

Nathan Kellner

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Name: Nathan Kellner

Age: 29

Original Home Village, Town or City: Heswall, Wirral

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: Preston Minster

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

In one word, how would you describe what ordination means to you? Discovery

Please give some insight (a few sentences) about your ordination decision? I never expected to become a vicar - I didn't think I had the right personality or skill set. God put ordination on the agenda, through a series of prophetic words shared with me that were too similar to be coincidence. As I thought and prayed about it I came to realise I had an excitement about the church and what God can do through it, and began to realise I had skills I hadn't appreciated. Sometimes God sees things in us a long time before we do!

What inspired you most during your ordination training? I have loved the different experiences you get to have as an ordinand. I was really impacted by a summer placement in a church doing some powerful work reaching out to their local Muslim community. And it's such a privilege to have this time set aside to go deep in study of God's Word.

What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year? Getting stuck into a new place is really exciting but I know it will take time. Preston Minster has a wonderful heart for church planting, and I'm really excited to see what doors around church planting God might start to open as my curacy goes on - at the same time this is a new adventure for me and Sarah, so we'll definitely be stepping out of our comfort zone! But I know God will be growing us as leaders and disciples as we step out.

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?

Jesus is good news for everyone, so serving our community should be at the heart of what church is. I'm excited about the Spear employment coaching programme based at the Minster which I've had some experience with previously.

It's exciting to see signs that young people are increasingly interested in faith. Church was a part of my life growing up and gave me a great foundation for life, and I think it's so important for church to be a place children are welcome, well looked after and able to encounter Jesus.

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.

As part of my ordination training I've done a research project about how churches responded to Covid - I think Covid made us all more aware of how online tools can help gather people. Something I think is great is how video calls can make it easier and more practical for people to pray together.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I'm married to the wonderful Sarah, who loves hiking, animals and all things horticulture. She has a big heart for the church, especially worship and discipleship, and I'm hugely grateful to serve alongside her.

What do you do in your free time?

I love reading, board games, walking in the hills and playing drums.

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

Growing up I really strongly disliked pancakes.