



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: Christopher Anderton, 31, Preston.

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: Benefice of the Redeemer, Blackburn.

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I am married to Rachael. We've been married for three years and have a 5 month-old son called Ezra. My parents live in Preston, Rachael's are in Leicester.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: Teaching Assistant (Secondary) and Church Student Worker in Preston.

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I felt a desire for ordained ministry as the best way to serve God with my life and share the good news of the gospel with other people. Pre-training I loved seeing the difference God makes to makes people's lives as we understand His Word in the Bible.

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

Answer: In this last year, being involved in the day-to-day ministry of two parishes has been great. I've loved being able to open up the Bible to people and see God at work. It has been exciting to see the spiritual hunger of many and point them to a God who can satisfy that hunger.

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

Answer: That life is complicated, but God speaks into that with words of comfort, change and hope. I have seen that faith in Jesus is enough even in the darkest of times.

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

Answer: A number of friends who I was at university with walked alongside me, were very patient and spoke to me about Jesus.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: To see people trust Jesus and to be part of a community that glorifies Him.

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

Answer: I'm half-Italian. You probably wouldn't be able to tell by looking thanks to my Lancastrian genes.

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

Answer: Marrying my wife.

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

Answer: "Some believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check. But that is not what I have found. I have found it is small everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love." — J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

It reminds me that God works through weak, ordinary people like me.

Unfulfilled ambition?:

Answer: Rock Star

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

Answer: Get out and meet the people in the community, talk to them, serve them, speak to them about Christ. Get alongside a few church members and disciple them.

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

Answer: For it to be a church where Jesus is glorified as God's word is faithfully taught, we serve each other, and people from all backgrounds are transformed by the Holy Spirit to live lives of joyful service.

How do you relax?:

Answer: Cycling, playing computer games, gardening.