



**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: Lesley Hinchcliffe; 60 years; Accrington, Lancashire**

The church you are serving:

**Answer: St Peter's, Salesbury**

Tell us about your family:

**Answer: I have been married to my husband Jon for 37 years and we have 2 daughters, Bethany and Verity. Jon and I have just become grandparents to Arthur, the first child of Bethany and her husband Jack.**

Former job before entering ministry:

**Answer: When younger, I was a Policewoman in Lancashire Constabulary for 5 years; after starting our family I trained as a teacher. I have worked in both the public and private sectors of Adult Education and prior to ordination I was Head of Quality and Professional Development.**

Why did you decide to get ordained?

**Answer: I don't think I ever actually 'decided'. I sensed God's call on my life and that He was asking me to use the gifts and skills I have to serve Him in ordained ministry. I had the courage to say 'yes', my calling was discerned and things just fell into place.**



What's been the best thing about your training?

**Answer: I trained part time which allowed me to continue in employment and fitted in with my family life. The tutors and fellow students were a joy to be with.**

What's the most important thing you have learned?

**Answer: We each come to the Lord in His time.**

What is your hope for your future role?

**Answer: As a non-stipendiary priest, I hope to be highly deployable, to support my brothers and sisters in Christ, whether lay or ordained, in their work to bring in God's Kingdom. I offer my skills and gifts**

One thing about you people would be surprised about?

**Answer: I'm not sure if I hold any surprises for folk who know me. People who don't know me may be surprised to know I used to be a Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer.**

Your favourite quote:

**Answer: 'Search me out, O God, and know my heart: try me and examine my thoughts' Psalm 139 v 23**

Unfulfilled ambition?

**Answer: None – I think some ambitions or dreams must stay as dreams. I'm very satisfied with my lot in life.**



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

**Answer: To grow disciples and Leaders. I have always enjoyed encouraging people and helping them to increase in confidence in order to reach their potential. This has been key to all my roles in my career. I feel it is now also very much key to my ministry in terms of helping people to come to faith, to nurture them and support them as they become disciples of Jesus Christ.**

What is your own vision for the church?

**Answer: That the Church is diverse and inclusive, welcoming everyone and offering everyone the opportunity to experience the love of Jesus.**

How do you relax?

**Answer: In my garden; spending time with my family; walking, especially up on to the Coppice in Accrington and reading crime novels.**