**Kyle Mulholland**

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

**Answer:**

Kyle Mulholland, 31, Coventry

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

**Answer:**

St Paul’s Church, Ansdell and Fairhaven (Lytham St Annes)

Tell us about your family:

**Answer:**

I am married to Amy, and we have a two-year-old daughter called Hannah.

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?:

**Answer:**

I became a Christian at university. While I looked (unsuccessfully) for work after university, a Christian friend pointed me to an apprentice role at a church in Padiham. I felt a pull toward the ministry, but the vicar didn’t think it was the right time. Two years later he saw a change in me and agreed to support me in working out whether this was God’s will for my life. At that time, I began to feel an increasing conviction in my own heart about it; and I was eventually accepted to train for the ordained ministry.

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

**Answer:**

I was able to spend much time in prayer and in the Bible during my three years of study at College.

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

**Answer:**

Humility, obedience and prayer are the keys to understanding God and the Bible; not a big brain.

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:**

I’m convinced that the last year has shown us how much we need the Bible. When crisis comes, and difficulty, what do we do? What is our ‘roadmap’? We try this and try that: but God can help us overcome fear and worry; He can show us the way forward.

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

**Answer:**

Our great opportunity is the work of re-humanizing: providing space for people to be human, act normal. We continued to meet when everything else was locked down; we opened up our toddler group as soon as restrictions were lifted; our youth group is now meeting in person.

We are made to be together, to hug, to be in one another’s homes, to share food. The church will be the setting where we can learn to do this again. The challenge is that there will be great reluctance by some and this must be met with patience and sensitivity.

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

**Answer:**

I was a convinced atheist all through my childhood and teenage years.

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

**Answer:**

When my current account balance became a positive number after university!

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

**Answer:**

From the prayer of a woman called Hannah, who said, “There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God” (1 Samuel 2:2).

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

**Answer:**

As part of my ministry, I will be teaching young people about the Lord. I want to lay a strong Christian foundation for the young people already connected to the church and create an environment that they can invite friends into.

I want them to have clarity about what the Christian faith is at a crucial time in their lives. I want them to become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ; and pray that through them others also would come to know the Lord.

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

**Answer:**

I’m convinced that the church’s most pressing need in these days is to know the Bible better, be confident that it is God’s Word, and submit to what it says, whatever the cost. I commit myself to do this with my whole heart: with all that is in me I will seek to live out and teach authentic biblical Christianity. But I can’t do it - there is none that can do it - without the help of the Holy Spirit.

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

**Answer:**

I enjoy a walk with Amy and Hannah.