

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: Munawar Din. 50 years old. I was born and bred in Sialkot, Pakistan.

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: Christ Church with St Matthew's, Blackburn

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I am married to Lubna. We have three children: one daughter and two sons.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: I come from a background in education and administration. I served in the Church of Pakistan for about ten years at one of the Cathedral Schools run by the Diocese of Sialkot, and before I came to ministry here in the UK I worked at White Ash School, Oswaldtwistle.

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: God has called everyone to participate in his life and lifesaving ministry in various ways. Few years before, I felt a strong calling from God to serve him and his people in ordained ministry. Therefore, I decided to humbly submit myself to the Lord Jesus for the proclamation of his Gospel.

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

Answer: At my curacy I have been enjoying every aspect of my training.

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

Answer: Listening to both God and his people. Prayerfully discerning God's will for his good purposes in Christ Jesus. Listening to God's people to be aware of their needs, struggles, aspirations, and hopes. Serving God and his people in the midst of this broken world; by being with the people and sharing the gospel of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to the praise and glory of Almighty God the Father.

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

Answer: There are a number of people whom I admire for their Christian life, faith and for their ministry. Especially their part in God's mission in those countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: Trusting in God, believing in his grace and truth which he has shown to us in Christ, I have sure and firm hope that God has a brilliant ministry in store for me.

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

Answer: All I do is by the grace of God in Christ, it's nothing about me and my achievements. I am nothing, but I am everything in Christ who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13).

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

Answer: *'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God,'* (1 Cori 1:18).

This is one of my favourite Bible verses. The message of Cross is the Power of God in Christ Jesus. The whole of the Old Testament is pointing towards Jesus and his saving work on the cross. Jesus took our sins on himself at the cross, he died in our place, so that we may go free; free of sin and eternal death. So that we may have eternal life with God as a free gift. Therefore, the message of cross is life eternal for all those who believe in the sacrificial substitute death of Christ.

Unfulfilled ambition?

Answer: One of my unfulfilled ambition is to support people in deprived countries.

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

Answer: Jesus calls everyone to follow him, to be his faithful disciple. Therefore, to be a life-long disciple is our first and foremost calling. Jesus also says, go and make disciples; so, to be a faithful disciple of Jesus and then to make and grow disciples is my first priority. That is where we need to grow and mature in our life-long relationship with Christ.

And that is how we would be a Healthy Church; a life-long commitment and a deep and intimate relationship with Jesus. So, as part of a Healthy Church there would be opportunities to be witnesses to Christ in our families, to our friends, neighbours, and communities. This is how the message of God's love in Jesus would reach to others in our diverse communities. This would create prospects for individuals and communities to come to know Christ as their redeemer, saviour, and Lord.

As disciples grow in their faith in Christ, they may also grow in their confidence to discern their calling to serve in ministry taking various roles and responsibilities. Therefore, helping and encouraging people to grow as leaders would be an important and key aspect of growing as a Healthy Church both now and for our future generations to come.

How would you express your own vision for the church?

Answer: To me Church is a foretaste of the kingdom of God, where everyone is loved, valued and adored as part of one body of Christ. A living body that grows and reaches to the communities to bring hope and peace in the love and protection of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

How do you relax?

Answer: Listening to music, playing Indian harmonium, cooking and gardening.