

## Media questionnaire and brief biography: **Kathryn Sperring**

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

**Answer: I am 53. I grew up in Weston-Super-Mare and then lived in Swansea where I did my teacher training and had the children. Finally, we brought our children up in Garstang before moving to Little Thornton.**

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

**Answer: I am serving my title at St John's Little Thornton**

Tell us a bit about your family:

**Answer: I live with my husband Trevor and we have three grown up children, Ed, Freddy and Peter.**

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

**Answer: I was a teacher and have taught all ages from pre-school to tertiary education. I have been a youth worker in church since before I can remember! Recently I have worked in a Catholic primary school specialising in RE and special needs children.**

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

**Answer: My journey has been slow but looking back I can see how God has got me here and all the skills he has helped me develop along the way. Most of all it's been about the people I have met and experiences I have had and how they have shaped me and led me here. I have learnt that with God we can do everything and without him we can do nothing.**

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!)

**The most inspiring thing is how wonderfully loving and generous people are with their time and gifts. I have learned that the breadth of the Church of England is vast and that God is at work in all of it - and I love it all too!**

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: Covid has encouraged us to set out beyond our physical boundaries. We continue to livestream services which helps the housebound and the vulnerable to worship.**

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

**Answer: This time last year I could barely imagine going somewhere new and being a curate. My challenge now is to begin to imagine being an incumbent and allow God to continue to prepare me for his plan for my future.**

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: In curacy I would say my most significant achievement so far has been working at not being needed! I have set up three homegroups and a twice weekly community café and now they all have leaders and assistants without me! Raising up leaders and empowering others.**

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 will continue to raise up leaders and listen to God's prompting as to what we should do next. It might be a new service, a youth group, an eco-initiative or something else. Unless the Lord builds the house the builders labour in vain!**

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

**Answer: I love calling bingo!**

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

**Answer: I enjoy reading and I am a member of a book club, I enjoy meeting up with friends, going to the cinema and eating out. I run three times a week and enjoy pilates.**