



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: Joanne Macholc, 54 from Accrington

The church you are serving:

Answer: United benefice of St Stephen's and St James Blackburn

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I am the Lancastrian daughter of a Yorkshire family and am married to John. We have a teenage son

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: I continue to work in local government as a planning officer because I am a Self Supporting Minister.

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I think it was God who decided that but for me, and I have had a sense from being quite young that He was calling me and in the end I had to do something about to serve him to the full.

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

Meeting a whole host of people from all walks of life and church backgrounds and over the last year, joining the people of St Stephen's and St James' parishes in their journey of faith and mission.



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

Answer: That you can never stop learning about God : if we ever get to a point when we think we have Him worked out, then that only serves to limit our understanding of Him.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: To continue to develop as a good minister and leader in serving God, fellow Christians and the wider community

One thing about you people would be surprised about?:

Answer: That I have completed the Three Peaks of Yorkshire Challenge – twice!

Your favourite quote:

Answer: As an avid hill walker one of my favourite Bible quotes is: I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121.1-2)

Unfulfilled ambition?:

Answer: Lots if only there was more time but the northern lights are still eluding me!

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

Answer: To help people along in their journeys of faith and discipleship and serving the communities we are located in.

What is your own vision for the church?:

Answer: That we would be really able to tune into what God is calling us to be as a church here and now in the places where we are and able to communicate our faith in a language that is meaningful to those who hear it.



How do you relax?:

Answer: By having a good day walking in the hills, sharing meals with family and friends and then after a busy day to chill out with my feet up watching the Big Bang Theory (still loving it)!