

Media questionnaire and brief biography: **Cathy Malins**

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

Answer: 46 years old. I grew up in Shropshire, born in Shrewsbury and moved around the county.

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

Answer: St James', Lower Darwen.

Tell us a bit about your family:

Answer: I am married to Matt, and we have two fantastic children, Amelia and Jacob. We value family time and fun, making space for board games and movie nights and love entertaining.

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

Answer: I worked for Shropshire Council with Adults with Learning Disabilities for several years before taking time to raise our children and setting up my own glass fusing business.

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Answer: My journey has been slow and steady as God has faithfully led me to recognise his call and grow my ministry. I have been encouraged and excited by the move of his Spirit. I have been surprised to discover in myself an enthusiasm for theological study and have nurtured a passion for empowering 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 for a: God's mission is not dependent on me, but he invites me to participate in his work for his glory and my growth.

Answer for b: The richness that comes from the diversity represented by the spectrum of traditions across the church, and the fruitful challenge of committing to generous orthodoxy with disagreement.

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: During the pandemic the church I was active in developed a rich online community of livestreamed, interactive services and social, quiet spaces for connection and deepening of fellowship. While the virus kept us all apart, we conversely experienced a rapid deepening of relationship that was not confined to Sunday mornings and allowed us to 'do life together' more fully. This included faithfully creating DVD versions of service content and delivering to those who were not online. The experience grew our profile in the wider community and live streaming is now common in that church, allowing virtual engagement weekly.

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

Answer: The inevitable changes for our family are both a challenge and opportunity as we seek to navigate commitments and safeguard family time in a two clergy household. I will also embrace the continued learning opportunities of the IME programme having discovered an enjoyment of study.

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: Arriving at a place where I am comfortable in my call to ordained ministry and excited to step in to the next chapter in that journey.

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?

Answer: I am passionate about the M:Power course that I co-lead and I will seek to continue building up those who have lacked agency; to enable and empower dynamic discipleship and leadership within urban communities. This extends to nurturing young people and feeding ambition and hope for transformed lives through kingdom identity.

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

Answer: I co-wrote, directed and starred in a pantomime

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

Answer: I enjoy cold water/wild swimming and sitting on a paddleboard – I haven't mastered standing up yet