

## **Media Questionnaire: Emily Barry**

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

**Answer: 40 (my birthday is on our ordination day!) Exeter, Devon.**

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

**Answer: Title Post at Ribbleton Parish, Preston.**

Tell us a bit about your family:

**Answer: Husband Nic and two boys - Daniel (5) and Sam (9).**

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

**Answer: Occupational Therapist, worked in mental health in the NHS.**

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

**Answer: My journey towards ordination started in 2010 when, in a short space of time, several people asked me whether I had considered a call to Priesthood. My initial response was to think that I would never be capable and told God that it wouldn't work because I can't preach. A fortnight later I was sharing some of my testimony at church and afterwards was told I was a good speaker and was invited to join the preaching team! That got my attention and started me on my journey.**

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: a) I am learning to see God at work even in the messiest and unseen places. b) The most inspiring thing I have experienced is some of our young people sharing their own faith stories at their Confirmation.**

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: At Ellel St John's, we are now welcoming all of our groups back into church and offering the Eucharist (bread and wine). We have also adapted the way we offer 'the peace' to each other by allowing hand shakers to move into the aisle while those who prefer to simply wave can stay in their pews.**

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

**Answer: My family and I are looking forward to joining the community in Ribbleton and serving alongside them. Challenges for us will be moving home and settling into a new city.**

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: Being a parent. This is often my most challenging and most rewarding and life-giving ministry.**

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: Through prayer, teaching and serving alongside. I want to build up a community of people whose love of Jesus overflows into vibrant and joyful worship and service of God.**

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

**Answer: I am half Polish.**

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

**Answer: I like to read, see friends and, as a treat, spend some time at a spa!**