

## **Media Questionnaire: Nathaniel Gilmour**

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

**Answer: 27 (will be 28 at priesting), grew up in London**

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

**Answer: St John the Baptist Broughton in Fulwood, Preston**

Tell us a bit about your family:

**Answer: I have a younger sister and both parents live in London with my wider family living in America and Australia**

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

**Answer: After University I spent 3 years working as a church Intern in the City of London and Tower Hamlets before starting Theological College**

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

**Answer: When I was finishing my university studies, I was unsure of what to do next but thought God might be calling me. To explore this call further, I spent a year on the Two Cities intern scheme working at a Church in the City of London. During this time, I discerned a calling and formally started the discernment process. This was reinforced by my two years in Stepney**

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 most important thing I have learned has been the importance of context in ministry. Even when doing similar things the context can completely shape how it turns out and should not be ignored when trying to live out and support others in the faith.**

**One of the most inspiring things I have experienced has been performing baptisms; the opportunity to celebrate with a family and welcome a new person into the church and encourage those present in their own journey of faith and to shine God's light in the world.**

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: We have tried to balance bringing back and restarting things that had to stop because of the pandemic with asking what may not or should not be restarted and trying to keep the useful things we learnt over the past few years.**

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

**Answer: One of the big opportunities is that a new parish hall and worship centre, St Martin's, will be opening in the parish later this year. This project has been in the works for a few years and has involved a lot of energy, time and resources from the parish and some of its lay leaders who have helped to lead and develop the project. Once it opens it will give the parish much more useable space during the week which will hopefully allow us to attempt more things and host groups which will involve the community and people in the life of the church and in exploring their faith.**

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 most significant personal achievements have been achieving both a BSc and a BA**

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: By committing myself to gaining experience in the parish through curacy and try to make the church a place where everyone, regardless of age and background, can feel welcomed, heard and loved.**

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

**Answer: I was born in the USA**

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

**Answer: I enjoy reading, swimming and hiking to relax.**