

From the Superintendent

Dear friends,

It is a pleasure to be writing to you as your new Superintendent. I look forward to worshipping and working alongside you. Jane and I are grateful for the support we have received as we have moved into our new manse.

In the previous edition of *In Touch* there was a short article which gave some background information, but I would like to tell you a little more about myself here.

I grew up in Yeovil, Somerset and studied Biological & Biochemical Sciences at the University of Salford before doing a PhD about the movement of wingless aphids on winter barley at Wye College in Kent (University of London).

As a child I attended a United Reformed Church in Yeovil. However, it was not until I was 23 that I made a commitment to following Christ when I became a member of Wye Methodist Church. Shortly afterwards, with the encouragement of a Local Preacher within that church, I sought a note to preach and was accredited as a Local Preacher in 1996.

A growing sense of call to become a minister grew after I completed my PhD. However, I spent several years discerning this sense of call. I did a Time for God year with the then Ashford (Kent) Circuit and worked closely with the Superintendent. I also worked as a lecturer in Biology at Canterbury College and as a part-time youth worker with Kent County Council.

I eventually decided to put my sense of call to the test by candidating and was accepted as an ordinand. After three years of ministerial formation at Wesley House, Cambridge, I began circuit ministry in the Leeds (South) Circuit in 2001.

It was during my appointment in Leeds that I met a neighbouring Baptist minister at a mission conference; this was an unexpected gift! Jane and I were married in 2008.

A year later, Jane and I moved to Huddersfield, where I became the Superintendent of the Huddersfield (Pennine) Circuit and Jane began her role as the Regional Minister for Mission in the Yorkshire Baptist Association.

During our time in Huddersfield we offered to serve overseas, which we had explored separately before marriage but now explored together. We were accepted as Mission Partners and were sent to Germiston in South Africa. Germiston is a city just east of Johannesburg founded with the discovery of gold in 1886. I was the minister of Germiston Central Methodist Church, a multicultural congregation in which we held three services each Sunday and worshipped in four languages. Jane worked with the wider Methodist Church of Southern Africa in empowering women in ministry.

Jane and I returned to the UK in 2014 after five demanding and enriching years in Germiston. I became Superintendent of the Croydon Circuit and Jane began two part-time roles: Centenary Development Enabler for the Baptist Union of Great Britain (a post created to mark the centenary of the first woman Baptist minister) and a lecturer in Community Theology at Regent's Park College, Oxford. Jane is also studying for a professional doctorate related to research conducted about Baptist women ministers.

The other member of our family is Ginger, a Cockapoo. Like Jane and I, Ginger is settling into her new surroundings and is enjoying the proximity of our manse to Lammas Park.

It is also helpful for you to know that my usual rest day is Friday.

I am delighted to be joining you in the Ealing Trinity Circuit and look forward to all God will do amongst us in the coming years.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve", with a horizontal line underneath it.

Rev Steve's Welcome Service will be on Sunday 8th September at Ealing Green Church. Refreshments will be served from 4pm, with the service starting at 5pm. All are welcome, there is no need to RSVP.