

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: Fr Aiden J A Edwards, I'm 35 years old and my home county is Norfolk. I began living on the Norfolk broads and gradually went further in land until I arrived in Norwich in 2001.

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: The parish church of St Annes on Sea (Heyhouses), St Annes

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I am the middle child of three boys. My mum is called Samantha who is a qualified Counsellor and my dad, David, is a retired senior aero engineer for Rolls Royce.

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: I previously worked as a senior high-net worth property underwriter for Norwich Union (now Aviva).

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: I didn't decide to get ordained. The Church has discerned that this is God's will for me and I have, out of love and obedience to God, decided to answer the call He placed on my life, fully understanding that I can only do this by God's grace and with His help.

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

Answer: I would say that being put into the real world that is your curacy parish and finally having the chance to implement and build on all the training in seminary is the best part of my initial ministerial training.

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

Answer: God doesn't send you anywhere without paying the fare. By this I mean, if you feel God wants you to be somewhere else or to do something else from what you're doing right now, do not fear. He will always make sure you get there and if it really is God talking, nobody will be able to stop you and get in God's way. Even if you really try and mess it all up!

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

Answer: The most influential people I find are not always Christians. The ones that influence me the most are the ones who work under much harder circumstances than me and yet always have a smile on their face, do their work to the best of their ability and never have a bad word to say. They are true examples of Christian lives.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: I do not have a 'hope' for my future role. It is not like working in a company and trying to climb a ladder and get promotion. All I could ever, ever wish for is an ear with which I can hear God and to trust that I am doing what He wants. If that's being the best parish priest that I can be, great. If it's a different role, then that's great too but His will, not mine.

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

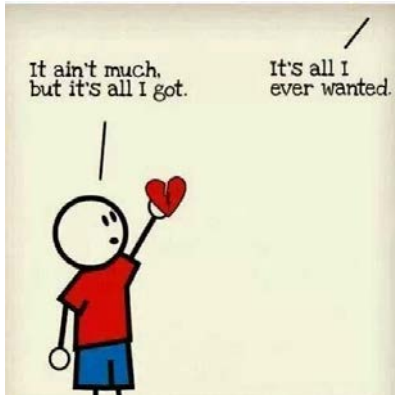
Answer: I've just bought my first car and it's a two-seater, convertible roadster. I've had it for two months and I'm already looking for the next one.

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

Answer: I would say that my most significant personal achievement to date is completing the first phase of my training with a class 2 degree and my diaconal year.

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

Answer: This gets me every time. It totally sums up God's love for us.



Unfulfilled ambition?:

Answer: To gain formal qualifications in psychology and character assessment.

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

Answer: Looking at a 'parish level' is one thing but it can really only work when we work as a deanery and draw on the success and resources of parish churches and unite as a team to share success, resource and encourage new ideas. The bishops issue papers to help us check our progress and by being honest, committed and determined, we can combine the guidance of the bishops and our successes and talents to support the 2026 Diocesan Vision.

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

Answer: I will continue to pray to Our Lady for the conversion of England. When the church goes back to its Mother, she will come back to this church. My vision for the church is that she will be more like her Mother: meek, mild, pure, obedient and as Mary gave birth to Salvation for the world, may this church deliver the Good News with all the love that Mary has for Jesus.

How do you relax?:

Answer: By being at home with my mum in Norfolk, listening to Radio 4 or being in the car with the roof down.