



Your name, age and original home village, town or city (the place where you grew up):

Answer: Paul Davies, 34, from Burscough in south west Lancashire

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: St John's Whittle-leWoods and Clayton Brook

Tell us about your family:

Answer: My wife Katie and I are both from large Lancashire families and we have three small children. They are Eleanor 4, Sophie 2 and Charlotte 1.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: I worked as a Police Constable in Preston

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: Through God's work in my heart, the encouragement of older and wiser Christians, and a good deal of prayer, I came to know that ordained ministry was God's Calling for my life. Since answering that call I have been blessed to know great joy and peace in walking this path with Jesus as my guide.

What's been the best thing about your training?:

Answer: Knowing that I am being changed by God, and formed into a more useful tool for the building of His kingdom.

What's the most important thing you have learned?:

Answer: That I am more dependent on God for even the smallest things in life that I once took for granted, and that the enormity of the task of ministering His Word is one that I will only be able to do in his strength.

Name the most influential person in your Christian life to date and, briefly, say why.

Answer: Bishop John Hooper. On the eve of his execution for refusing to ascent to false doctrines he was entreated to recant with the words: "Life is sweet, and death is bitter." To which the Bishop replied: "The life to come is more sweet, and the death to come is more bitter."

Say something about your future role and how you hope to serve:

Answer: My hope is to serve my Lord and saviour as part of a church family by preaching the good news of Jesus Christ, and encouraging and enabling the whole church family to live for His glory.

What would people not know about you that would surprise them?:

Answer: My favourite book is Jane Eyre

What would you say was your most significant personal achievement to date, either in ministry or before you embarked on your training?

Answer: To have survived three years living in London whilst at theological college.

Favourite literary quote (it can be from the Bible or elsewhere) and why?:

Answer: "You are sure, then, Helen, that there is such a place as heaven, and that our souls can get to it when we die?"

"I am sure there is a future state; I believe God is good; I can resign my immortal part to Him without any misgiving. God is my father; God is my friend: I love Him; I believe He loves me."

"And shall I see you again, Helen, when I die?"

"You will come to the same region of happiness: be received by the same mighty, universal Parent, no doubt, dear Jane."

It is the death of Helen Burns in Jane Eyre, and it is the most beautiful and comforting rendition of simple and honest faith I have ever read.

Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?:

Answer: As a child I did not know what I wanted to do with my life. All I knew was that I wanted to be rich. In his great mercy God has not fulfilled that ambition but has given me more than I could ever ask or imagine.

What will you do to support the ongoing Diocesan Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities at parish level?

Answer: My hope is to support, encourage, and enable the church family to go out and transform our community by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

How would you express your own vision for the church?:

Answer: In a society that is rapidly polarising with all the darkness to people's lives that such conflict brings I can envision the light of unity that the gospel of Christ brings will shine even more brightly as it is proclaimed by the church.

Finally, when you get the chance, how do you relax?:

Answer: I watch Rugby and NFL, and I get out for walks whenever I can.