

**Please fill in an answer to each question.**

**Keep your answers fairly brief, ideally 2/3 sentences maximum.**

Your name, your age and your home town/city:

**Answer: Alice Cole, 30, Stoke-on-Trent**

The church you are serving:

**Answer: St James, Lower Darwen, St James, Over Darwen and St Paul's Hoddlesden**

Tell us about your family:

**Answer: I'm married to Andy, who works in environmental conservation.**

Former job before entering ministry?:

**Answer: Before training for ministry I was pursuing a career in Medical Statistics and had recently finished my PhD in clinical trials for malaria treatments.**

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

**Answer: I was involved in a project at my church which involved visiting other churches. While visiting one of the churches I felt that God was preparing me for more than the project. So I asked Him what he was preparing me for and the word 'ordination' popped into my head. It wasn't a total surprise, but it was the moment that led me to start exploring what ordination would mean.**

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

**Answer: I have been training through St Mellitus, a full-time, mixed-mode style of training which involves three days working in a church and three days study a week. For me, this mode of training, which combines the study alongside the practice, has been brilliant.**

What's the most important thing you have learned?:

**Answer: There are so many important things that I have learnt, but I think some of the key things are in the areas of self-awareness and leadership skills, along with a greater understanding why we study theology. By which I mean, understanding 'why' the church does what it does, so that we can keep the 'why' but potentially change 'how' we do things, in order to reach a new generation with the gospel.**

What is your hope for your future role?:

**Answer: My hope for my future role is that God continues to equip me for whatever he calls me to and that I continue to grow in my relationship with him, in order to best serve the people around me.**

One thing about you people would be surprised about?:

**Answer: I love watching the Australian soap Neighbours.**

Your favourite quote:

**Answer: 'Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world'**

Unfulfilled ambition?:

**Answer: To be a mum.**

How do you hope to support the new Diocesan vision of 'Healthy Churches Transforming Communities' at parish level?

**Answer: In many ways, all we do at parish level should support creating healthy churches which then transform the local communities but I am particularly passionate about people coming together to read, talk about the bible and share life together. I'm also passionate about equipping and encouraging people to develop the skills that God has given them in order to grow in what God has called them to.**



What is your own vision for the church?:

**Answer: To be a place where people are welcomed and transformed by the love of Jesus.**

How do you relax?:

**Answer: Reading, baking and cooking, going for a run or going for a walk in the Lakes.**