I think a person is the sum of their experience, their beliefs and their situation. Generally I believe one should be conscientious and hard-working, and I try to follow this as best I can. I was born in Edinburgh, then I achieved a degree in music from the University of York then I moved to Brantham outside Ipswich to be supported by my parents, and I have managed to get a job at BT. My goals have changed over the years. I originally wanted to find out how computers operated ever since I became a teenager. I was diverted into music when I decided to go to university. After a nervous breakdown in 2012 I just wanted to feel useful and get a job. Poverty and hardship frighten me, to the point that I shut them out of my everyday life. I do not think I am alone in doing this. I want to have work I enjoy that has a positive impact for other people.

I work for BT, completing an apprenticeship which I enjoy. I am working with a team that involves me in meaningful work and my ideas and needs are respected. Having a fulltime job has improved my work life balance. At York University I would study infrequently and waste my time, but having the one day a week course at UCS has focussed me. I feel I am in a very fortunate position at the moment.

If I stay at BT I would like to a find a big computing problem to work on, or to lead a team to build lots of small useful programs. I would also like to get to the point where I can influence the direction of software development in the company, as I feel it needs organisation and leadership. I’m also very interested in education, and there are opportunities within BT to teach the new apprentices about programming computers. This is my real interest when it comes to computer programming: how do people communicate using computers, and how do they teach each other about computer programming.

My long-term goal is to be part of an organisation that is using computers to make a positive difference to people’s lives. I have not decided whether or not this involves a long term career with BT. While they are providing me with a stable job now, I think their application of software will be to make their estate easier to organise rather than anything making the world a better place for other people.

Outside of work I go to church, but I’m unsure that God is working in the world any more. I feel grateful to God for giving me my apprenticeship, but I find it difficult to articulate this to other people because I also doubt the existence of God.

I would like to find a partner, but the idea of asking a woman on a date scares me: I am afraid to admit being attracted to someone. I am used to being in control of my decisions, and I do not like doing something I am not good at.