



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

Answer: Mo Baldwin, 54, Blackpool

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: St Laurence, Chorley

Tell us about your family:

Answer: Married to Shaun who is Vicar of Broughton St John parish. We have been married for 17 years and have a labradoodle, Winnie. She brings much joy and madness to our lives. I have a Roman Catholic heritage brought up by widowed mum with a brother and sister. I spent much of my life as a RC – even being Catholic Woman of the year in 2009 – and have a fantastic network of over 150 cousins across the world from our Irish Catholic family.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: I've had a number of jobs but the last was Director of The Children's Society, managing all their work with the Church.

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I didn't. Definitely called by God because it was never my plan. Spent much time rejecting any call from God. Was in Spain in a swimming pool all on my own. I felt This voice from God again. I remember saying 'I haven't got time to be a priest'. The water on the pool then rippled and literally slapped me in the face and I heard God say 'I want you to be my priest, not do priesthood'. At that point I gave up.

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

Answer: fellowship. Discovering a range of opinions that have a place within the one church.

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

Answer: There is no one way of doing things.

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

Answer: My mum. When she was 55 she was asked to go to America to talk at a Christian conference. She went with a small bag on her shoulder and no idea what would happen.

She spent three months in USA being invited to churches across the states to speak of the healing power of God. Her absolute trust that all would be well carried her and taught me much. She had a great faith.

When as a youngster and I was bemoaning our lack of a Dad (he had died when I was 4) she sat me down and explained that whilst I had no dad I had a Father who loved me and would always be present. This gift is the most treasured thing she left me.

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

Answer: I'm going to be curate with the wonderful people of St Laurence's Chorley with Fr Neil Kelley. I hope to learn from him, soak up the experience and contribute to increasing the impact of the parish on the people of Chorley. Through worship and witness being a visible sign of the power of Jesus – from drinking coffee on the market to involving young people in alternative ways of being community together.

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

Answer: My very first 'proper' job was working in Cardinal Hume's press office as a young 18 year old. I was in his office one day and he'd left the room. The phone rang so I answered it. This voice said he was the Pope. I laughed and told my friend to stop messing around and put the phone down. Yep. It was the Pope!

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

Answer: Engaging with the Church whilst working with The Children's Society. Sitting in the House of Lords watching the house debate amendments that I'd helped to prepare for the Lords Spiritual (there are 26 CofE Bishops in the House of Lords). Playing a part in minimising the negative impact our legislative system had on the young or the disadvantaged felt huge, though a tiny drop in the ocean of inequality that the Church is constantly challenging.

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

Answer: Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, I chose you to be mine. Jeremiah 1.5 I've always known that God wanted me to commit myself to him and whilst I've not always done a good job of responding I've tried to listen.

Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?:

Answer: to fly in a hot air balloon over the Mara national park in Africa. I taught in Kenya and always regret not making the most of the opportunity I had to do this then.

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

Answer: work with the parish team, enthuse, enrich and empower others to find their gifts to build the kingdom of God.

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

Answer: a place where all are welcome, all belong, and all share a vision of inclusion and sacramental reality – that we are called to be the visible sign of the grace of God in the world.

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

Answer: I don't fell walk (so, I'll never be a bishop – not the only reason I suspect that won't happen)! But I love cooking a feast and sharing with family and friends around the table.