

Matt Lockwood

32

Submission Date Mar 16, 2026 10:07 PM

Name: Matt Lockwood

Age: 32

Original Home Village, Town or City: Ipswich

The Church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving: Beacon Church Blackpool

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

Please give some insight (a few sentences) about your ordination decision? My intention was not to be ordained. However, once I started exploring I realised my frustration at not be able to share communion with those I was leading (youth groups, teams and now Church), was not normal for everyone. Leading Beacon with Hannah, first as laity, and now as a Curate, only added to this desire to lead the people God has called us to, to Christ's table. I'm very excited for July.

What inspired you most during your ordination training? Less of a what, more of who. Bishop Michael Leyden (Dean of Emmanuel Theological College and now, Bishop of Penrith), Rev'd Claire Cooke and Chris Lane, have been instrumental in my formation as a person, Church Leader and now to be Priest. Each have offered incredible insight, encouragement and challenge. I am immensely grateful for their wisdom, prayer and support.

What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year? Blackpool Council's plan to knock down 300 homes in our parish with no intention of those people returning to our community. As a Parish Priest, my prayer is that I can be a voice for those on the margins of society, empowering them to speak and be heard, to see real transformation for and with the people of our neighbourhood. In all this I want to be pointing people to Jesus and the hope that he's coming again.

Please share some insights about what you personally and/or your church may be doing online We use social media as a 'shop window' for people to see who we are and what we are doing in our church family.

Tell us about your family/ loved ones:

I am married to Hannah, who leads Beacon with me. We have Ezra (3) and Amos (nearly 1).

What do you do in your free time?

Make coffee and bake sourdough.

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

I'll make you a good flat white, but you'll need to give me 20 minutes!