

**Name:** Matt Lockwood

**Age:** 31

**Original Home Village, Town or City:** Ipswich

**The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:** Beacon Blackpool

**Church Address:** 42 Reads Avenue  
Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 4DE

**If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry?** I have gone straight into ministry

**Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?**

Sense of call to youth ministry aged 13 after becoming a Christian the same year. Trained at Ridley Hall in Cambridge as a Youth Worker. Spent 6 years at St. John's Blackheath in South East London. Loved it there but felt a comfort setting in in life and faith; the stories I was telling of God at work in my life were months old. I knew there was something more and God was calling us on but didn't know where or what. Maybe overseas. Prayed 'Lord, we will go anywhere in the world you want us to go ... except the North of England because it's cold'. A week later we received a message from the then Vicar of Beacon Church, Rev. Adrian Wolton, who asked if we'd be up for a chat about the ministry here in Blackpool! After that conversation we came up to Blackpool and walked the streets of Revoe and Foxhall (two of our neighbours in the Parish). It was here that God broke our hearts and Hannah and I left our roles in London to move into the neighbourhood and share the role of Eden Team Leader. Over the following year we saw God at work and his faithfulness, in our lives, the church and our wider community. Many families coming to faith from little to no church background. Over that time, I felt an increase call to lead sacramental ministry missionally in our community. Fast forward 3 years, Hannah and I are leading Beacon together and will be here until God calls us on.

**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:**

A further appreciation for the missional aspect of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the invitation Christ extends to all around His table.

**Answer for B:**

In a church often marked by polarisation and conflict, Emmanuel under Rev Dr Michael Leyden, creates space where everyone can come, share, learn and worship together, genuinely believing that each other are Christians and trying, like ourselves, to work out what it means to follow Him faithfully.

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

Hannah and I are expecting our second child in August 2025, which is a wonderful blessing but obviously adding a new born into the mix with a toddler, continuing study, ministry in our context and simply being a

disciple of Jesus isn't easy. Prayer for us as a couple, family and church is ALWAYS appreciated!

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:

Check out our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram by search @beaconblackpool

For us this acts, in many ways, as the 'shop window' into our church, showing who we are, who is here and what we're about.

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?**

By continuing to minister faithfully with Christ and with and for the community and parish in which we have the blessing of calling home.

**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.)**

Being found in Christ and striving to follow His ways in everything I do - praise the Lord for his grace because I fall often, but he is always faithful to pick me up, embrace, forgive, correct and send me out again.

**Tell us about your family/ loved ones:**

Hannah: wife, best-friend, co-worker in Christ, home teammate.

Ezra: son, aged 2, affectionate, kind, adventurous, very, very cute.

**What do you do to chill out and relax?**

Hang out with my family - Ezra is a big fan of a bike ride. Cook and eat good food. Interior design/ building things. Brewing coffee - I've got many methods!

Partial to a good whisky and a deep chat with whoever is opposite.

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

I iron my t-shirts everyday and love to put a crease down the sleeves.