

**Please fill in an answer to each question. Keep your answers fairly brief, ideally 2/3 sentences maximum. Please write answers directly into this file where indicated.**

**Your name, your age and your home village, town or city (where you grew up):**

**Answer:** Emma Swarbrick, 34. I was born in Blackpool and grew up in St. Anne's – I'm sand-grown!

**The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:**

**Answer:** Holy Trinity Church and St. Peter's Church, Blackpool South Shore.

**Tell us about your family:**

**Answer:** I am very lucky to be serving my title post so close to where I grew up and where my mum and dad still live. My dad is retired now, and my mum still works as a nurse out of Blackpool Victoria Hospital. She is also warden at St. Thomas' St. Anne's. I have a brother and sister who both live with their partners in Birmingham.

**Former job before entering ministry?:**

**Answer:** I trained as a primary school teacher direct from school and spent eleven years in various schools around Blackpool and Preston. For the last nine years before beginning ordination training I taught at Goosnargh Oliverson's C of E Primary School – one of the diocese's top-class church schools. It was a wonderfully fruitful time and I was so blessed by all the children, families and staff there over the years.

**Why did you decide to get ordained?:**

**Answer:** I'm not sure I ever decided to get ordained! But I did feel God first calling me to ordained ministry way back when I was still training as a teacher at St. Martin's College in Lancaster. Training as a Reader whilst teaching didn't satisfy my thirst to know God and His Word more; only giving me a greater thirst to learn and to serve His people through the church. Finally, I couldn't put God off any longer, I knew the time had come to lay down my teaching career and to pursue a calling to ordination with my whole self.

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

**Answer:** I have relished every part of my training. Trinity College has been incredibly encouraging and supportive as I have wrestled with the books, and encountered God in study and in my placement context. If I had to choose one thing that I have relished most it would be the people I have got to know. Community is the best thing about training.

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

**Answer:** The most important thing I have learned so far is to be the 'me' God called me to be and to help other people be fully themselves too. My dissertation centred on children's spirituality and how as adults we learn from children as much as they learn from us, by being open and vulnerable to God's leading in our lives and to be watchful for signs of the kingdom in the world today.

**Can you name the most influential person in your Christian life to date and, briefly, say why?**

**Answer:** The Revd. Mike Peatman, rector of Morecambe Parish Church 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.

**What is your hope for your future role?:**

**Answer:** To serve God faithfully in whatever I do.

**Name one thing about you people would be surprised about?:**

**Answer:** At college I built a model of the Clifton Suspension Bridge out of snow and it was featured on the BBC website!

**What would you say was your most significant personal achievement to date?**

**Answer:** Last summer I walked all 500 miles of the Camino de Santiago across northern Spain. It was the most incredible experience and inspired the dissertation I wrote for my theology degree.

**Favourite quote (from the Bible or elsewhere). Also state briefly why it is your favourite:**

**Answer:** I have always been drawn to Isaiah 61, which Jesus accepts as His own mission in the Gospels and, by extension, is therefore ours too. I am looking forward to seeing the way in which God will use me to 'bring good news to the oppressed', 'bind up the broken hearted' and 'proclaim freedom to the captives' in South Shore.

**Unfulfilled ambition?:**

**Answer:** I have always wanted to have a go at synchronised swimming!

**How do you personally hope to support the ongoing Diocesan Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities at parish level?**

**Answer:** Through drawing alongside those who are struggling and at a vulnerable stage in their lives to share the love of Jesus in prayerful and practical ways.

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

**Answer:** To be a safe and welcoming people who live to serve Jesus through word and action in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**How do you relax?:**

**Answer:** Crochet! I only learnt how to crochet in the last year, and have already made a full set of nativity characters as well as having various other 'yarn-bombing' escapades – I love blessing the community through wool! I love choral singing and have been blessed to be a part of 'Out There' Music Chamber Choir whilst living in Bristol. Harmony is beautiful! I also love long walks and planning my next adventure, whatever that may be.