

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

- 1) As our church building is set back, the flint front boundary wall presents a physical barrier between those who cross it to come to church and everyone else: It's too easy to just walk by. It is a pity we are restricted by planning and preservation orders.
- 2) Silence for 5 minutes before the start of the Service
- 3) Make the crèche environment more attractive, so parents feel they can leave their little ones and attend the Service

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

Provision of various forms of worship to address the diverse range of views and preferences

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

The Church should speak out on social issues, speak with conviction based on principles, providing strong leadership

Do you have a favourite prayer?

"God be in my head..."

I have recently discovered "The Quaker Prayer", a source of inspiration and comfort:

Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.

Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself.

Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings.

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful. Strive to be happy. May God be with you always.

Max Ehrmann, Desiderata, Copyright 1952.