

I was born in Cheshire, but would consider myself a Yorkshireman having lived in the Yorkshire Dales for 7 Years and in York for 22 years. I am thankful for being brought up in a Christian home where I was encouraged in my faith and to be involved in church life. Much of that involvement was through music - drums initially from around the age of 11 and then, after being filled with the Spirit at our youth group as a 14 year old, I started to lead worship from the guitar. I have had the great privilege to lead worship at The Belfrey, as well as for the youth work at Spring Harvest and Keswick Convention. As well as being involved in church music I have also been involved in non-church music groups including a Heavy Metal/Punk band in 6th Form.

I came to York St John in 1995 to train to be a teacher which was a significant time for me in many ways, not least that it was in my time as a student that I met my wife Heather. We have been married for 18 years and have been blessed to have three beautiful daughters: Grace (15); Esther (11) and Freya (5).

Though coming to York had an initial purpose, teaching training didn't work out very well, so after completing a degree in Environmental Science with Biological Studies, I decided to take a year out volunteering for The Belfrey. One year soon became 15 and a full-time job in administration and finance - qualifying as a Management Accountant in 2008.

From around 2010 I started to look for other jobs in finance - quite happy to have a normal job and then serve the church as a volunteer - however, it took several failed attempts to allow me to see that God was calling me in another direction - ordination! This was not something that I wanted to do as my father is a Methodist Minister, but God seemed insistent and so I followed him pushing on doors...which annoyingly kept swinging open. One thing led to another and having spent two years training at Cranmer College in Durham (with Hannah Madin) I was ordained to be Assistant Curate at Clifton Parish where I am now in my 4th year.

Through my time at Clifton, as well as learning lots more about what it is to be ordained, I have also started road cycling which I love to do and have found a great tool for losing weight and keeping fit. I'm also a massive Liverpool fan, and will attempt to bring Jurgen and the gang into my sermons!

Finally, when I went for my ordination selection interview in 2014, as I was reading the Bible there, 1 Peter 5.2 really spoke to me and it remains a verse which I bring will bring into ministry with me at St Paul's and St Barnabas, *"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing..."*. I am willing and also looking forward to serving God with both churches, individually and as a partnership, and together seeing His kingdom, and our faith grow.