

Name: Claire McEnery

Age: 56

Original Home Village, Town or City: Read, Near Burnley

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: Read St John and Simonstone St.Peter

Church Address: Read and Simonstone Parish Church,, Off George Lane  
Read, Near Burnley, Lancashire BB127RL

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry? Police Superintendent, Lancashire Constabulary

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

I came to active Christianity late in life after feeling called at various points over many years. In my early 50s I felt the calling very strongly and started to discern towards the priesthood, following advice from the diocese.  
Being in a church playing an active role felt like the right place to live out Jesus in my own life, and help others towards Him.

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:**

The most important thing I have learned is that following Jesus is not a part time activity. Jesus requires a lifelong commitment which, in turn, leads his followers to become more like Him. We may falter along the way, but the general trajectory should not be complacent; always continuing forward, towards a closer relationship with Him.

**Answer for B:**

The most inspiring thing that I experienced is that leaning more on Jesus and less on myself taps you into true supernatural power. The more you lean, the more He supports you.

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

Balancing family commitments with ministry. Whilst God may call me, my family did not choose this. My husband married a police officer who became a priest, so I must note the considerations of those I love in my vocational choices. I am fortunate for the wonderful support they provide. Also, fitting everything in a part time vocation! So much to do!  
Opportunities: I'm interested in using technology to reach others, and am keen to take the Gospel out from the Church walls and into our communities. I hope to continue to serve those who are disadvantaged/ my neighbours in practical ways.

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:

Weekly online night prayer which attracted a good following.

Lent services/ course streamed.

Our Sunday services were live streamed

I wrote and had published an article and created a recorded blog which was published by Tortoise Media  
I was interviewed on #The God Cast'.

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?**

I am wholly committed to being a joyful Christian! - The Gospel is Good News! We should express that where we can in our Churches and Communities.

All clergy should have a commitment to those less fortunate, as our neighbours, brothers and sisters. I will continue to be heavily invested in our local clothes and food bank, and to raise issues of local social justice that are brought to my attention.

I will continue to work within and with our local schools to bring a joyful Christianity to children and young people.

**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.)**

As I rose through the ranks of the police I was able to positively influence the culture in respect of safeguarding and vulnerability.

Together with others, I particularly helped to influence the way we treated victims of crime, and professionalised some of the ways we managed offenders. I was influential in providing proactive support and signposting that helped to reduce suicide in those offenders placed on bail.

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

I am married to Steve and live in a farmhouse next door to my mum Christine. My sister Julie is married to Graham and they have two young adult boys- Christopher and Jonathan. I have a step daughter Amanda and a step son Kyle who is now a young adult.

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

I have recently ended a lifelong hobby of competing horses and now swim most mornings, and walk the dogs a lot. I love cooking, and until recently, cooked for my husbands cafe on Bury Market.

I like the occasional holiday in the sun, and love the countryside. I am a keen gardener.

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

I competed at the Horse of the Year Show on one of my horses in the 'Heavyweight hunter section', doing fairly well.