

# Sarah Ann Maxfield-Phillips

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Name: Sarah Ann Maxfield-Phillips

Age: 28

Original Home Village, Town or City: Malvern, Worcestershire

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: Broughton Parish

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry? Ministries Lead in a Church of England Parish

In one word, how would you describe what ordination means to you? Vocation

Please give some insight (a few sentences) about your ordination decision? From my teenage years I have felt called to ordination, service to the church and spreading the Good News of Christ. My post as Ministries Lead in a Church of England Parish strengthened my belief that my calling was to ordained ministry.

What inspired you most during your ordination training? Training with and learning from a wide range of people, whose theology may differ to mine, but we are united in one goal to Serve Christ and spread the message of His love for all.

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

Share some thoughts (a few sentences for each point) about how you will support the Bishop in achieving these aims, and also how you will encourage others to do the same?

Everything will be a fresh opportunity for me and my challenge and my priority will be to get to know and build relationships with the people of Broughton Parish both congregation and non-congregation members.

In my job before ordination training I set up a community fridge with volunteers from the church and community, whilst this was advertised as helping to reduce food waste it soon became a vital source of food for many. Just as importantly a supportive community of users and volunteers began to develop, people would just drop by to chat, those who came for food would help to unpack. The fridge is now completely volunteer run and is a Community within a community. It also helped the church reach out to refugees and those most vulnerable in our community.

I am particularly passionate about the voice of children and young people and young adults being heard in Church both at local, diocesan and national level because this was a large part of my faith journey and believe that for children and young people and young adults to remain within the church family they need to feel a sense of purpose and belonging.

Through our work with our local schools, the pupils started to feel that the churches belonged to them.

Please share some insights about what you personally and/or your church may be doing online; particularly anything innovative and successful you have done that other churches may be able to replicate.

As part of my job we tried to grow a constant positive social media presence, this included on-line services, positive and encouraging quotes, advertising services and other church and community events. However in this social media culture, we had evidence to suggest that the most effective media outreach was to prepare autumn and Christmas posters and social media posts and combine them in a substantial A5 booklet which combined information on and descriptions of the services, events, groups etc. This was handed out through local school and at wider community and civic events and hand delivered through doors.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

My call to ordination is completely supported by my mum and my brother Matt, and was by my late father, my ninety-four year old grandma will unfortunately only be able to watch the service on-line. My boyfriend, Michael whom I met at theological college, is serving his curacy in Southwark Diocese.

What do you do in your free time?

In my free time I love to walk with family and friends, listen to audio books and playing boardgames. In Broughton I am looking forward to being close to a swimming pool.

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

I was a member of General Synod for five years, first as a young people's representative and then as a full voting member.