

Media questionnaire and brief biography: **Daniel Abraham**

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

Answer: Aged 33, grew up in Shevington, Wigan before moving to Burscough in May 2013

The church and location in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: All Saints Higher Walton and Holy Trinity Hoghton

Tell us a bit about your family:

Answer: I married my wife, Georgia, in the spring lockdown of 2021 with only 15 guests present, and we now have a son called Levi who was born in April 2023. Me and Georgia met in our home church context in Burscough in 2017, and maintained a long-distance relationship while she studied away in Glasgow for her degree. We all enjoy the great outdoors, cooking meals and reading, as well as a good TV show and/or movie and at the time of writing, Levi's favourite thing is our pet cat, Kitty!

If applicable, what was your former job before entering ministry?

Answer: I was previously an electrician, but have also worked in retail too

Tell us something about your journey towards ordination?

Answer: I can relate hugely to the biblical character of Jonah, initially running away from the call that God had placed on my life and that He was trying to communicate to me through other people in my home church! I didn't feel God could use someone like me! However, after hearing a sermon in November 2017 in Glasgow that was almost written word for word for me to hear, I realised I could run no longer from God's calling, and began pushing the doors of ordination in exploration and curiosity. To my surprise, every doorway opened as I journeyed through the discernment process, and I was recommended to train for ordained ministry after an online Bishop's Appointment Panel in June 2020. I trained with Emmanuel Theological College from 2021 to 2024 on a contextual-based pathway, allowing me to study alongside exercising practical ministry on placement in Rufford and Tarleton under the supervision of Rector Canon Mark Soady.

What has been a) the most important thing you have learned and b) the most inspiring thing you have experienced during your training? (They can be different!)

Answer for a: Everyone who follows Jesus is a theologian, whether we know it or not! We all have our own unconscious theology behind our faith, but this is also something that develops for each of us over time and as we grow in our discipleship to Jesus!

Answer for b: Seeing a number of young people I have led come to a personal and living faith in Jesus Christ through attending a newly launched youth group that I launched. This fills me with hope and joy beyond measure, and I hope to inspire more young people to explore the Christian faith throughout my ministry through contextual engagement with them.

Since the pandemic many more parishes have also embraced online opportunities to engage with their local communities alongside their existing services. Please indicate ways in which you may have done this already or what plans you may have to explore ways to reach people in the 'digital space' in the future ...

Answer: In my home church context, we did 'Lent in Lockdown' and 'Advent Windows', both short video clips in which people across the church family and local community were interviewed about various facets of their life and faith, but that also shared the Gospel hope and truth each person had with those who viewed them via social media. My placement church and my home church livestream services.

I would like to launch a podcast series in the near future that interviews members of the church in an informal way, allowing them to share their own faith and have theological conversations that will hopefully inspire other people to engage with the Christian faith and with their local church.

What are some of the personal challenges and opportunities you face in your ministry in the coming year?

Answer: Moving to a new parish, a new context and working within new working patterns will always present challenges. The biggest challenge on the horizon is establishing new roots for me and my family; as well as establishing new friendships and relationships.

However, there will be opportunities for me to step more fully into the ministry and vocation God has called me into. As these opportunities and challenges present themselves, I will prayerfully seek the voice of guidance that comes through the Holy Spirit, and so do what it is God wants to do through me.

What do you view as your most significant personal achievement? (This may be connected to your ordination training of course or it could be something else from another aspect of your life.)

Answer: My most significant personal achievement so far is being a father to my baby boy, Levi, and watching him grow into the person God has created him to be.

Bishop Philip has said: *"I am committed to continuing the growth of the church in Lancashire, helping to build joyful Christian communities. I would love to see the Church of England in Lancashire being an ever-stronger voice for justice, especially for the poorest. And I believe children and young people need to be at the very heart of all that we do."*

How will you seek to support the Bishop in fulfilling these aims?

Answer: Building Christian communities that are brim full of joy will have a transformative effect on the surrounding communities, and so I will help to both disciple disciples and build Christian communities that are liberated to enjoy the life Jesus came to offer them through community focused events that build healthy and sustaining relationships that will strengthen one another on the pilgrimage of faith. As someone who is passionate about children and young people finding faith in Jesus I will endeavour to create caring and accessible environments in and out of church that value children for who they are and build a church that places them at the very core of who we should be aiming to reach with the Good News of Jesus Christ

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

Answer: I am someone who is very passionate about animals, but tropical fish are my 'speciality'!

Finally, when you get the chance, what do you do to chill out and relax?

Answer: Reading, walking, listening to music and cooking