



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

Answer: Chris Dingwall-Jones, 30, Leicester

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: St. Peter and St. David, Fleetwood.

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I'm married to Hannah, and we have a toddler, Agnes.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: Drama lecturer and event technician.

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I had planned to be a full-time academic, but God had other ideas.

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

Answer: Living, praying and working in a close knit and supportive community.

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

Answer: The importance of maintaining a focus on Jesus in the middle of a busy and very varied schedule!

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

Answer: St Francis of Assisi – his vision of a church fully focussed on God and fully focussed on the world at the same time has informed lots of my thinking and prayer. Special mention should also go to Bishop Philip, who, when I attended his church in Camden, encouraged me when I was considering ordination, received me into The Church of England, and celebrated at my wedding to Hannah!

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

Answer: As a deacon, a key part of my role is being a link between the worship of the church and the community. As I come to be ordained priest, this role will both change and stay the same, and I hope to enable more of this outreach work, empowering others to share in this ministry.

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

Answer: My taste in music ranges from classical to metal to grime, with some odd electronica my wife refuses to listen to thrown in for good measure.

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

Answer: Completing my PhD in drama and mental health, while juggling 3 part time jobs (including 12 hour night shifts building stages and rigging lights as an event technician).

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

Answer: “gaze upon [Jesus], consider Him, contemplate Him, as you desire to imitate Him” – from a letter from St. Clare of Assisi to St. Agnes of Prague. This sums up the Gospel for me: seeing Christ on the Cross and in the Sacraments can enable us, through His grace, to be a sign of Christ for others.

Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?:

Answer: To complete the Three Peaks Challenge (climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike, and Snowdon in 24 hours) – last time I tried we were defeated by terrible weather on Snowdon at 4am!

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

Answer: We have an exciting mission week planned for October 2020. As part of the committee organising that week, I'm helping our congregation to realise that they all have a story to tell about their walk with Jesus, and that Jesus wants them to grow in relationship with him.

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

Answer: A community centred around the Eucharist, equipping all people to serve the world and draw others into the presence of Christ.

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

Answer: Mostly by reading and listening to music. I also enjoy video games, am starting to get to grips with the curacy garden, and last year I 'accidentally' built a home altar out of a derelict chicken coop left by the previous occupants of the house.