



*Who are you?*

Ferial Etherington.

*What family do you have?*

I'm married to Barry (also a priest) and between us we have five children and six grandchildren. Two of our children, with their families, live in Sydney and Madrid. The rest are scattered round the UK.

*What do you do?*

Before ordination in 1993 I was a Legal Executive. I was then my husband's NSM curate for four years before joining the Ministry Division of the Archbishops' Council in London running Bishops' Selection Conferences and having particular responsibility for Ordained Local Ministry. I retired in 2004 and am now the diocesan Ministry Review Officer.

*What other career/job would you have liked to try?*

Anything involving travel.

*How do you relax?*

Going for long walks on the fells, cycling, Scottish dancing and playing the flute. When I feel the need to be a little more sedentary I curl up with a book (historical novels, biographies or science fiction).

*What is your favourite possession?*

My husband! Closely followed by my bike and the computer.

*What is your favourite food?*

Any kind of fish, but especially shell-fish, and if it's oysters I'm in heaven - accompanied by champagne, of course!

*What is your favourite place?*

Cumbria and France had to fight for first place in our affections when we retired. Practicality and the fells won against sunshine and heat.

*What is your favourite book?*

So many – but Tolkien's works, especially *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. I bought every one of the Harry Potter stories as soon as they appeared in paperback, and I found myself totally engrossed in Melvyn Bragg's *Credo*

*What is your favourite film?*

At the risk of repeating myself, I was completely hooked on Peter Jackson's film of Tolkien's masterpiece. But a very close second has to be the adaptation of Joanne Harris's novel *Chocolat*.

*What is your favourite piece of music?*

This is really impossible to answer – there are so many, but at the top of the list would be Widor's *Toccata and Fugue* (we had it at our wedding), Bach's *Brandenburg Concertos* and Fauré's *Requiem*. I also love the music of Taizé and a lot of Karl Jenkins latest work, especially *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*.

*What is your favourite hymn / verse?*

When I cycled to Santiago de Compostela 10 years ago my former parish wrote an extra, humorous verse to the song *One more step along the world I go*. Whenever I hear that song now it immediately conjures up wonderful memories of that pilgrimage.

*What is your favourite verse of Scripture?*

John 10: 10 “I came that you might have life, life in all its fullness.” And I never tire of reflecting that the two most frequent sentences that appear in the Bible are, “Do not be afraid”, and “I am with you.”

*Have you got a motto?*

‘See an opportunity; take a risk.’

*Have you got a hero?*

It’s actually a heroine – a very wonderful and totally feisty 101 year-old who lives in St Louis in Missouri. Gussie lives life to the full (a week with her totally exhausts us!) is still very mobile and razor-sharp mentally, and has the most incredible social life owing to a large circle of friends and a capacity for love that draws everyone to her.

*What most annoys you about other people?*

When they make generalised assertions based on prejudice and lack of evidence.

*What do you admire in other people?*

Efficiency mixed with compassion and ‘tough’ love.

*What’s the best thing about Church life?*

Fellowship, support and the ability to make a difference in individual lives and the life of the community.

*What’s the worst thing about Church life?*

The failure to make a difference; and self-absorption!

*What is the most exciting thing that has happened to you recently?*

A totally unexpected opportunity to see Daniel Barenboim and David Levine in rehearsal with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Boston itself.