

# Paul Howard

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Submission Date May 4, 2026 1:27 PM

Name: Paul Howard

Age: 45

Original Home Village, Town or City: Bury

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: Euxton Parish Church

Please give some insight (a few sentences) about your ordination decision?

I didn't see this coming! It took a few people to suggest it, and one in particular to ask me outright about it, but then it started to make sense. As I have journeyed the last few years I have grown to embrace my call, and learning to inhabit it has enabled me to thrive. If anyone else feels God's call, please explore it - even if it feels scary or uncertain.

What inspired you most during your ordination training?

Learning and journeying alongside others from different traditions, and having the opportunity to experience the richness and variety of the Church of England, has helped me to grow in my own faith and to grow my personal relationship with Jesus.

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

As I begin my curacy, I will be continuing in my full-time employment so holding the roles of husband, father, employee and curate will be an interesting challenge but one that I am sure God will give me wisdom to address. Curacy brings with it a whole host of opportunities, and I am looking forward to continuing to learn alongside the team and people at Euxton as well as the new opportunity to share my faith.

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?

We know that Jesus came for everyone, so enabling everyone to be able to hear this message is really important to me. I recognise that clergy sometimes have unique platforms to promote God's love and justice for all.

Children and young people are a key part of Euxton's mission and it is a delight to be a part of the thriving all-age ministry. I am committed to enabling children and young people to flourish as disciples - and the last three years as an Ordinand at Euxton have made me quite good at action songs and interactive talks!

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I am married to Alex, and I have three children - Amy (24), Olivia (20) and Matthew (10).

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy going to the gym (well I enjoy the thought of it more than the reality) and try to go a few times a week. This helps me feel less guilty about the amount of chocolate I eat!

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

I used to be a swimming teacher