**Jordan McDermott**

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

**Answer: My name is Jordan McDermott, 25 and I was born in Blackburn – living in Darwen for most of my childhood. I went to school, and did most of my activities in Bolton however, given that is where the family is from historically.**

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer: Accrington, St Andrew, St Mary Magdalen and St Peter and Church Kirk.**

Tell us about your family:

**Answer: I have a small family, mum and dad and a younger brother. I am engaged to Becky and we are due to be married in November. No pets to speak of – yet!**

If applicable, your former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer: I worked as a Choral Scholar at Blackburn Cathedral following my music degree and spent a year in London as a Pastoral Assistant before starting theological college.**

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer: I have always been a church person, growing up in a churchgoing family. Whilst at university I explored a possible vocation to the priesthood more seriously with lots of guidance and support. There was no watershed moment for me – it just felt right, and I eventually stopped putting up barriers to God.**

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

**Answer: Easily, it is living as part of a worshipping community. In a sense living in such a close-knit community as Mirfield has been both the best, and most challenging aspect of training for me.**

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

**Answer: The value of a constant, and consistent prayer life. Whether you are up or down, spending time with God in prayer every day has kept me grounded and supported.**

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: The pandemic has disrupted most aspects of our individual and shared lives. It has closed church buildings and made people think differently about how they live out their faith. For me, it has been a silver lining to see how members of the community locally, and nationally, have supported each other through such a difficult time. God is at the heart of that sharing with each other.**

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

**Answer: No doubt, the pandemic will lead to changes in how we do mission and ministry in the Church of England. I pray that it will be an opportunity to bring the light of Christ into the lives of more people in the UK and the world than ever before.**

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

**Answer: I am a Bolton Wanderers fan; such a revelation tends to surprise most people!**

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

**Answer: I am a musician, and before an injury I was a decent violinist (and bassoonist!). Touring different countries in Europe as the lead violinist of the International Youth Philharmonic Orchestra will always be a very fond memory for me.**

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

**Answer: John 3:16 ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.’ This has always been the foundation of my faith. It is such a powerful revelation for each of us, the ultimate showing of true love.**

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

**Answer: Regarding Healthy Churches Transforming Communities, I hope to draw on my experience of the church being central to a shared, lived out faith and community, as it is at Mirfield. I believe that a healthy community is key to making new disciples for Christ, especially in the parish context.**

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

**Answer: My vision for the church is to create a community which is centred on Jesus Christ and draws all people closer to the Father. The church must open itself up in dialogue with those of other faiths or none and be truly a church for *all* people.**

**The church doors must not be something that can be open and closed depending on who is asking for entry. They must be removed from the hinges and invite everybody to meet God anew through the transformative power of the Eucharist.**

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

**Answer: I enjoy walks, singing, playing cricket and football and cooking. My Lancashire hotpot is worth trying, if I do say so myself!**