

## Media Questionnaire: Lloyd Etheridge

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

**Answer: Lloyd Etheridge, late 30s. Grew up in the Chichester diocese.**

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

**Answer: St Andrew's Church, Leyland.**

Tell us a bit about your family:

**Answer: Married with children.**

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

**Answer: I was unsure about discerning ordination, even though people were urging me forward. My incumbent suggested that I attend an event on why someone might seek ordination in the Church of England. There were two talks that morning. First, the bishop stood up and listed the statistics for the Church of England in decline, showing that 1 in 3 churches were looking for, but unable to appoint, an ordained minister. The second talk was given by a minister who had served his congregation for the majority of his life and he showed pictures of real-life people who were crying out for the love of Jesus. "People like Sharon are sitting in churches crying out for an ordained minister to share with them the love of Jesus, but few are willing to go." At that moment my heart longed for these people I had seen, and I said to myself, "Okay God, you got me. I'll go."**

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 wisdom of those who are older and more experienced than we are. My training incumbent is an inspiring person who I delight to learn from. God has been very good to me in providing them.**

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 has changed the habits of the community. We are still learning how the rhythms of people's lives are different and therefore we are no longer able to rely as strongly on certain events which draw people in. This has proven to be an excellent chance for creativity and change. For example, we have hosted a Carol by**

**Starlight service at Christmas time which is a traditional Carol Service, outside under the stars. This has proven popular with the church family and community alike.**

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

**Answer: Having been made Minister to the Retired, I look forward to being stretched in situations which requires creativity, taking responsibility, and working with those whose walk with the Lord has been longer, wiser and more faithful than mine. I feel I have much to learn from them, and also a lot to give as I encourage them that the faith is very well truly alive with younger generations.**

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: Meeting and marrying my wife. She is without doubt far my superior. We have two master's degrees in our household, and they both belong to her. She also worked at Lambeth Palace Library for 6 years, before heading up north. She is my companion, my friend and my advisor and I praise God for her.**

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: In anyway which he deems useful to implement his diocesan vision. On the ground I shall rejoice in Christ within the community, encourage oppressed voices to speak out for justice, and develop and nurture young people to live and speak for Christ.**

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

**Answer: A wife of an ordinand once said to my wife, "When you talk to your husband, you discover he isn't as boring as you might first imagine when looking at him."  
Thanks for that.**

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

**Answer: I have young children. What is this strange thing you refer to when you say, "When you get the chance."?**