



**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:** Sister Judith Smith (The Order of the Companions of Martha and Mary). Age: 60.  
Home Town: Tunstall, Carnforth

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

**Answer:** Hornby with Cloughton and Whittington with Arkholme and Gressingham

**Tell us about your family:**

**Answer:** I am a member of a religious order and live and work in St Joseph's House of Prayer in Tunstall, Carnforth. There are two professed Sisters in the Order and we have 4 Associates and 15 Friends who support our work.

**Former job before entering ministry?:**

**Answer:** Course Director for Called to Serve – Blackburn Diocese Discipleship Course

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

**Answer:** Because I felt that God had called me through the words of Jeremiah 1: 4-8

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

**Answer:** As I began my training with a BA in Pastoral Theology it has been continuing to deepen my knowledge in areas of study already begun.

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

**Answer:** My experiences in rural ministry as at the time I did not know that I would be moving to minister in a rural parish a year before Ordination and that my curacy would also be in a rural benefice.

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

**Answer:** Dietrich Bonhoeffer because his book Life Together gives encouragement in living as part of a religious community.

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

**Answer:** To walk alongside those in need, to share God's love with a new community of people and to continue to learn and grow in my relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**Answer:** That I am a Great, Great, Aunt.

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

**Answer:** Opening St Joseph's House of Prayer.

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

**Answer:** Behold I stand at the door and Knock (Revelation 3:20)

**Unfulfilled ambition?:**

**Answer:** Going up in a hot air balloon.

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

**Answer:** By encouraging congregations to be outward looking, to encourage lay involvement in the life of the church and to get involved with projects between church and society.

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

**Answer:** To see the church grow, not in terms of numbers but in how we proclaim the gospel, how we accept all no matter their faith, sexuality or gender and to see a great care for our young people and are older folk.

How do you relax?:

**Answer:** raft work – knitting, sewing, beadwork, card making. Holidays with my close circle of friends. Gardening