

Media questionnaire and brief biography: Stephen Tisnell

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

Answer: 30, Tunbridge Wells

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

Answer: Preston Minster

Tell us a bit about your family:

Answer: I am married to Ffion who is the student worker at the minster who is currently pregnant with our first baby.

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

Answer: Designer

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Answer: At times it's been challenging and sometimes really rewarding but I have never regretted it.

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: To always be honest.

Answer for b: We were invited to a 50th wedding anniversary celebration the first time we visited our placement church during training by a lovely couple who didn't know us but just wanted to invite everyone.

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: I set up a digital easter resource during the pandemic for our congregation to use.

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

Answer: As I continue my ministry, an immediate personal challenge is the prospect of my wife and I welcoming our baby into the world.

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: Surviving training. That has sometimes been really hard, I had a period of really bad mental health halfway through but I am very glad I made it.

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 currently run the youth ministry at Preston Minster and part of my role as a curate will be to continue this. It will be particularly interesting as we plant into two new estate churches.

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

Answer: I've eaten guinea pig meat! It's delicious!

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

Answer: I listen to too many podcasts. I also enjoy woodworking.