**Andy Dykes**

Your name, age and original home village, town or city (i.e. the place where you grew up):

**Answer:**

Andy Dykes, 29 from the South Lakes

The church where you are serving:

**Answer:**

I am currently with Holy Trinity Brompton before planting a resourcing church with St John’s Blackpool.

Tell us about your family:

**Answer:**

I am married to Nic who is an English Tutor. We are both from Cumbria, having met at school in Ulverston. We don’t have any kids.

If applicable, your former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer:**

Since finishing my degree in Computer Science, I have worked for a range of different churches in the North West.

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer:**

When I was 19, I wanted to be an entrepreneur in the tech industry. However, through an encounter with Jesus that summer I felt like God was saying “I don’t want you to be an entrepreneur in business, I want you to be an entrepreneur in the church.” It was a slippery slope from there!

What’s been the best thing about your training?:

**Answer:**

Being able to minister alongside godly, gifted people who are passionate about following Jesus and learn from their example.

Can you say what is the most important thing you have learned during your training?:

**Answer:**

It’s difficult to pick just one thing but I would say a theology and set of skills that help lead congregations into encountering the Holy Spirit in worship and teaching.

Reflecting on the difficult past year, please share a few thoughts about how the pandemic has impacted on ministry at this time (you could reflect how people have adapted to the circumstances in different ways as part of this response) …

**Answer:**

COVID-19 has forced everybody to innovate, and the church has been no exception. This has led to huge challenges like withholding communion and closing churches, but also massive opportunities like the growth of Alpha Online and social transformation projects.

Meanwhile, what are some of your personal reflections on ministry in the post-pandemic period that lies ahead; the challenges and the opportunities?

**Answer:**

Personally, I think the pandemic has allowed us to refocus on the main things and put away the things which we were doing on auto-pilot. We have a new opportunity to care for those in our communities and proclaim Jesus afresh to a world with a lot of questions.

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

**Answer:**

I don’t know how to tie my shoelaces properly!

What do you view as your most significant personal achievement, before or during training?

**Answer:**

Getting married to Nic, no question.

Your favourite literary quote (it can be from the Bible or elsewhere) and, briefly, why?:

**Answer:**

Acts 4.13: “When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were amazed and took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

This verse reminds me that schooling or extraordinary abilities are irrelevant. What I need to live an amazing life of courage is time with Jesus.

How do you hope to continue to support the Diocesan Vision 2026 at a parish level?

**Answer:**

As a resourcing church in Blackpool we hope to play as bigger a part as we can in helping the Diocese pursue Vision 2026. Particularly, we want to invest ourselves in re-engaging with young people, raising up leaders and planting churches.

How would you express your own vision for the church?:

**Answer:**

When I pray for the church, I see a community growing and thriving. I see the church full of young people encountering Jesus and being equipped for lives of discipleship. I see disciples becoming leaders as they are taught and encouraged by the community. I see churches planted which reach into areas forgotten by the rest of the country. And I see society transformed, poverty confronted, families restored, and captives freed. All in Jesus’ name.

Finally, when you get the chance, how do you relax?:

**Answer:**

I love to shoot videos, write songs and make bread.