**Liz Gethin**

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

**Answer:**

Liz Gethin, 38, Preston

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer:**

St Cuthbert’s Fulwood

Tell us about your family:

**Answer:**

I am married to Dave, an engineer, and we have two young children.

If applicable, your current former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer:**

I am a Chartered Physiotherapist working at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals and will continue this role as I am ordained to become a Minister in Secular Employment.

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer:**

My call to ordination was a gradual one. For quite a while people had suggested to me that I should consider ordained ministry but I didn’t really feel that was for me. That was until one day I felt God call me. I felt terrified at the prospect but at the same time I felt excited by it.

I knew that the call was not for then but for sometime in the future. Way in the future I had hoped. God however had other plans! During our church’s annual feast day service I felt God saying that the time was now. And so began the discernment process.

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

**Answer:**

I have had the privilege to journey along side some amazing people and have learnt so much from them all as we all come from such different backgrounds.

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

**Answer:**

That journeying with God is seldom easy but ultimately there is nothing better than following and serving God in what you are called to do.

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:**

The last year has been difficult and a challenge for all, to say the least. Ministry has had to adapt at a rapid pace to keep up with the, sometimes daily, changes.

It has been heart-breaking to hear stories of how the pandemic has affected people and yet it has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated team of licensed and lay people who have worked tirelessly to serve the increasing needs of so many in the parish and beyond.

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

**Answer:**

In the period that lies ahead we have an opportunity to continue to minister to people in different ways. Livestreaming weekday and Sunday services, whilst not replacing in person services, will enable greater accessibility for people. Yet there will be a significant pastoral challenge as people seek to process the events of the last year. Practically there will be a greater need for services provided by and through organisations like Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and foodbanks to name but two.

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

**Answer:**

Before training to be a Physio I contemplated becoming a joiner.

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

**Answer:**

Bringing two wonderful little people into the world.

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

**Answer:**

I don’t have a favourite literary quote. There are so many amazing pieces of literature all of which can be helpful at different times.

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

**Answer:**

I hope to continue to be a witness of Christ, both within the parish and within my secular employment. To show God’s love in action through meeting the pastoral needs of those in the parish and my work place and by equipping and encouraging others to flourish in their God given skills and abilities

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

**Answer:**

My vision for the church is that it continues to join in with Gods mission in the world for all to know Him, to know they are loved by Him, to worship Him and to have life in all its fullness.

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

**Answer:**

I have a variety of different things I like to do, if I get the chance. I love playing my saxophone, going out on a walk or a bike ride or reading a good book to name but a few.