?

The Anglican Communion provides continuity so that strand of our own patterns of worship can be recognised & appreciated throughout the world.

Do you think the Church should speak out on social issues or restrict it to spiritual matters only?

Yes, the Church does not have a choice because Jesus showed us by example to challenge dogma & injustice attributed to religious belief, gender & political attitudes.

Is there any aspect within the Church, which you feel has been neglected and

should be improved on?

I think the Church as a whole needs to look at its mission from an accessibility point of view & this requires a delicate balance. I know from my work as Chaplain to Allders Store that I would occasionally be asked to suggest a church for a member of staff to attend. Only once could I recommend BPC because the musical tradition would have been helpful. I had to admit, we don't do Alpha and yet this is a course known to many outside the Church as a way into faith. The Church as a whole needs to promote itself. It may find this painful but ultimately worthwhile.

Do you have a favourite prayer?

Yes, The Lord's prayer. My mother taught it to me when I was about four. I thought "trespasses" meant "trees pass us" as they appear to move when travelling on a train! I have also found the following words helpful:

Hold my hand Lord; walk me through loneliness and the valley of my sorrow. Hold onto me when I am afraid to think about tomorrow. Let me lean on you when I am too weary to go on. Hold my hand Lord, through the night until I see the light of dawn. Amen.

Congratulations on the engagements of:

Rachel Camp and Ben Staplehurst, who works at Gatwick Airport as a foreign exchange kiosk manager.

Tom Corns and Claire Willis, the concerts' administrator for the London Sinfonietta.

Lucy Weston and Mark Jones, an accountant and enthusiastic bell-ringer and church organist.

We look forward to hearing their plans and seeing photographs.

Ernest Yeo