

## Media questionnaire and brief biography: **Stuart Longworth**

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

**Answer:**

**Age 56. Grew up in Bramhall nr Stockport**

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

**Answer:**

**Buckshaw Village Church**

Tell us a bit about your family:

**Answer:**

**Married for over 25 years to my wife Dawn. We have two adult children, Harry and Georgia**

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

**Answer:**

**As I'm entering Self-Supporting Ministry I still hold down a full-time role running a heating and plumbing business**

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

**Answer: I attended church as a child but drifted away in my teens. I returned to church when my eldest child was a baby and became more involved as time progressed. We moved to Buckshaw Village Church as a family 18 months after the church was planted and the more I became involved, the more I felt called to ministry. My training has introduced me to a broader range of church styles and has led me to experience so many new ways to worship.**

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 I've learned is that you can't do any of this in your own strength.**

**Answer for b: The most inspiring thing has been hearing the testimony of so many different people. Hearing people's experiences and challenges that have brought them to where they are today has inspired me to continue to share the wonderful news of the gospel.**

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 am fortunate to be in a progressive church that has championed an online presence for a number of years. I have already been involved in online services, thoughts of the day and online pray, and I can only see this growing further over the coming years**

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

**Answer: The greatest challenge I have is finding my role as a Self-Supporting Minister in an established setting. Balancing the demands of running a business alongside my passion for sharing the Gospel and serving all those who live within our community. Although this can be a challenge, I also have huge opportunities to meet and interact with such a wide range of people and being a witness through my work.**

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: As the father of two adult children, seeing them growing into to the amazing adults that they is a fabulous achievement. But coming from such humble beginnings, working through the whole ordination process and being on the cusp of being priested, is possibly my most significant achievement to date.**

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 have a real passion for a joyful Christian community and for sharing the gospel. As a church which has around 30% of children and young people within its congregation, we have a huge opportunity for youth ministry and nurturing and growing their faith. My work often gives me a window to see people's real struggles and challenges, especially in the current climate of fuel poverty. This is an area in which I do feel called to help and I am currently praying into this situation.**

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

**Answer: I've had a few flying lessons, and have even experienced aerobatic flying off the coast of Blackpool !**

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

**Answer: My wife and I love to travel and explore new places, seeing God's beauty in all its fullness across the world.**