

## Harry Bio

I can't wait to get to know you all at St Barnabas' and St Paul's. I'm looking forward to the time we'll get to spend together, in the meantime here's some background so you can all start getting to know me better. Let's start at the beginning. I was born in Manchester, which planted the seeds for a lifelong love affair with Manchester United. My family moved down to East Sheen, London when I was still very young. After just a few years we moved to Pyrford, near Woking, where we settled for the rest of my upbringing.

I attended schools in Pyrford, Addlestone and Godalming. However, it was out of the classroom and on the football pitch that my fondest memories were made. As a budding David Beckham I joined a team playing in the Epsom and Ewell league – even famously losing by an embarrassing score line on the Court Recreation Ground next to St Barnabas'. I can't say 8-year-old me thought I'd be back in this capacity... I'll try not to be too bitter about the loss.

After school I was offered a job at my local church working as a youth apprentice. My faith had been growing and gaining momentum through my late teens and it felt like an ideal opportunity. It didn't take long for me to fall in love with ministry and soon decided it was where I wanted to remain. 6 months into what was meant to be a year helping the youth minister, the youth minister left and I was given responsibility to run the youth ministry of the parish. Long story short, after learning a lot and being thrown in at the deep end it was agreed I would stay on in the capacity of full time youth minister whilst also studying for a Theology degree at Moorlands college. After 3 years, a fair few essays, countless late finishes, plenty of challenges to learn from and many happy memories I had a degree in Theology in my name and God had been incredibly gracious and generous growing a thriving youth ministry at the parish.

I felt it was time to move on however and find a new challenge. That came in the form of working alongside a previous colleague at a church revitalisation in Wimbledon. Although we weren't sure how long my time would be there as I was in the ordination process, we got stuck into the work there. Again, God was so gracious blessing the work we put in and started to establish a sustainable and growing ministry at the church. I was saddened that I was only able to spend a year there, however it was an incredibly intense year that I'll always be thankful for.

From Wimbledon to Oxford and back into theological study. It's been a real change of pace and lifestyle in Oxford, but I've been thoroughly enjoying it. A real opportunity to step back and think things through – both academically and personally. I've been so thankful for my time in Oxford for a whole host of reasons – not least for the people I've met and the friendships I've made. So now I find myself underway in my last academic year in Oxford, excitedly looking forward to the next move to Epsom. Where I hope the chance for learning and growth; enjoying new friendships; and seeing God blessings will once again be a joy for me. Hopefully my return to Epsom will be more successful than 8-year-old football playing Harry. Do come and say hi when our paths meet!