**Jane Parker**

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

**Answer: Jane Parker, 53, Manchester**

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer: Blackpool, St Paul, North Shore and Greenlands, St Anne**

Tell us about your family:

**Answer: I am married and have three boys.**

If applicable, your former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer: Many years ago, I was an Academic Librarian working in universities.**

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer: The pull of sacramental ministry.**

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

**Answer: Belonging to an incredibly supportive community whose breadth of life experience has greatly informed my learning and formation.**

Can you say what is the most important thing you have learned during your training?:

**Answer: Each individual is a unique expression of the particular form of ministry to which they are called.**

Reflecting on the difficult past year, please share a few thoughts about how the pandemic has impacted on ministry at this time (you could reflect how people have adapted to the circumstances in different ways as part of this response) …

**Answer: Ministry is relational, so the inability to meet face to face and share the usual process of getting to know people, whilst also having so many restrictions on what the church could offer them, has been frustrating. However, it has also provided space to reassess what we do (and don’t do) and begin to explore different ways of serving those beyond the congregation.**

Meanwhile, what are some of your personal reflections on ministry in the post-pandemic period that lies ahead; the challenges and the opportunities?

**Answer: The pandemic has led many to think about the big questions of life and consider what brings them true fulfilment, perhaps for the first time. Meanwhile, there has been general public acclamation of the work churches have done supporting the most vulnerable and which has raised our profile in a positive way. I would hope we are able to build on these foundations by showing how in Christ, the two are inextricably linked.**

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

**Answer: I have an NVQ in C Programming. Not that I can remember any of it …**

What do you view as your most significant personal achievement, before or during training?

**Answer: My children.**

Your favourite literary quote (it can be from the Bible or elsewhere) and, briefly, why?:

**Answer: “You will never be nearer to Christ than in caring for the one man, the one woman, the one child.” Michael Ramsey, *The Christian Priest Today***

**It encapsulates the idea that each act of ministry, however seemingly insignificant or futile, has intrinsic eternal worth.**

How do you hope to continue to support the Diocesan Vision 2026 at a parish level?

**Answer: I will try to meet the need in front of me in Christ’s name and encourage others to do the same.**

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

**Answer: To be a community standing testament to the ‘Godward side’ of life; enabling people to find meaning in both good and bad experiences and equipping them to respond in ways which are life-giving.**

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

**Answer: By taking time to do something creative.**