



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: Sam Cheesman, 33, Belfast

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: Anchorsholme, All Saints

Tell us about your family:

Answer: Wife Mairi and Daughter Lydia who is 6. Lydia helps us look after a dog and a cat.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: School Chaplain

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I often felt functionally limited in the role as chaplain. Without being able to administer sacraments I could take people so far but then I would have to stop and let a member of clergy take over. This was frustrating when people came to me wanting to get married, baptise their children or when I was asked to lead communion. I knew I would be ordained at some point so thought I would pursue it now.

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

Answer: Meeting people from different backgrounds, who differ theologically, however are all working together as they strive for the Kingdom of God.

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

Answer: Don't offer an opinion unless you really need to.

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

Answer: Probably my Dad. An incredible theologian, a good role model and a loving father.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: My hope for my present role as curate is that I will continue to find ways in which I can serve the people in the parish. My hope for any future role I may do is that I am as faithful a priest as I can be.

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

Answer: I coach a 1st XV rugby team. We even got to the regional final last year.

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

Answer: See previous answer!

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

Answer: Anything ever said in 'West Wing' is pretty good because it is still so relevant. If I had to pick one line it would be "let Bartlet be Bartlet". God created each of us for a purpose and gifts us appropriately. We are most alive and most effective when we work in step with God's intentions for us.

Bible full of good stuff too.

Unfulfilled ambition?:

Answer: Play for the British and Irish Lions. England would do at this stage though.

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

Answer: By being a faithful priest. If I manage that then I should be in line with all of the goals of the vision.

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

Answer: Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone in the Diocese could say that they know someone who has been changed by the transforming power of God? A church which affords love, hope and truth unlike anything else on offer forces a response from all who come across it.

How do you relax?:

Answer: Watching rugby. Preferably live but at home will do.