

## The Key Questions.....

### Tim Kay



**How old are you?**

17

**Where do you live?**

Hayes Chase, Bromley.

**Do other members of your family attend BPC?**

Dad who sings in choir, Mum serves communion, bro bell rings and serves.

**What is your occupation?**

I am in the sixth form at Langley Boys. I do two Newshopper rounds, help out at parties and work at the Langley Sports Club.

**Do you have any particular hobbies and interests?**

Playing hockey, left back (not on the bench) for school and Bromley/Beckenham Hockey Club.

**What are your musical tastes?**

Metal mainly, louder the better. Avenged Sevenfold, HIM and System Of A Down.

**Which radio station do you listen to?**

XFM in the morning, Kerrang while stacking papers, Virgin while munching breakfast\*, Radio 4 while eating dinner\* (\*mum makes me).

**What are your favourite television programmes?**

Hollyoaks!!!!!! (addict)☺, Coupling and Two Pints of Lager and Packet of Crisps

**How long have you been worshipping at BPC?**

Since .... forever.

**Do you have a specific role at BPC?**

I used to sing in the choir. I support the younger members of the church.

**Which other churches have worshipped at?**

St. Mary's Church, Shortlands with YPG  
St. Francis of Assisi, West Wickham for a mate's confirmation.

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

The people. I grew up with them .. a family.

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

Generosity and caring.

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

Introducing younger and new people into the church community.

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

Keeping up with the modern times otherwise it gets left behind and irrelevant to our lives.

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

I think the church can have a view on social issues however it should be careful of how it expresses its views to the world as it may contradict other people's ideas.

**Is there any aspect within the Church, which you feel has been neglected and should be improved on?**

I think the younger people could have more say in what they wanted to do and how they want to learn about God

**Do you have a favourite hymn?**

O come all ye faithful (great for top volume singing at end of nine lessons and carols)

**Welcome to BPC**

My first impression when I came to Bromley Parish Church some 15 years ago was one of feeling a bit lost. I must admit that I had not been to church regularly for many years and when I had; it was to my small village church where I knew everyone. Stepping into Bromley Parish Church felt a bit like stepping into the Tardis – a huge, intimidating space.

One of the first people to speak to Donya and I was Rhoda MacKenzie, who welcomed us and explained where things were. However it was not until we ventured in for coffee that others came to talk to us. Garvin I can remember approaching us and saying; "I don't think that I have met you before. My name is Garvin". He was still introducing himself two years later!

I now find myself stepping into Rhoda's shoes by leading 'the Welcomers'. We are a small team whose mission is to talk to newcomers and welcome them into BPC. This is a vital task. Imagine how you would feel if you were new, especially if you had never been to church before: "Where do I sit?" "Which book do I use?" "My child is crying; should I take them out?" "Can I go up for Communion?" "Should I go through for coffee?" The Welcomers try to help newcomers answer these questions both before and after the service.

But while the mission of the team is to actively seek out newcomers, everyone should be a 'welcomer'. If you see some one looking lost or someone you don't know, don't be afraid to talk to them and ask them if they are new. If they are, they will probably be grateful to speak to some one, and if they have been coming for 20 years then you have met someone new.

A great way of welcoming is by sharing the Peace. It is very easy to sit in the same pew and shake the same hands each week. Don't be afraid to leave your pew to seek out a new face.

One way I have found to help newcomers is by swapping books if they have lost the page. Then at the end of the service I ask them how they have got on. While that usually receives a friendly response, I will then ask if they live locally. If someone doesn't want to speak to you, it will soon become apparent.

If someone is distressed and you are finding it difficult to speak with them, don't be afraid to ask a member of the clergy team to come over to talk to them. Something has led them to the church and they will probably be grateful for the introduction.

I know a lot of people find it difficult talking to strangers. A smile or a 'hello' will still help. However if like me you don't mind and you feel that welcoming strangers is an important mission of the church, then I would like you to consider becoming a 'welcomer'. It is not an onerous task as we work on a monthly rota. You only need to come to church a few minutes early and then encourage people through for coffee afterwards. You even get a badge!

My thanks to all those who are already 'Welcomers' for their work and especially to Rhoda.

**Matt Young**