

from the Team Rector-designate of the Macclesfield Team ...

“Hello!” from the Stephens family
(that’s ‘Stephens’ with a ‘ph’!)

We’re excited to be moving to Macclesfield later this year, to join with you all in what God is calling His People to in serving Him.

Martin is a ‘Man of Kent’ by birth, but since meeting and marrying Catherine - a Nottingham lass - they’ve lived most of their married life in and around Staffordshire.

We have three daughters: Jessica is a physiotherapist in Leeds, Nicole is just about to finish as a student in Cambridge, whilst Michaela is in Y12 studying for A-levels in 2017.



It’s just 20 miles to Macclesfield from our current parish, the Team Ministry of Bucknall, on the eastern edge of the Potteries. There we’ve had an enjoyable time, working with a very good team of colleagues, whilst we’ve had particular responsibility for St John’s Welcome Centre, a church in the middle of the estate of Abbey Hulton.

Please pray for us and for all the people and activities we’ll be leaving behind as we leave Stoke on Trent. It’s been our home for 15 years, and there’s much that we wouldn’t want to lose, and many people who’ll be upset to see us go .. as well as, I guess, some who won’t! (*you’ll have to get used to Martin’s sense of humour*). The excitement of saying ‘yes’ to Macclesfield also meant saying ‘no’ to a lot here.

So bear with us as we move! Help us along by being excited for all God will do in and for the people of Macclesfield, and pray for your church leaders (PCCs, Leadership Teams, Team Council, churchwardens and ministers), that as *this* family makes its home in the town we may, together, all seek more of God for one another and for the areas our churches serve.

“My passion”, says Martin, “is for people to experience God’s transforming love for themselves, and, as they respond to that in the best possible way, that they know what it means to live ‘a life in all its fullness’ (John 10:10). Being loved without conditions and living with purpose are worth hungering after and sharing with others. When we start the next phase of our life in Macclesfield I trust we’ll meet others with a similar hunger.”

You’ll get to meet and find out more about us in time to come. We’re sure the next few months will fly by too quickly for us. Once we arrive we hope it won’t be too long for us to settle in, meet and find out more about you all in the Macclesfield Team.

With our love, prayers, and every blessing

Martin & Catherine x x x