

Name: Christopher Hegg

Age: 57

Original Home Village, Town or City: Hoylake, Wirral

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: St. Leonard's, Downham

Church Address: St. Leonard's  
Downham, Lancashire, BB7 4BJ

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry? I currently work for BAE Systems in an administrative capacity and will continue to do so after ordination.

### Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

I grew up in a Welsh Presbyterian Church but drifted away in my teens. In my mid 40s I became aware of a call from God, a constant niggle that just wouldn't go away, and I started attending my local Parish Church in Hoylake. Training as a Reader (LLM) was interrupted by my move to Lancashire and then by COVID lockdowns. This gave me time to reflect on what type of ministry God was calling me to and, over time, I came to realise it was ordained ministry in an assistant (SSM) capacity.

What has been a) the most important thing you have learned and b) the most inspiring thing you have experienced during your training? (They can be different!)

#### Answer for A:

Patience. God will make things clear but in His time, not mine.

#### Answer for B:

What Christian Leadership involves.

### What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year?

Time is my biggest challenge. A full-time job coupled with helping my wife look after my elderly mother and trying to 'hold the fort' in two churches during an interregnum has been pressured. However, it has been a great opportunity to fulfil the ministry to which I have been called.

Many more parishes have embraced online opportunities to engage with their local communities alongside their existing services; especially since the pandemic. Please indicate ways in which you may have done this already or what plans you may have to explore ways to reach people in the 'digital space' in the future:

I continue to work on improving and expanding the online presence of the churches where I serve as curate as part of my principal aim to ensure those churches are focussed on mission and church growth

Bishop Philip has said: "I am committed to continuing the growth of the church in Lancashire, helping to build joyful Christian communities. I would love to see the Church of England in Lancashire being an ever-

stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest. And I believe children and young people need to be at the very heart of all that we do.”

**How will you seek to support the Bishop in fulfilling these aims?**

By continuing what I have been doing for the last 12 months: ensuring the churches are focussed on mission and growth.

**What do you view as your most significant personal achievement? (This may be connected to your ordination training of course or it could be something else from another aspect of your life.)**

Learning to persevere through my first, very challenging year as a Curate.

**Tell us about your family/ loved ones:**

I am married to Depa, who I met on a Church of England course nine years ago. We live in the lovely village of Slaidburn with my elderly mother who has advanced dementia, with my wife as her primary carer. Depa is a committed Christian, former pastoral worker and leads Bible study groups. The other much-loved member of our family is Tasmin, our cat!

**What do you do to chill out and relax?**

Gardening, fell-walking and reading.

**Tell us something people don't know about you that might surprise them?**

I have had a very varied career and used to own a small West End Theatre (not one of my better business decisions!).