

Media Questionnaire: Andrew Kesiak

Your age and also your original home village, town or city (i.e. the place you grew up):

Answer: 51, Sieradz (Poland)

The church and location in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: St Ambrose, Leyland

Tell us a bit about your family:

Answer: I'm married to Maria; two children: Laura (12) and Leon (8)

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry?

Answer: [Pioneer Minister](#) in Chorley, Leyland and Buckshaw. (See also below)

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Answer: In 2018 I was appointed Pioneer Minister. It has been great to work with other Christians from various denominations, sharing ideas, building bridges, bringing people to faith.

Furthermore, apart from being implementing new projects, all those years have also been about praying, listening to God, trying to read the signs of the times. It has had an enormous impact on me.

I really enjoy being a pioneer minister, creating and implementing new ideas, connecting with those who feel the same and seeing God at work in unexpected places. But I have a strong conviction that it is time to move forward; to take a step in faith and trust God as I enter ordained ministry.

What has been a) the most important thing you have learned and b) the most inspiring thing you have experienced during your training? (They can be different!)

Answer: The fact that God is at work in the least expected places, circumstances and people. That the source and ultimate goal of our actions is a close relationship with God.

As parishes continue to recover following the trauma of the pandemic, please give us some insight into how your parish is moving forward at this time (you could reflect how people have adapted and changed in the way they 'do church', including online, as part of this response).

Answer: The parish of St Ambrose, to which I belong, focused its efforts mainly around online services during the pandemic. For many, especially older people, it was a challenge. However, today, after these few difficult years, the presence of technology in the life of the parish has become something normal. Other than that, I haven't noticed any major changes in the life of the parish community.

What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year?

Answer: Combining professional work with everything that will be associated with the priestly ministry. Finding myself in a new identity that results from priestly ordination. Finding ways and means to fulfil the priestly mission in the specific context in which I currently live.

What do you view as your most significant personal achievement? (This may be connected to your ordination training of course or it could be something else from another aspect of your life.)

Answer: My family, my wife and two wonderful children. Also, my pioneering work in Chorley, Leyland and Buckshaw area: bringing together a large group of people with open hearts and minds, and who are not afraid of new ways of being the Church.

When he was announced recently as the next Bishop of Blackburn, Bishop Philip said: *“I am committed to continuing the growth of the church in Lancashire, helping to build joyful Christian communities. I would love to see the Church of England in Lancashire being an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest. And I believe children and young people need to be at the very heart of all that we do.”*

How would you seek to support the Bishop in fulfilling these aims?

Answer: I would like to support him in this through active prayer, which is the source of every good transformation; by engaging in the work of evangelism in the place where God calls me to be and by creating new initiatives aimed at the pastoral care of children and young people and the poorest.

Tell us something people don't know about you that might surprise them?

Answer: When I was younger, I played in a heavy metal band

Finally, when you get the chance, what do you do you chill out and relax?

Answer: reading books, cycling, walking, hiking and listening to music