

Chris Metcalfe

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Name: Chris Metcalfe

Age: 56

Original Home Village, Town or City: North London

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: Benefice of Heapey St Barnabas and Withnell St Paul's

In one word, how would you describe what ordination means to you? Hope-giving

Please give some insight (a few sentences) about your ordination decision? The decision for ordination has come up quietly beside me, unexpected and perhaps has been a greater surprise to me than my family. I feel blessed to be able to serve others as a deacon, supporting God's work in our churches.

What inspired you most during your ordination training? Emmanuel encouraged me to see where God is at work, both in my own formation but importantly in the lives of others. The depth of theology training has developed my knowledge along with a strong sense of community in which the worship of Jesus is prioritised and cherished.

What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year? Perhaps my most significant personal challenge is keeping a good balance and blend between my different life priorities. A busy diary in education mixed with a busy diary in ministry, mixed with my personal prayer and family time. However, amongst this busyness, is also held my greatest opportunities, not just in the inter-woven nature of education and ministry but also in the special moments shared with family.

Share some thoughts (a few sentences for each point) about how you will support the Bishop in achieving these aims, and also how you will encourage others to do the same? Firstly start by listening. Then perhaps moving into championing our Church of England schools in both making a difference to those who are most disadvantaged, enabling them to feel part of the church family - a sense of belonging - that is achieved through the leadership support incl governorship. Contribute to worship patterns in churches and other places such as schools, that enable families to belong to their community.

Please share some insights about what you personally and/or your church may be doing online; particularly anything innovative and successful you have done that other churches may be able to replicate.

Use of social media and newsletter introduced last year.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I have a wife Deborah, three children who are all adults; Hannah, Abigail, and Peter. We have two cockerpoo dogs, Connie & Winnie.

What do you do in your free time?

Try and stay fit at the gym and swimming. Enjoy holidays.

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

I learned to play the bagpipes!