



**Please fill in an answer to each question.**

**Keep your answers fairly brief, ideally 2/3 sentences maximum.**

Your name, your age and your home town/city:

**Answer: Claire Cooke; 36; Clitheroe (Although born and childhood spent in Liverpool)**

The church you are serving:

**Answer: St Thomas', Lancaster**

Tell us about your family:

**Answer: I am married to Jim and have two daughters, Natalie (12) and Lydia (10) and we have a 2 year old Border Terrier named Bella.**

Former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer:**

**I worked part time as a singing/vocal coach and part time as a youth worker for 15-18 year olds in my church.**

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

**Answer: It had been suggested to me that I train for ordained ministry and at first I resisted because I really couldn't see myself in the role. However, the more I learnt about what a priest is, the more I knew it totally fitted with what I already felt God calling me to.**

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

**Answer: In training, I have loved meeting other people who are like-minded in many ways and who are great fun to be with. But I have also loved getting to push the**



**boundaries of our faith and understanding together to discover that God really IS more incredible than we can ever imagine and more loving of us than we could ever know.**

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

**Answer: That my primary call is to be fully me, who loves Jesus and serves his people; those inside the church, but particularly those outside the church too. The rest is just discovering more of God's love and figuring out how to express it in different situations with different people. The language, uniform, complexity and style may change in different circumstances, but the content of the conversation remains the same – Jesus loves us!**

What is your hope for your future role?:

**Answer: I hope to help those in the congregations I serve to grow in confidence that Jesus is absolutely incredible. Then to help us work out together how to articulate that in multiple ways to all people in our daily lives.**

One thing about you people would be surprised about?:

**Answer: People are usually surprised about my age... (looking eternally young is my superpower). It is particularly funny when an unsuspecting supermarket cashier asks to see ID if I am buying a bottle of wine in the 'Think over 25' campaign – once they work out my age there is usually a very surprised apology.**

Unfulfilled ambition?:

**Answer: To be in a movie.**

How do you hope to support the new Diocesan vision of 'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities' at parish level?

**Answer: I hope to help those in the congregations I serve to grow in confidence that Jesus is absolutely incredible. Then to help us work out together how to articulate that in multiple ways to all people in our daily lives. - To me, this is what defines a healthy church transforming their community.**

**HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES**



What is your own vision for the church?:

**Answer: I would love to see the church become much more diverse in order to more effectively serve the extremely diverse society we live in today. That is not to say that we stop church as we know it, but rather we develop a whole diverse collection of additional ways to gather to worship God - including the traditional model of church that many of us love – so that we can be transformed by his goodness and love fulfil our commission to *go out* and make disciples of *all nations/tribes/people groups*.**

How do you relax?:

**Answer: Sitting on the sofa with my husband, a bottle of wine, cheese and crackers, a pair of slippers and Call the Midwife (or any other British period drama) on a cold winter night.**