

Media Questionnaire: Deacons

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

Answer: Nathaniel Gilmour, 27, Camden, London, where I went to secondary school at Highgate School and where I was on the swimming and fencing teams. I also attended St Mary's Primrose Hill where I was involved in the serving team.

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: Broughton St John Baptist

Tell us about your family:

Answer: My parents and younger sister live and work in London. As my parents are dual nationals with my father also Australian and my mother also American, I have wider family that live in America and Australia.

If applicable, your former job before entering ministry?

Answer: Before I started training, I was on a church ministry scheme in Stepney, before that I worked at a Guild Church in the City of London and did youth work at the OK Club in Kilburn.

What led you to take the steps towards ordination?

Answer: I then went to Durham University where I studied Maths and Physics and continued to fence. After I finished my studies I was unsure of what to do next but thought God might be calling me. I began exploring my vocation and spent a year working on the Two Cities intern scheme at St Lawrence Jewry in the City of London. During this time, I discerned a calling and formally started the discernment process. After this I spent two years on the Stepney Intern Scheme where I was placed at St Paul's Old Ford church. For the last 3 years I have been doing my training at Westcott House Cambridge.

What's been the best thing about your training?

Answer: The best thing about training has been the community and life of Westcott College as well as the opportunity to do formal theological study.

Can you say what is the most important thing you have learned during your training?

Answer: As well as generally learning more about Theology, the most important thing I have learnt is the importance of context to how ministry is done.

Reflecting on the difficult past year, please share a few thoughts about how the pandemic has impacted on ministry at this time (you could reflect how people have adapted to the circumstances in different ways as part of this response) ...

Answer: I think the pandemic has greatly disrupted communities by preventing them from meeting in person. This has been compensated for many by online, Zoom and other alternative to meeting in person. However, while these have been useful alternatives, they are not a perfect substitute and the lack of in-person community

and church gathering has been felt by many and in some ways may still be being recovered from.

Meanwhile, what are some of your personal reflections on ministry in the post-pandemic period that lies ahead; the challenges and the opportunities?

Answer: The pandemic has shown some of the possibilities of online worship and community. There will always be people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to engage in person with worship or small groups. Moving out of the pandemic the skills learnt and needed to maintain community can be used to continue interactions and community beyond the church building.

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

Answer: Just before I started training, I walked the Camino de Santiago from Porto to Santiago de Compostela.

What do you view as your most significant personal achievement, before or during training?

Answer: My most significant personal achievement is doing my ordination training.

How do you hope to continue to support the Diocesan Vision 2026 at a parish level?

Answer: I hope to support the Vision by using what I have learnt in college to teach and share the Gospel, by living out the teachings and love of Christ to be a witness and meet needs both in the church and in the parish and area which the parish church is called to care for.

How would you express your own vision for the church?

Answer: I would express my vision for the church as the community of welcome that tries to live out God's love in its actions towards both those who worship in churches and the wider communities in which those churches are set.

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

Answer: When I can I relax by swimming and hiking and by reading, particularly science-fiction and fantasy books.