

## **Biography – Rev'd Beth Anderson**

I was born and grew up in Kendal, a lovely place to start life, and was blessed to be part of the church family of St Thomas's where my dad was vicar. I completed an English degree at Manchester University and then went to Zimbabwe for three years to teach English and History at one of their rural district secondary schools. I met Mike there. We've been married 26 years now and have three children: Katie, Tom and Joey, (and Diego the dog).

Returning to UK in 1993, I did a PGCE at Edge Hill in Ormskirk and then taught English and Drama in Wigan. While our children were small, I worked in Special Needs Education and loved leading the youth work at our home church of St Paul's Skelmersdale.

Our previous vicar, Gordon, came to me during the Peace at the ordination of a friend and said, "It'll be you next!" Some comments pass on by and some comments are like a thunderbolt! This wouldn't go away and reminded me of a similar prompting from God years earlier. Life changed as I started to explore the possibility of being ordained. I went to a LifeCall event in the cathedral and enrolled on the Directions course with the diocese – all a bit reluctantly.

Under the guidance of Stan from Wigan, I went to the BAP interview and then started three years of part time training with All Saints Centre for Mission and Ministry. I was teaching part time at a specialist school in Thelwall and gave that up in 2017 to start my curacy at St Helens Parish Church right in the centre of St Helens. God has been so good, faithful and strong. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone at St Nicholas as we explore together what God has in store for us in Blundellsands.

**Beth**