



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

**Answer:** Kat Gregory-Witham, 28, Chesterfield

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

**Answer:** St Matthew's with Holy Trinity, Habergham Eaves, Burnley

**Tell us about your family:**

**Answer:** I live with my partner Esther. We enjoy the new experiences found while travelling but also enjoy welcoming friends and family to share food and fellowship with us at home.

**Former job before entering ministry?:**

**Answer:** Youth Worker

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

**Answer:** I sensed that God was asking me to serve a local community, to offer Christian leadership and to gather people around God's welcoming table. As a disciple of Jesus I want to commit my life to follow where I think God is leading.

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

**Answer:** Meeting lots of different amazing people and making some great friends. It's been fantastic to have the opportunity to hear people's stories and to learn from their life and faith.

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

**Answer:** I think I've learnt to pray more. I've learnt different ways to pray and routines that help me to be in conversation with God more frequently and more easily.

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

**Answer:** I don't think I can narrow it down to a single person because I've been massively blessed by a range of remarkable and very patient people during my life so far. I think though that the youth leader who took risks to give me opportunities to be involved in church in different ways had a significant impact. They helped me to turn towards God at a time when I might otherwise have begun to turn away.

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

**Answer:** Esther and I are really excited to be moving to Burnley and we're looking forward to getting to know people in the area where we'll be living. My role will involve a lot of listening – to people and to God – and will be focussed on providing opportunities for people who are not connected to church to find out more about the Christian faith. I hope to serve in a really practical way, finding out what the needs of the community are and seeing how the church might get more involved in a positive way.

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

**Answer:** Whilst training for ordination I've also learnt to play rugby!

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

**Answer:** I've no idea what my most significant personal achievement to date is but I did a parachute jump to raise money for charity a few years ago and that certainly felt like a big achievement.

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

**Answer:** I love the first few verses of the twelfth chapter of the book of Hebrews in the New Testament – 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.' I find it an encouragement to both keep turning to Jesus and to receive support and inspiration from others in the Christian family.

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

**Answer:** I'd love to continue to explore places that I've not yet visited and meet people from all over the world.

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

**Answer:** A key thing for me is encouraging people and helping them to grow in confidence. I'm therefore hoping to support people in working out what particular spark God has given them and having a go at sharing it with others. Although I'm no longer a youth worker I've not lost my enthusiasm for working with children and young people so I'm also hoping to make that a priority.

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

**Answer:**

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

**Answer:**