

Name: Pippalina Daniels

Age: 26

Original Home Village, Town or City: Bridgend, South Wales

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: United Benefice of Dolphinhholme, Quernmore and Over-Wyresdale

Church Address: St Mark's / St Peter's / Christ Church
Dolphinhholme / Quernmore / Over-Wyresdale, Lancashire,
LA29AN/LA29EL/LA29EB

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

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Simply put, I want to be deacon and priest because I love Jesus and I believe that this is what He is calling me to do. God's love for us revealed in Jesus Christ who saves us and sets us free is the best news I know and I want to share it in the way God wants me to

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 learnt lots of different things in my first year of curacy. I serve in rural communities and something particularly important which I have seen is how important our church buildings are to people. They are vital to these small and rural communities and the buildings speak particularly powerfully about the history of the place. Its so wonderful to worship in places which have been places where people have met with Jesus for so long.

Answer for B:

Our outdoor Christmas nativity in and around our local pub in Dolphinhholme village is something I will never forget. Not many curates can say that they were headbutted by a sheep during a nativity! Working with our local school we organised an outdoor, unrehearsed nativity with a real baby, live animals and a tractor with fairy lights. It was wonderful to see the community come together to celebrate Jesus' birth. It was our first time trying this and it went well so hopefully it will become an annual event

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

I have found my first year of curacy to be a big change as I started ordained life and moved to the countryside. It has been tricky at times but I have really enjoyed it and I look forward to continuing to serve in Dolphinhholme, Quernmore and Over-Wyresdale

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:

This year I have started a short online prayer meeting on Wednesdays to encourage our Benefice to pray for growth and renewal. We meet on Zoom and this is a great way to engage with those who may not be able to travel and as well as encouraging people to think about the whole Benefice and not a single place or building

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 year in our Benefice we are having a particular focus on praying for growth and renewal through our weekly prayer meetings, we praying using the Five Marks of Mission that all in our area would be filled with the good news of Jesus. Through this we are also praying for justice. Rural poverty is often hidden and so developing good relationships and understanding is key. We are very blessed to have three great schools in our Benefice and we have good relationships with them. It is wonderful to include our children and young people and for all ages to work together to create a joyful Christian community

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.)

This year I am particularly proud of passing my driving test and I am very thankful to all who supported me in that. Driving is vital for rural communities and it has given me a real insight into the challenges faced by those who cannot drive and live in isolated areas.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I have an amazing mum, Stella, two wonderful siblings, Sabrina and Alex, as well as great friends who really support me.

What do you do to chill out and relax?

I am person who likes crafts including crochet and knitting and I have recently started candle making. I also like going on walks. Heysham Coast is my new favourite spot to walk.

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

One of the images which is used for the priesthood is of being a shepherd. So I recently spent a morning with a local sheep farmer, learning about lambing and looking after sheep. I got to bottle feed some lambs and it was wonderful to learn about what being a shepherd looks like today. It really helped me to think about what a priest as a shepherd might mean and how we understand Jesus as the Good Shepherd.