**Simon King**

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

**Answer:**

Simon King. 57 years. Preston.

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer:**

St. Lawrence with St. Paul, Longridge.

Tell us about your family:

**Answer:**

Married to Tracy with two adult daughters and son. Daughter Emma, 27, married to Daniel with grandson Reuben, 3. Also our son James, 24.

If applicable, your former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer:**

Marketing Manager

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer:**

God’s persistence over a 15 year period.

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

**Answer:**

The people - those who have shared the journey, colleagues and tutors from All Saints and having the patient support of my wife, family and friends.

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

**Answer:**

I have learned so much, it’s hard to pick out one thing. I surprised myself by liking ethics, particularly Kant, but in a recent lecture, Rev Dr Carlton Turner said two things that will stay with me. The first was that we should be obsessed with being whole, not right — and the second was to be careful not to make idols from our religious beliefs.

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:**

I was thinking that the time of the pandemic was not dissimilar to the wilderness of the Sinai desert. An uncertain and difficult time that demanded greater hope to face the grief of loss, and courage to find the road and keep moving forward. I was humbled that so many selfless people were willing to take that step of faith and serve their neighbours and God.

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

**Answer:**

This is the time to shape what comes next. Some of the changes that have been forced upon the church have been for the better. Future ministry will be best served by a combination of the new skills we have learned, that liberate God from old geography and the immediate need to be in close community once again. It will take some working out, but it is very exciting too.

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

**Answer:**

I used to teach a karate class at a sports centre. I also designed the Diocesan logo.

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

**Answer:**

Overcoming cancer, supported by God, my family and some remarkably dedicated and gifted NHS staff.

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

**Answer:**

Or carry report. You are here to kneel
Where prayer has been valid. And prayer is more
Than an order of words, the conscious occupation
Of the praying mind, or the sound of the voice praying.

(T.S. Eliot. The Four Quartets – No. 4 Little Gidding)

I love Eliot, thanks to an enthusiastic English Lit teacher from a very long time ago.

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

**Answer:**

Seeking new opportunities and spaces to share the good news of God’s love and helping to empower others in explore and engage with how God is calling them into His mission

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

**Answer:**

Faithful, fearless and fruitful

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

**Answer:**

Cooking