

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: Paul McNally. 35. Grew up in Chorley, Lancashire

The church in Blackburn Diocese where you are serving:

Answer: United Benefice of Accrington St Paul and St James

Tell us about your family:

Answer: I have been married to Lara for 13 years, and we have three children together, Emmy (10), Amos (9), Benjamin (5)

Former job before entering ministry?:

Answer: Before entering ordained ministry, I was a children and youth worker for 11 years in three churches in Lancashire and Liverpool. Before that I was a sales manager for an office supplies company in Chorley

Why did you decide to get ordained?:

Answer: Having worked in a church setting for many years, I felt God calling me and equipping me, to ordained ministry.

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

Answer: Meeting David Suchet. He came into college to run a workshop on reading the Bible in Church. His passion and love for Jesus was infectious, and his expert skills taught us how to read the Bible, in public, better.

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

Answer: People are different! And it takes time to get to know people. But it is worth it! Ministry is all about relationships, and making that effort to know people will make all the difference in gospel work.

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

Answer: There are too many to say who the most influential person is, but one who has had a big impact on my Christian life, is someone I never met. The late Bishop J. C. Ryle. His love for Jesus and the gospel is such a great example as a vicar in the church. Bishop Ryle's willingness to stand alone, for the sake of the truth of God's word, is something that has influenced my life, as I take on this public role. For me, he is a great example of what it looks like to be a vicar in the Church of England, even though he has been dead for more than a century.

What is your hope for your future role?:

Answer: My hope is to see God's kingdom grow, through local parish ministry. Seeing people's lives changed, will see communities changed; and to be part of God's work in local churches is a massive privilege.

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

Answer: I appeared in a children's TV show, back in the 90's, called Sloggers.

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

Answer: Taking 72 wickets in one season, for my local cricket club

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

Answer: 'To live is Christ, and to die is gain.' It is how I want to live my life.

Unfulfilled ambition?:

Answer: To play a cricket match at Old Trafford.

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

Answer: Helping the church family to be and feel confident in sharing the gospel with friends and neighbours. Running courses that explore the Christian faith. Teaching the truths of Scripture faithfully and in a way that is relevant to the world we live in today. I also think my children and youth work experience will play a role in this. Model the Christian life: through sharing life with those in the community.

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

Answer: Seeing people come to follow Jesus, serve Him above all others. Discipleship is so vital for the growth of the church. As people grow in their faith, as they see Jesus more fully, through the study and reading of the Bible, by the power of the Holy Spirit, they will live changed lives, with an urgency in sharing the good news with other people.

How do you relax?:

Answer: Sport, music and family.