**Simon Lloyd**

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

**Answer: Simon Lloyd. 55. Audenshaw, Manchester.**

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer: St Mary’s Nelson and St Paul’s Little Marsden**

Tell us about your family:

**Answer: Married to Alison for 31 years. Daughter Frances.**

If applicable, your former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer: Solicitor, practicing in criminal law.**

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer: Response to a nagging feeling of being called and a desire to make positive service in God’s name.**

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

**Answer: Developing relationships with the new congregation and my fellow ordinands and curates.**

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

**Answer: To look carefully for God’s presence in whatever situation you find yourself.**

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: Developing relationships is hampered by restrictions to being able to physically meet. Face masks are not conducive to easy communication; however, the situation has given rise to the opportunity to do things differently.**

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 development and greater use of IT and social media point towards different forms of ministry for the future coupled with the ability to reach people who might, for whatever reason, be reluctant to be part of a traditional worshipping community.**

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

**Answer: Before my 20-year career in law I worked in the field of radiation protection for 9 years. And no, I don’t glow in the dark!**

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

**Answer: Each year, on the first weekend of September, 200 or so people (who really should know better) line up to begin the Bullock Smithy hike. This requires you to complete the 56 mile hike around the peak district in under 24 hours. Elite athletes finish it in around 9 hours or so. Mere mortals take a little longer.**

**The fact that I’ve completed it three times (needing just about all of the allotted time on each occasion) I mark down as a significant personal achievement. Such ability to continue when you really want to stop (and when others around you wonder whether it’s wise to continue such a gruelling slog) probably explains how I managed to complete the three-year academic stage of my training for ordination.**

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

**Answer: ‘Solemn words and these are they, even this shall pass away’ from the poem by Theodore Tilton. It points to the mystery of eternity and so to God. It reminds us that no matter how dark, or how wonderful life might appear at any one moment, we acknowledge the reality of our mortality. It reminds me to maintain focus on God who remains constant with us throughout. I first encountered the poem being performed by two of my musical heroes, Chuck Berry and Robbie Robertson. Chuck’s wonderfully expressive speaking voice supported by Robertson guitar ad-libs is a beautiful thing to behold.**

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

**Answer: I am particularly drawn to the call to make disciples for Christ. I want to actively encourage a desire within the parish to learn about and understand the person and meaning of Jesus Christ. This is how my faith journey began to move, with this same to desire to learn and so to love in the name of Christ.**

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

**Answer: To be relevant in this modern world. To do so we must, with love and acceptance, point to a truth much greater than our own day-to-day existence of minor triumphs and disasters.**

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

**Answer: Taking walks in the countryside (not always unfeasibly long ones) and being a particularly poor Eric Clapton impersonator on my second-hand Stratocaster in my front room.**