

Media questionnaire and brief biography: **Calum Mullett**

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

Answer: I am 25 and grew up mainly in Seaford, East Sussex, with a time spent in New Zealand.

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

Answer: St George's Church, Preston

Tell us a bit about your family:

Answer: I got married to Grace in August 2023; we met while I was training for the priesthood at Oxford, and Grace was studying for a PhD at Cambridge. I have a younger brother and am close to my parents, aunts, and uncles.

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

Answer: After university I worked for a year in church planting in a diverse inner-city context before beginning ordination training.

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Answer: I have been blessed to have been fed and encouraged by multiple traditions on my journey of discernment. I entered the faith in a high-liberal church and subsequently was part of conservative and charismatic evangelical churches, before ending up as a traditional Anglo-Catholic! The input of these different traditions has made me appreciate the providence of God across different traditions of the church and their different strengths and weaknesses.

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 for a: The most important thing that I have learnt is that ecumenism is one of the most passionate and yet overlooked desires of God for the church catholic. Through reading the Church Fathers I have become convinced that this desire should fundamentally affect how we worship, practice theology, and relate to other Christians.

Answer for b: The most inspiring thing I have experienced during training is seeing how students and young people from secular backgrounds, like myself, are so hungry for meaning and ultimately for God. While I have been in Oxford, I have been amazed at how many of these people have found and been radically transformed by God.

Since the pandemic many more parishes have also embraced online opportunities to engage with their local communities alongside their existing services. Please indicate ways in which you may have done this already or what plans you may have to explore ways to reach people in the 'digital space' in the future ...

Answer: It is essential that people can 'scout out' churches online to see what they are like. So it is very important to have good websites, podcasts, social media, good personal outreach, and examples, say on YouTube, of what services might look like. But nothing can replace in-person gatherings and we need to gather *more* together in person Like so many people of my generation (Gen Z) I want much less digital and more reality!

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

Answer: The greatest challenge will be moving away from family in the south and leaving the great friends and church community that Grace and I have in Oxford. I am excited to help with student outreach work as St George's seeks to minister more to the UCLan student 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: My greatest personal achievement has been marrying an amazing Texan woman and then convincing her to move to Lancashire!

Bishop Philip has 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 will you seek to support the Bishop in fulfilling these aims?

As a statistic of church growth from the last decade, who has received and been fed by the joy of Christian communities, I hope I can bring others to share in that love! I am especially excited to work with students and young people who face what feels like an increasingly scary and alienating world and encourage them towards knowing that God is with them and brings joy, meaning and salvation. The Anglo-Catholic's bread and butter has for so long been serving the poorest and neediest, and pointing to the radical nature of the Kingdom of God. I hope I can be found worthy to follow in this holy tradition.

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

Answer: I write fiction for fun and have been working for some years on a series of novels.

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

Answer: Walking, reading, writing, and cooking; we are looking forward to being so close to the Pennines and Lake District.