

Media questionnaire and brief biography: LJ Tiffney

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

Answer: 27, Worcester

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

Answer: St. Thomas', Blackpool

Tell us a bit about your family:

Answer: My extended family live in Worcestershire and Shropshire

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

Answer: I enjoyed working at Asda for five years

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Answer: My journey towards ordination started with other people asking me if I had considered it before I recognised it for myself. It was through being given opportunities at my home church in Worcester and through the Blackpool Ministry Experience Scheme, that I discovered the gifts God has given me and how I might be able to use them to be a blessing to 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: The most important thing that I have learned during my training is that God has called me as me and He doesn't want me to pretend to be someone I'm not

Answer for b: The most inspiring thing I have learned during my training is that God often shows up in the places and the people that I least expect, and it is a joy to be constantly surprised by how He's at work

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: We have only recently gotten wifi in our church building, which opens up new opportunities for us to reach our community! We have regular services of Morning Prayer and Compline online

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

Answer: Curacy is going fast and so the main challenge for me in the year ahead is making sure that the things I have started at St Thomas' are sustainable after I leave or can be brought to a natural end before I leave. This is exciting because it gives opportunity for people to be empowered to take on new responsibilities and to exercise the gifts that God has given them!

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: Somehow, I managed to run the Freckleton half marathon in 2022, I'm not convinced I could ever run that distance again

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 love that Bishop Philip has highlighted these aims. Blackpool is an area with significant levels of deprivation and there is a particular need for housing justice across the town and within our parish. We have been expanding our provision for children and young people over the last year, and we love the joy that these families bring to our worshipping community.

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

Answer: For a long time I've wanted to learn a musical instrument, so I started learning the drums in September last year

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

Answer: I love baking and sharing what I bake with others. I also enjoy running and bouldering when I get the chance