



Your name, age and original home village, town or city (the place where you grew up):

Answer: Emma Swarbrick, 36, St. Anne's on Sea.

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: Holy Trinity South Shore and St. Peter's South Shore

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I am the middle child of Paul and Joy Swarbrick, my older brother, Ben, and younger sister, Sophie both live in Birmingham with their respective partners.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: I was a primary school teacher at Goosnargh Oliverson's C of E Primary School – one of the diocese's top-quality church schools!

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: Ordination had been rumbling around in my heart and spirit since I was at university, but a calling to church leadership had always been compelling for me. After training as a Reader in the diocese, I felt drawn 'further up and further in', in the words of CS Lewis, and called ever more to commit my whole self to serving God through church leadership.

What's been the best thing about your training?:

Answer: Community. The strength of relationships built through training and the freedom and release to pursue my calling in whichever way God led has been a great joy. I bring those relationships, gifts and skills with me into parish life.

What's the most important thing you have learned?:

Answer: Faithfulness to God is the goal, even if it looks like foolishness to everyone else.

Name the most influential person in your Christian life to date and, briefly, say why.

Answer: The Revd. Mike Peatman who was chaplain when I was studying at St. Martin's College (now the University of Cumbria). He and his wife, Debbie, encouraged me greatly in the early years of exploring ordination and there was always a cup of tea and good chat in the chaplaincy centre.

Say something about your future role and how you hope to serve:

Answer: As I continue to serve the parishes of Holy Trinity and St Peter's in South Shore, I long only to be faithful to God and his call on my life. It is an utter privilege to devote my life to serving this community and to serve God in this way.

What would people not know about you that would surprise them?:

Answer: I like to spend my leisure time crocheting tiny toys!

What would you say was your most significant personal achievement to date, either in ministry or before you embarked on your training?

Answer: Walking the Camino de Santiago in 2017 was a great personal achievement. 500 miles walking over 35 days is no mean feat, and my feet were pretty mean too!

Favourite literary quote (it can be from the Bible or elsewhere) and why?:

Answer: My life and ministry is built upon Isaiah 61 – “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the broken hearted and proclaim liberty to the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners ...”

Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?:

Answer: I always wanted to be a synchronised swimmer, or to dive from a 3m springboard...

What will you do to support the ongoing Diocesan Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities at parish level?

Answer: I hope to develop our work amongst children and families in the parishes of Holy Trinity and St Peter's, reaching out into the community to connect the story of Jesus with family lives lived here and now.

How would you express your own vision for the church?:

Answer: To be single-minded in our service of and devotion to Jesus.

Finally, when you get the chance, how do you relax?:

Answer: I love to crochet, to watch Netflix, to walk up and down mountains and to keep up with friends both far and near.