

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

What a huge church it was! The service was 'middle-of-the-road' and comfortable. I don't remember being 'welcomed' until we went in for coffee several weeks later and Garvin Shorter came and talked to us. He was still introducing himself 2 years later!

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

We have such a cross-section of ages in BPC, from small children to the YPG to young couples to families to couples whose children have grown up to the elderly. But to maintain this we have to encourage the young people in to stay.

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

I often wonder what a new worshipper would make of our services. While I agree with that some tradition has to be maintained, I think that it is hugely important that the services are accessible for all. To me that means understanding the words of the service, understanding the symbolism and being able to join in the worship. 'Happy clappy' music may not appeal to everyone but if newcomers can join in and leave with a tune in their head then a seed has been planted. Personally I would like to see at least one modern hymn each week.

However we have to look at how we advertise ourselves, how we can attract newcomers to walk through the doors and how we welcome them. This means not only the posters we display at the lych gate but also the appearance of the main door, the welcome inside the church and the welcome afterwards.

Once people have joined the church then we should look to including them in the home groups. The Palace Estate home group have been a huge support to me,

and through our meetings and fellowship, we grow in faith together.

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

The Church is regarded as being part of the state and I think that acts as a barrier to people coming to the church. As we are becoming a more multicultural society perhaps the church should disestablish its self from the state.

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

What would Jesus have done? He overturned the tables in the temple. That is not to say that I would agree with the stance that you should vote for a particular party because they want to ban abortions. No, we need to be much broader than that and look at a whole range of social issues.

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

I think that the Church should offer more advice on family life. Not only at time of marriage and baptism but also when people enter relationships and have children. A lot of people do not think of the consequences as to when a relationship breaks up, to themselves, their partner of their children. But to do this the Church has to look at new ways of reaching out to those people who have no contact with the Church.

Do you have a favourite prayer?

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all,
Evermore,
Amen.