

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: Adam Douglas Thomas, 49, Swansea (South Wales), Montrose (East Coast of Scotland) and Hawick (Borders of Scotland). We moved around a bit!

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: Lytham St Cuthbert's

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I am married to Cathy, a primary school headteacher at Ellel St. Johns in Lancaster, and we have two sons. They are Joshua 24, who studied Particle Physics and Cosmology at The University of Birmingham, and who works in London and Jacob, 19, who is studying Environmental Geography at the University of York.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: Amongst other things, I was responsible for the development of major property and commercial projects for a variety of clients, and led the development and operation of the Lake District National Park's commercial services.

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I have felt God's call to the priesthood for over 34 years. As a married Roman Catholic that was an interesting place to be. The realisation that I was being called to the priesthood in the Church of England took a little time to sink in!

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

Answer: The placement churches, and the people I've met in and around them. In each placement, from South Shore Blackpool, Christ Church Fulwood, and the University of Cumbria to Ribchester, Hurst Green and Mitton I have encountered the Risen Christ in the people and the ministry teams that have made me welcome.

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

Answer: To look at what God is already doing in people's lives; even if they don't recognise it yet.

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

Answer: Fr Peter Dolan. He was the Catholic priest at Holy Family, Ingol, Preston. He was full of the Holy Spirit, an inspirational preacher, a deeply prayerful man, full of fun and mischief, who encouraged my ministry and when I said that I felt God was calling me to be an Anglican priest, he said "At last! Why has it taken you so long?"

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: To serve the people of Lytham St Cuthbert's to the best of my ability, to continue to learn and for Cathy and I to keep our relationship with God at the centre of our life.

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

Answer: I used to make investigative TV documentaries.

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

Answer: I don't know whether being a loving husband and father is an achievement, but it's the thing I am most proud of.

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

Answer: "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly. What is essential is invisible to the eye." The Little Prince - Antoine de Saint-Exupery. For me faith is about seeing things as God sees them, and seeing God in and through the everyday things of ordinary life.

Unfulfilled ambition?:

Answer: To play outside half for Wales. There's time yet.

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

Answer: I hope to be involved in:

- Helping Christians to explore and have an adult understanding of the scriptures
- Working with the people of St Cuthbert's to continue to identify the needs of the local community and meet them in practical ways
- Encouraging those without faith, or on the edge of faith, to explore what God has been saying, and is now saying in their life
- Developing leaders, and encouraging new ones, from within the parish community to help people encounter God
- Working with children and young people to find new ways to help them to experience the Holy Spirit at work.

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

Answer: A place of inclusion where all are welcome, where we collectively recognise God in worship, in fellowship, in God's constant revelation in and through the people and world around us, and where we preach the Gospel - only using words when we have to.

How do you relax?:

Answer: I love music, playing the guitar, playing golf (very occasionally these days), walking, swimming in the sea (even in the winter), skiing (only in the winter), reading theology books and the latest academic work on scripture (yes, I do this for fun!), meeting friends and eating out.