



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

**Answer:** Michael Hutchinson, 31, from Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh.

**The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:**

**Answer:** St. Thomas', Lancaster and St John's, Ellel.

**Tell us about your family:**

**Answer:** I am married to Elise, 30, originally from Laventie, France. We have one daughter, Emma, who is 2, and Charlie who is just a few weeks old.

**Former job before entering ministry?:**

**Answer:** Maths teacher.

**Why did you decide to get ordained?:**

**Answer:** I believe that God decided I should get ordained. I became aware of this calling when I saw the great difference that simple acts could make: The Very Rev. Kenny Hall held a joint Carol Service between the Church of Ireland cathedral in Enniskillen and the Roman Catholic chapel just across the road. The congregation sang four carols in one church, walked across the road singing Away in a Manger, and four carols in the other church. As the congregation crossed the road, they were in tears, because they never thought they'd see the day come when such a thing would happen.

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

**Answer:** Studying theology. I have been able to love the Lord our God with significantly more of my heart, soul, strength and mind during training because of the way training works at St Mellitus.

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

**Answer:** That Jesus Christ is Lord.

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

**Answer:** My parents because they prayed for me in the womb, baptised me when I was 6-weeks old and taught me to love God as I grew up. I am so blessed to have been showered with the love of God from the time that I was in the womb until now.

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

**Answer:** I will go when God takes me and do what I believe I hear God telling me to do. I anticipate this will be around Christian welcome and unity, though I have been wrong before and I am showing no signs of stopping now.

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

**Answer:** As I was described recently with some surprise, "You're a real fan-boy, aren't you?"

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

**Answer:** I think the most significant event in life is being baptised, so I'd have to say that, even though it's God's achievement really.

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

**Answer:** "I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." Michael Jordan

**Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?:**

**Answer:** I have not yet read *Church Dogmatics* cover-to-cover. This shall not do.

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

**Answer:** I will equip the people of God in St Cuthbert's to make Christ known through a life of self-giving modelled after Christ, who washed the feet of his disciples.

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

**Answer:** The Church is the creature of God, created by Word and Spirit. Although appearing broken in this age, the Church realises its true shape in God, who is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. The Church comes into existence by attending to the Word and Spirit through word and sacrament, then bringing something of the vision of Revelation 7:9-10 to earth ...

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,  
who sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.”

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

**Answer:** I am a deeply curious person who loves to learn. I relax by trying to learn any kind of skill that I don't possess.