

29/3/04

Dear Sir / Madam

I am happy to be able to give my views about the BBC and how it is serving the Public.

Having never been a great fan of television, and having given some thought as to whether my life would be better without it, I am seriously considering getting rid of my TV/Video.

The reason I say this, is because I feel there has been a steady deterioration in standards which leave me feeling greatly dissatisfied.

I am a practising Catholic and I agree with Archbishop Nichols of Birmingham who recently stated "My particular hope is that, in future, BBC News and Current Affairs will consistently offer the Catholic Church fair and honest treatment."

I have never known what it must be like, to not have TV in the home, so during this season of Lent I decided to "give up" television. At first it seemed very strange and I realised that putting the television on was so much a habit that I did without thinking. I can honestly say that I have not missed TV at all, and more importantly I feel a better person in myself. How I ever had time to watch it before I don't know!

I feel calmer and more in tune with myself, sometimes it's nice just to be quiet and listen to your thoughts.

However I do, and always have, loved the Radio. It allows you to do other things at the same time. I particularly like:

Radio 4

Classic FM

Radio 5 Live

Local BBC radio

I would like to hear more Religious programmes/services and more about People's lives, dead or alive, famous or not famous.

The programmes I have particularly enjoyed are:

BBC News - national and local

Question Time

Parorama

Wildlife / Animal

Documentary

Sport

Religious (by far too few)

Drama (BBC have shown some excellent drama, also period drama)

Holiday

Crimewatch

See Hear (not enough for deaf people - I work with them)

There is not enough Classical Concerts or / Opera, Religious programmes and I would love to see more documentaries about famous Composers. Some of the soaps are okay, but most give the wrong messages about family values, about Marriage, Sex Morality and so on.

Yours faithfully

M. Barlow (Miss)