

## Media Questionnaire: LJ Tiffney

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

**Answer:** 26, Worcester

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

**Answer:** St. Thomas, Blackpool

Tell us a bit about your family:

**Answer:** My extended family live in Worcestershire and Shropshire

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

**Answer:** I enjoyed working at Asda for five years

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

**Answer:** My journey towards ordination started with other people asking me if I had considered it before I recognised it for myself. It was through being given opportunities at my home church in Worcester, and through the Blackpool Ministry Experience Scheme, that I discovered the gifts God has given me and how I might be able to use them to bless others

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:** I have loved getting to train with people from a mixture of traditions, backgrounds, and locations and have learn much from them. One of the best things I have learned is that God had called me as me and He doesn't want me to pretend to be someone I'm not

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 pandemic was difficult, and communities are still recovering in different ways, but it's given continued opportunity to be creative in worship and to reassess what our priorities are as a church. One of the key things is not feeling like we have to go back to how things were, but looking for new ways to be a community that loves God and loves our neighbours

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

**Answer:** I'm excited to be moving back to Blackpool as it's a place that has captured my heart, but it's not without its challenges. I'm looking forward to listening to people's stories and working with God to serve the community.

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:** I surprised myself by managing to run the Freckleton half marathon in June 2022

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 rejoice at these aims as children and young people are an important part of the family of God. Blackpool has some of the most deprived parishes in the country and so it's key that we speak out against the unjust structures of society as well as serving people's needs.

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

**Answer:** I love learning new skills; I can juggle and skateboard, but not at the same time!

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

**Answer:** I like baking and enjoy exploring the Lancashire countryside