**Please fill in an answer to each question. Keep your answers fairly brief, ideally 2/3 sentences maximum. Please write answers directly into this file where indicated.**

Your name, your age and your home village, town or city (where you grew up):

**Answer:** Fred Bridges, 65, Born and educated in Leeds

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer:**

Holy Trinity, South Shore, Blackpool

Tell us about your family:

**Answer:**

Married with 3 grown-up children and 3 grandchildren

Your job (or how you keep yourself busy if retired)?!:

**Answer:**

I enjoy cooking, gardening, walking, reading, looking after our grandchildren. I also play in a brass band with a group of mature people who have links to the Salvation Army.

Why did you decide to become a Reader?

**Answer:**

I felt God was calling me to become more involved and committed to working for Him as a part of the Anglican Church.

What’s been the best thing about your training to be a Reader?

**Answer:**

Spending time with other people who have a commitment to working to help those who know little of God’s love.

What’s the most important thing you have learned so far?

**Answer:**

God can use me, even though I am far from perfect.

Can you name the most influential person in your Christian life to date and, briefly, say why?

**Answer:**

I learnt from my father that personal faith was vital.

Name one thing about you people would be surprised about?

**Answer:**

In my mid-teens I played 2nd Bassoon in the City of Leeds Youth Orchestra.

What would you say was your most significant personal achievement to date?

**Answer:**

I do not cope well with heights and so completing a two-week trek along the Inca Trail to raise money for Cancer Research was a major challenge!

Unfulfilled ambition?

**Answer:**

I wish I could play the piano.

How would you express your own vision for the church?

**Answer:**

That the Church can reach people who do not think that religion has any relevance for them.

How do you relax?

**Answer:**

Walking and listening to and making music help me to escape when I need a break from my busy life.