

Name: Daniel Abraham

Age: 34

Original Home Village, Town or City: Shevington

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: All Saints Higher Walton and Holy Trinity Hoghton

Church Address: Blackburn Road, Higher Walton
Preston, Lancashire, PR5 4EA

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry? Electrician

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Having been a very shy child and disliking any kind of public speaking, the very idea that God was calling me into public ministry in His Church was absolutely terrifying. But as the nudges kept on coming, the more I learned to lean into and trust in God and that the plan He had for my life was the right one.

What has been a) the most important thing you have learned and b) the most inspiring thing you have experienced during your training? (They can be different!)

Answer for A:

Everyone who follows Jesus is a theologian, whether we know it or not! We all have our own unconscious theology behind our faith, but this is also something that develops for each of us over time and as we grow in our discipleship to Jesus.

Answer for B:

The most important thing I have learned throughout my training in my deacon year is the need to find rhythms that are life giving and not life draining! While the temptation can be to work at 100mph, I must daily remember that Jesus is the Saviour, not me!

What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year?

One of the biggest opportunities I am really looking forward to is being able to preside over the Holy Eucharist.

This sacrament has always been a big part of my faith journey and its theological significance has developed and grown since starting my formal training, so the chance to preside over this integral part of people's Christian discipleship is something I am relishing with great anticipation.

One of the biggest challenges will continue to be ensuring that I am nourishing my own spiritual life in a variety of different ways, and not neglecting it when the pressures of parish ministry are pressing and weighing heavy.

Many more parishes have embraced online opportunities to engage with their local communities alongside their existing services; especially since the pandemic. Please indicate ways in which you may have done this already or what plans you may have to explore ways to reach people in the 'digital space' in the future:

We continue to livestream each of our two main Sunday services weekly, and I personally would like to launch a podcast series in the future that interviews Christians from all walks of life in an informal way, allowing them to share their own faith stories and have theological conversations that will hopefully inspire other people to engage with the Christian faith and with their local church.

Bishop Philip has said: "I am committed to continuing the growth of the church in Lancashire, helping to build joyful Christian communities. I would love to see the Church of England in Lancashire being an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest. And I believe children and young people need to be at the very heart of all that we do."

How will you seek to support the Bishop in fulfilling these aims?

I will seek to support the Bishop in fulfilling these aims by continuing to engage in and establish missional opportunities that speak the hope and the truth of Gospel into areas of pain, suffering and injustice, helping to draw people into a living relationship with the Lord having encountered him in the words and actions of His Church through the Spirit. One of the ways in which I do this is by helping out at the local Bereavement Cafe in the parish, and sharing the love of Christ in practical ways.

Building and developing Christian communities that are full of joy will have a transformative effect on the surrounding communities, and I am particularly committed to seeing men of all ages come to a living faith. At the local mens' pub group which I have established in my deacon year, I am committed to discipling men on all stages of their faith journey, building a new Christian community that is able to both discover and then enjoy the life Jesus came to offer them in all of its fullness.

Finally, as someone who is passionate about children and young people finding faith in Jesus, I will endeavour to create caring and accessible environments in and out of church that value children for who they are and build a church that places them at the very core of who we should be aiming to reach with the Good News of Jesus Christ

What do you view as your most significant personal achievement? (This may be connected to your ordination training of course or it could be something else from another aspect of your life.)

While getting a 2:1 degree in Theology, Ministry and Mission was a huge personal achievement, my beautiful family continues to be, and will always be, my biggest achievement in life.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

My wife Georgia and I met in our home church in Burscough. We have been together for nearly 8 years, and married for 4 of those. She works from home as a team manager and is an incredible wife, as well as a fantastic mummy to our little boy Levi (aged 2). He is a bundle of energy and fun, and his biggest passions in life are tractors and ice cream!

What do you do to chill out and relax?

Listen to music, read books, go out walking and cooking

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

I am a Wigan Athletic fan (someone has to be!!)