



Your name, age and original home village, town or city (the place where you grew up):

Answer: Lois Ward, 32, Higher Walton

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: The Benefice of Poulton, Carleton & Singleton

Tell us about your family:

Answer: Father David, Mother Brenda, Sister Lucy and two Nephews, Charlie and Sebastian

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: Ambulance Care Assistant for Patient Transport Service within the North West Ambulance Service

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: For four years I have volunteered with the Chaplaincy team at HMP Wymott. I really love my work there, I enjoy praying, worshipping and chatting with the prisoners and feel God is calling me to be shepherd to some of the most vulnerable people in society. I am just following that call.

What's been the best thing about your training?:

Answer: Living alongside a Religious Community of Benedictine Monks and learning from their disciplined life of prayer and how to love and live in community with others as the Body of Christ.

What's the most important thing you have learned?:

Answer: Prayer, Scripture, Sacrament and Community are the bedrock of Christian Faith.

Name the most influential person in your Christian life to date and, briefly, say why.

Answer: My Father, his selflessness.

Say something about your future role and how you hope to serve:

Answer: I am looking forward to making God's love known in all corners of Poulton, Carleton and Singleton.

What would people not know about you that would surprise them?:

Answer: I ride a motorbike, Triumph Bonneville 865

What would you say was your most significant personal achievement to date, either in ministry or before you embarked on your training?

Answer: That whilst I lived and studied in California for four months last year, I made a home and found a family.

Favourite literary quote (it can be from the Bible or elsewhere) and why?:

Answer: "‘After all this time?’, ‘Always’ said Snape." *The Deathly Hallows* JK Rowling

Over the 7 books, the reader believed Snape to be the bad guy and with just cause. However, this line signifies the moment it is revealed to the reader that Snape has been a good guy all along. All of a sudden, we see Snape's side of the story, we see that his attitude and behaviour are a result of his difficult life circumstances and we are shown his courageous, selfless and loving nature. In this quote we are confronted with two things; Firstly, that we should not judge others because we cannot always see what is hidden in their lives, hearts and minds. Secondly, people are neither wholly bad nor wholly good, we are just people and all of us are capable of doing both bad and good.

Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?:

Answer: As many as the sands of the sea

What will you do to support the ongoing Diocesan Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities at parish level?

Answer: Get out amongst the people and live out the Gospel message.

How would you express your own vision for the church?:

Answer: For the Church to live, breath and work as the Body of Christ.

'If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.' 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

Finally, when you get the chance, how do you relax?:

Answer: A day out walking in the Lake District with an evening in front of a log fire, reading a book.