

Name:	Jono Peatman
Age:	30
Original Home Village, Town or City:	Coventry
The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:	Christ Church, Wesham
Church Address:	Christ Church, Garstang Road North Wesham, Lancashire, PR4 3DE
If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry?	I've had several! I've been a Christian Schoolworker, I have been a window cleaner and immediately before starting ordination training, I worked part time for St Thomas Church in Lancaster overseeing Sung Worship, and part time managing a Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre in Lancaster and Morecambe. During my training at Emmanuel, I have been placed at Blackpool Church St Johns.

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Since my teenage years, I have always felt that God has had a purpose for me. At that age, I had a deep conviction of who God was, and who I was in him, and I knew I wanted to make a difference, to do something that would tangibly see his kingdom come. I became involved in a range of different churches, from different denominations, and worked a number of jobs which gave me opportunity to share my faith with my colleagues. There came a point where I had a sense that I had something to offer the church by stepping forward, and I had a number of friends all suggest to me that I should explore ordination. I also was raised in a vicarage for my whole childhood. I knew through my parents vocations what was involved, behind the scenes, and so I approach this process with my eyes open. My mum sadly passed away in 2016, but there was a distinct moment in her final few weeks where she wanted to lead a communion service, at home, for one last time while she was still able. This was a defining moment in my recognition of the significance of sacramental ministry in the life of not just the priest who presides, but in the whole community of which they are a part. Much of my journey during my training has been unpacking this more deeply, which I have found both moving and profound.

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:

I have learned more of the profound ways that God moves among his people, and how I, as an ordained person in the church, can effectively be a part of seeing that grow and flourish. God is far from finished with Lancashire yet!

Answer for B:

I have seen incredible collaboration in the last three years of training across the whole student and staff body of the Emmanuel College community. This openness to different traditions and practices has been so valuable for me and it gives me huge confidence and hope for the future of the church!

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

As a family we are moving house, my daughter moves school, and in taking up curacy in charge, I am aware that I take on a huge amount of responsibility from day 1! This is exciting, and the church has been very welcoming to us, but I am fully aware of the challenges and opportunities this situation will present.

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:

Part of my role at St Thomas during the pandemic was to move services to live streaming, and to make the social media content engaging and a means of building community and discipleship rather than simply informative. I also worked with the head office at Christians Against Poverty to help pilot various ways of supporting people using digital media and phone based services during the pandemic, which helped me to think creatively and slightly laterally about how to build community with the most vulnerable in society, and those who are least likely to engage in more conventional community events and gatherings.

Since then, I have loved taking part in various national media opportunities to share the work of our church in Blackpool.

I am really looking forward to thinking creatively about how we can build a strong digital presence in Wesham that points people in that area towards Jesus.

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?

This is such an inspirational paragraph to read! As a family, we are absolutely committed intergenerational worship and discipleship - seeing people of all ages teaching each other more of what it means to follow Jesus. I'm delighted to have a church school on our doorstep, and the opportunities that this provides. I hope and pray that at some point during my curacy, I will be seen - as someone in my 30s - as being an 'older face' at the front of church.

My time with CAP has given me an absolute conviction that the church must exist for the poorest.

Whether that's the poor financially, the poor relationally or the poor spiritually. I long to build a church that is a well that people, in whatever poverty they find themselves in, can come to and draw living water.

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.)

Easy question - my family! Marrying Amy, and seeing our two amazing IVF children born safely, and growing into beautiful little people!

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I am married to Amy, who is an early years practitioner in Blackpool. We have 2 children - Ava, 5, and Noah, 3. My sister, Ellie, currently lives in Canada. My Dad, Mike, is a parish priest in Beverley and his wife, Carol, managed a Christian Shop in Beverley town centre. Amy has a large extended family, who live across the North of England.

What do you do to chill out and relax?

Amy and I love a good crime drama or box set! I am also gamer - I've grown up as part of the playstation generation, so if anyone fancies a match on FIFA or a race on GranTurismo, let me know - I'm always up for that!

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

I have scored a penalty kick against Liverpool legend Ian Rush!