

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: Alice Cole, 30, Stoke-on-Trent

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: St James, Lower Darwen, St James, Over Darwen and St Paul's Hoddlesden

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I'm married to Andy, who works in environmental conservation and we are expecting our first child in November.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: Before training for ministry I was pursuing a career in Medical Statistics and had recently finished my PhD in clinical trials for malaria treatments.

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I was involved in a project at my church which involved visiting other churches. While visiting one of the churches I felt that God was preparing me for more than the project. So I asked Him what he was preparing me for and the word 'ordination' popped into my head. It wasn't a total surprise, but it was the moment that led me to start exploring what ordination would mean.

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

Answer: The diversity, the people, the opportunities.

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

Answer: There are so many important things that I have learnt, but I think some of the key things are in the areas of understanding our culture and context and understanding 'why' the church does what it does, so that we can keep the 'why' but potentially change 'how' we do things, in order to reach a new generation with the gospel.

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

Answer: Sorry there are too many – from those who have supported me like teachers and previous church leaders and friends and those I admire and learn from, from afar, like Archbishop Justin Welby.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: My hope for my future role is that God continues to equip me for whatever he calls me to and that I continue to grow in my relationship with him, in order to best serve the people around me.

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

Answer: I love watching the Australian soap Neighbours.

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

Answer: 'Give a girl the right shoes and she can conquer the world' – I just love this quote which makes me smile whenever I read or think about it and in many ways I believe the right footwear is very important to a girl!

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

Answer: In many ways, all we do at parish level should support creating healthy churches which then transform the local communities but I am particularly passionate about people coming together to read, talk about the bible and share life together. I'm also passionate about equipping and encouraging people to develop the skills that God has given them in order to grow in what God has called them to.

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

Answer: To be a place where people are welcomed and transformed by the love of Jesus.

How do you relax?:

Answer: Reading, baking, cooking, spinning classes, spending time with family and friends or going for a walk in the Lakes.