



Who are you? Rob Saner-Haigh

What family do you have? Married to Emma who is a social worker in Carlisle, and we have three children Oliver (5), Jemima (4) and Hal (16 months)

What do you do? I've just started as Bishop's Chaplain, and also look after IME 4-7 (that's POT=Potty training to you and me). I was curate in Appleby.

What other career/job would you have liked to try? I did want to be a diplomat (so we will see in the new job whether I'd have been any good). Instead, I had dreadlocks and a dirty jumper and became an archaeologist.

How do you relax? Reading books, enjoying good food and drink with friends, playing rugby with the children (who are better than me at it), going to the theatre

What is your favourite possession? My favourite possessions are books - computers will never take the place of a real book.

What is your favourite food? Beef in some form - although I did once have Mandarin Souffle with Grapefruit sorbet and that was fantastic.

What is your favourite place? It depends when you ask me - sometimes it would be the Isles of Lewis and Harris, another time it would be Venice. I love the wildness of Lewis and Harris, the wonderful beaches and the breathtaking beauty of the hills and the sea. But I also love the fact that in Venice you can wander around surrounded by life and history, amazing art and also get good food and wine.

What is your favourite book? 'From the Holy Mountain' by William Dalrymple. I love travel writing and history, and this has both - as well as some hilarious anecdotes.

What is your favourite film? Whisky Galore - it's full of life and fun.

What is your favourite piece of music? What a question! Er... am I allowed to say 'If I should fall from grace with God' by The Pogues?

What is your favourite hymn / verse? Be Thou My Vision - I think it says it all.

What is your favourite verse of Scripture? 'The Spirit blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.' (John 3.8) We can have a tendency to tie everything down, or try to encompass God in a neat package, or see him solely through our own cultural or historical lens. This verse reminds us that God is far more interesting than we can imagine - it also explains why some of the most holy people seem to be the most eccentric! I also love Paul calling the Philippians his partners in the gospel - it's a good reminder about us all having a place and purpose in the good news of God's kingdom.

Have you got a motto? My wife would say that it is 'why do today what can be left until tomorrow'.

Have you got a hero? There's a writer and campaigner called Alastair Macintosh who wrote a book called 'Soil and Soul'. He has the ability to see and campaign for a better world without being pompous, and combines it with a great love for humanity and all creation.

What most annoys you about other people?

When people play games, or are just wilfully difficult and obstructive.

What do you admire in other people? Humility and stillness, and a sense of humour.

What's the best thing about Church life? We were part of St. Martin's in the Bullring in Birmingham, a church of people from all parts of the community. It was a great example of how diverse God's kingdom is, and how the church can be a welcoming home to people from many situations and backgrounds. The church motto was 'Fully human, fully alive' - I think that's what church at its best can nurture.

What's the worst thing about Church life? When worship becomes enforced dreariness or when we forget that we are not here for our own sake, but for God and those whom he is sending us to.

What is the most exciting thing that has happened to you recently? Managing to get the removal firm to cough up for the dishwasher they dropped! That really is life lived on the edge....!