



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

**Answer:** Adam Douglas Thomas, 49, Swansea (South Wales), Montrose (East Coast of Scotland) and Hawick (Borders of Scotland). We moved around a bit!

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

**Answer:** Lytham St Cuthbert's

**Tell us about your family:**

**Answer:** I am married to Cathy a primary school headteacher at Ellel St. Johns in Lancaster, and we have two sons; Joshua 25, who studied Particle Physics and Cosmology at The University of Birmingham, and who works in London, and Jacob, 20, who is studying Environmental Geography at the University of York.

**Former job before entering ministry?:**

**Answer:** Amongst other things, I was responsible for the development of major property and commercial projects for a variety of clients, and led the development and operation of the Lake District National Park's commercial services.

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

**Answer:** I have felt God's call to the priesthood for over 34 years. As a married Roman Catholic that was an interesting place to be. The realisation that I was being called to the priesthood in the Church of England took a little time to sink in!

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

**Answer:** This last year as a Deacon at St Cuthbert's. So many people say it, because it is true, it is a privilege to be allowed into people's lives and to walk alongside them discovering Christ walking with us. I have loved the placement churches, and the people I've met in and around them. In each placement, from South Shore Blackpool, Christ Church Fulwood, and the University of Cumbria to Ribchester, Hurst Green and Mitton I have encountered the Risen Christ in the people and the ministry teams that have made me welcome. I have also been blessed by my training incumbents who have each taught me so much.

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

**Answer:** That the people I meet preach the Gospel to me every day if I am open enough to hear, see and encounter it.

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

**Answer:** Fr Peter Dolan. He was the Catholic priest at Holy Family, Ingol, Preston. He was full of the Holy Spirit, an inspirational preacher, a deeply prayerful man, full of fun and mischief, who encouraged my ministry and when I said that I felt God was calling me to be an Anglican priest, he said "At last! Why has it taken you so long?"

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

**Answer:** To continue to serve the people of Lytham to the best of my ability, to work with others to discern God's will for Lytham now, and for Cathy and I to keep our relationship with God at the centre of our life as we both get used to life in ordained ministry.

**No dodging the question now ... what would people not know about you that would surprise them?:**

**Answer:** I was named after Adam Faith.

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

**Answer:** I don't know whether being a loving husband and father is an achievement, but it's the thing I am most proud of.

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

**Answer:** "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye." The Little Prince - Antoine de Saint-Exupery. For me faith is about seeing things as God sees them, and seeing God in and through the everyday things of ordinary life.

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

**Answer:** Still to play stand off for Wales. Beginning to suspect my time may have passed?

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

**Answer:** I hope to be involved in:

- Helping Christians to explore and have an adult understanding of the scriptures – through our Bible study classes, through my preaching and through our Lent and Advent courses.
- Working with the people of St Cuthbert's to continue to identify the needs of the local community and meet them in practical ways – and with the LEP to produce an annual programme of activity.
- Encouraging those without faith, or on the edge of faith, to explore what God has been saying, and is now saying in their life – through major mission activities such as Thy Kingdom Come week.
- Developing leaders, and encouraging new ones, from within the parish community to help people encounter God – from our vision champions to Sunday school teachers.
- Working with children and young people to find new ways to help them to experience the Holy Spirit at work – through schools, our Sunday school and the development of work with young people.

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

**Answer:** A place of inclusion where all are welcome, where we collectively recognise God in worship, in fellowship, in God's constant revelation in and through the people and world around us, and where we preach the Gospel in word and action.

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

**Answer:** I love music, playing the guitar, playing golf (very occasionally these days), walking, swimming in the sea (even in the winter), skiing (only in the winter), reading theology books and the latest academic work on scripture (yes I do this for fun!), meeting friends and eating out.