

Media Questionnaire: Sam Dickinson

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

Answer: 38, Calne, Wiltshire

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

Answer: St. Andrew's Livesey, Blackburn

Tell us a bit about your family:

Answer: Married to Emily, with Finn (8), Rory (6), Gus (5) and Martha (2)

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Answer: It took a long time! Although I first joined a church staff team in 2009, I only began the discernment process for ordination in September 2020. I'm grateful to the Lord for lots of varied experience of Christians ministry in those years.

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: Perhaps the most important thing: The Lord Jesus will build his church, not me. The most inspiring thing: The death and resurrection of Jesus for our sake – what a privilege to be serving this King of love!

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: Seeking to re-establish ministry amongst children and young people, exploring opportunities for midweek ministry to connect with 'unchurched' people and looking into starting a holiday club in the school holidays.

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

Answer:

- Seeking to share the gospel with young local men.
- Making ourselves visible in the parish, without a church building.
- Growing in prayerfulness rather than activism.
- Helping unchurched families to feel welcome in church services.

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: Marrying Emily!

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: Prayerfully seeking to love and teach people of Jesus, and serving the community around us in whatever way we are able.

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

Answer: Although I am largely ignorant about music, I am a big fan of an Irish folk singer called Christy Moore. If he ever tours in the North West, I'll be there!

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

Answer: Cycling, running, eating curry, drinking dark ale, reading and wrestling (my) children!