

Please fill in an answer to each question. Keep your answers fairly brief, ideally 2/3 sentences maximum. Please write answers directly into this file where indicated.

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

Answer: Mike Clayton, 55, originally from Orrell, near Wigan (but have lived in Preston the last 25 years).

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: St Cuthbert's, Fulwood, Preston

Tell us about your family:

Answer: My wife is Anna, we have been married for 32 yrs and have three 'children' - all grown up now - Jonny, Mary and Jo.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: GP (and I will continue working as a GP once I am ordained).

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: Anyone who follows Christ is just trying to follow where God calls and do what the Lord wants them to do. From the very beginning when I started considering ordination, I have had a peace in my heart that has never left me from that day onwards - even despite other ups and downs - it is simply following where God leads.

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

Answer: In a nutshell - all the people I have met along the way. None of us are the same and we each have our own stories to tell. And I think that often God has been and is working all the time in our lives, and of those round about us, far more than we ever realise.

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

Answer: "There is a God, he loves me, my life is in his hands" - Jeff Lucas.

Can you name the most influential person in your Christian life to date and, briefly, say why?

Answer: The three elders at the church in Bristol which I attended when I first made a commitment to follow Christ whilst a student at University.

Why? For modelling a Christ-like, Spirit filled, holy life.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: As Assistant Curate at St Cuthbert's I would want to fulfil my role to the best of my ability, to have fun, to stay grounded, and show that Jesus Christ came to save us and take ordinary people like us and transform us by grace. And to keep in mind that we are and always will be a 'work in progress'.

Name one thing about you people would be surprised about?:

Answer: I gained my pilot's licence at 17 before I could drive a car.

What would you say was your most significant personal achievement to date?

Answer: To have looked after all the patients entrusted to my care as their GP over all these years and to have helped them to live their lives to the full - especially when they have been in difficult circumstances.

Favourite quote (from the Bible or elsewhere). Also state briefly why it is your favourite:

Answer: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" Hebrews 13:8

Why? In part because it meant so much to George Muller of Bristol.

Unfulfilled ambition?:

Answer: To get my Moto Guzzi V35 back on the road.

How do you personally hope to support the ongoing Diocesan Vision 2026 Healthy Churches Transforming Communities at parish level?

Answer: We witness in various ways already but we have in general not been so good in bringing people on in their faith (discipleship). I have been doing this for many years in various church group settings and my GP Trainer role with junior doctors at work has many similarities. I can see part of my personal contribution to Vision 2026 being to continue in this 'line of work'.

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

Answer: In terms of what we are about - Matthew 28:16-20 - The Great Commission.

How do you relax?:

Answer: Reading is the main one - ask my wife Anna about the clutter of second hand books at home!