

John Lisle

29

Submission Date Apr 14, 2026 4:16 PM

Name: John Lisle

Age: 29

Original Home Village, Town or City: Boston

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: St Luke's Blackburn

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry? n/a

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

Please give some insight (a few sentences) about your ordination decision? A mentor first asked me whether I'd consider ordained ministry about ten years ago, I said no way!

Those were famous last words!

As I grew deeper in my relationship with Jesus and discovered more of the reality, beauty and depth of what it means to follow him, I found myself wanting to devote all of my life to telling others about him, and helping them to follow him more closely; obediently play our part in bringing his Kingdom here on earth. I have always appreciated the deep rooted history and traditions of the Church of England as well as its unity amidst such diversity. We have a unique place in our national life to bring the hope of the Gospel to a hurting world, and I am grateful to be able to play my part in this way.

What inspired you most during your ordination training?

I really enjoyed theological study, particularly looking at what it means to lead the Church into the future. My understanding and appreciation of The Eucharist also deepened significantly during my training. During my first year of curacy, I have been inspired afresh by Jesus, and how he shines his light into the darkest places of people's lives and grows his Church. I don't think there is another sphere of society where people from so many different backgrounds and walks of life come together as one family. It is a beautiful thing.

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

As I look towards being ordained priest, I am excited to begin leading God's people to him through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. I am also excited to continue to step more fully into my particular gifts and calling as a minister of The Gospel. As a planting curate, one challenge will be to continue to trust God's provision and calling as I look ahead to church plant in the near future.

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?

I am fully behind Bishop Philip's vision for The Diocese of Blackburn. Our Gospel is a Gospel for the poor, marginalised and forgotten. With God's help, I will prayerfully strive to take Jesus' light to the forgotten corners of Lancashire, because Jesus has not forgotten those places or the people who live there. These people are beloved by God, and have a vital role to play in the Kingdom of God and in the life of his Church in this diocese. We must strive to break down the barriers of poverty and class division, and help people know that Jesus wants them because of who they are, not what they bring.

I believe that children and young people are not only the Church of the future, but also the Church of today. They must be at the centre of all we do. They teach us much about the heart of God, and bring as much to the life of the Church as anyone else.

Youth work is justice work. We must strive to break cycles of hurt, chaos, and dysfunction, and seek restoration in the lives of children, young people, and their families.

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.

We have found a strong social media presence with care and thought given to clear consistent communication extremely helpful.

Online prayer meetings are a great way to pray together, particularly on an early morning!

We also run one midweek group online, which has helped some parents work around their busy work/school timetable.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I am married to my wonderful wife, Tiria and we have a beautiful little boy Reuben, who has recently turned 2. You are both fantastic!

I am so grateful for the support of my Mum, Peter, Jess and wonderful extended family.

To all of you, thank you, your prayers and support have been and continue to be invaluable.

What do you do in your free time?

I do love a good Film or TV show, and I must admit am also a big Liverpool FC fan (let's not talk about this season!)

I love to play music, go on walks with my family, and very occasionally play a game of squash!

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

When I was 10, I won a Blue Peter competition and was on 6 consecutive episodes!