

Name: Iyanuoluwa Jesse Adesina

Age: 31

Original Home Village, Town or City: Erin Ile, Kwara State, Nigeria

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: St Lawrence with St Paul's Longridge

Church Address: St Paul's Church, Church Street Longridge Preston
Preston, Lancashire, PR33WA

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry? Laboratory Analyst/Microbiology

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

My journey toward ordination has been shaped by a deep sense of calling, affirmed through prayer, study and the guidance of mentors and the Church. From an early stage and coming from a Christian family background, I felt drawn to ministry. My call became clearer as I served in the Church, engaging in theological study, and discerning my gifts. As I progressed, my faith deepened through experiences in pastoral care, preaching, and leading worship.

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:

One of the most important lessons I've learned is the significance of pastoral presence—ministry is not just about preaching or sacraments but being truly present in people's joys and struggles. More than having all the answers, faithfulness means pointing others to Christ through listening, compassion, and service. This has reshaped my approach to leadership, making me more reliant on the Holy Spirit.

Answer for B:

One of the most inspiring moments in my training was participating in a baptism service where multiple people, from different backgrounds and life journeys, publicly declared their faith in Christ. Witnessing the joy, commitment, and transformation in their lives was a powerful reminder of the gospel's impact. What struck me most was how each person had a unique testimony—some coming from deep struggles, others from long seasons of searching, yet all finding new life in Christ. It was a tangible expression of God's grace at work, drawing people to Himself. The experience deepened my own faith and reinforced my calling to serve, knowing that ministry is ultimately about being part of God's redemptive story in people's lives.

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

Exploring ministry in the coming year brings both challenges and opportunities. The challenge will be settling into a new parish—learning its rhythms, building relationships, and discerning how best to serve. Transitions take time and I want to approach this with patience and attentiveness. At the same time, this is an exciting opportunity to engage with a new community, strengthen discipleship,

and explore fresh avenues for mission. I look forward to seeing how God is at work and joining in that ministry with faith and humility.

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:

I have engaged with the digital space by using online platforms to communicate with the church community, share reflections, and provide pastoral support. This has included live-streaming services, sharing devotional content and using social media to foster engagement.

Looking ahead, I plan to explore new ways to reach people online, such as creating digital discipleship resources, interactive prayer sessions, and strengthening the church's online presence. Embracing digital ministry is a valuable tool for outreach, ensuring that the gospel reaches beyond the church walls and connects with people wherever they are.

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 support the Bishop's vision by fostering a welcoming and growing church community at my assigned parish and within the diocese, encouraging discipleship and mission. I am committed to nurturing joyful Christian communities through worship, pastoral care, and outreach that strengthens faith and fellowship. I will also seek to be a voice for justice, advocating for and serving those in need, particularly the most vulnerable in society. This includes engaging with local initiatives that support the poor and marginalized, ensuring the church remains a place of refuge and hope.

Finally, I will prioritize children and young people, creating opportunities for them to grow in faith and actively participate in church life. This may involve strengthening youth ministry, exploring digital engagement, and equipping families to disciple the next generation.

Through these efforts, I hope to play my part in building a thriving, compassionate, and Christ-centred Church in Lancashire.

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.)

One of my most significant personal achievements has been raising a family while transitioning into full-time ministry. Balancing family life with the demands of ministry has been both challenging and rewarding, deepening my understanding of service, sacrifice, and faith.

Additionally, my previous experience working in a multinational company provided valuable skills in leadership, communication and strategic thinking, which I now apply in my ministry. These skills have been instrumental in guiding my approach to pastoral care, planning and ministry development.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I come from a strong Christian family, with my father being a priest and my mother a nurse. Growing up as the second-born among four children, with three sisters, I was raised in a home where faith, service, and care for others were central values. These early experiences have shaped my own understanding of ministry and calling.

I am married to Oluwatosin, a nurse, and together we have a son, Eric. Our family is a constant source of love, encouragement, and strength.

What do you do to chill out and relax?

To relax, I enjoy spending time with my family, especially Oluwatosin and Eric, whether it's taking walks or just being together at home. I also unwind by reading and listening to music, which helps me de-stress and connect with God.

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

I am a good football player.