

Chair of District: Rev Gill M Newton

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Serving the Methodist Church
in South Yorkshire,
North Nottinghamshire
and North East Derbyshire

August 2021

Dear Synod Member

"God's Planet – Our Responsibilities"
How your church can respond to the climate crisis

I am pleased to invite you to the Sheffield Methodist District Representative Synod on **Saturday 11th September 2021 from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.** This will be a hybrid Synod with some gathering at Greenhill Methodist Church, Sheffield and others joining via Zoom. Please register your intention to be present at the Synod either physically or virtually by following this link: <https://210911-synod.eventbrite.co.uk>. If you need or wish to attend via Zoom and require any help or assistance with using this method, please do be in touch with Katrin Hackett at admin@sheffieldmethodist.org.

The Synod will help us to think theologically and practically about our response to the climate crisis. We will be joined by a range of speakers who will help us in this and further information about them is provided when you register for the event. We will also share in worship, receive feedback from the Methodist Conference and hear other news from the life of the District.

Given our focus on the climate crisis, you are encouraged to share transport with others as much as possible and also bring a packed lunch which has packaging which can be recycled or no packaging at all! These are just two ways in which we can all make an immediate and positive response to the crisis.

Within this mailing you will find a nomination form for representatives to the Methodist Conference 2022. Completed forms should be returned to Revd Margaret Mwailu, the Synod Secretary by **Thursday 2nd September**. Because of the hybrid nature of the Synod, voting for the nominees will be via a voting form circulated to Synod members during the week before the Synod. These will need to be returned by **Thursday 9th September**.

Any Notices of Motion for consideration by the Synod should be forwarded both to me and the Synod Secretary by **Saturday 28th August**.

Our Synod provides us with a great opportunity to confer together as we continue to watch over one another in love and discern God's mission in which we are called to share. Having gathered virtually during the last year, this hybrid Synod will potentially offer a different experience from which I pray we will all benefit as we worship, pray, learn and reflect together.

Your presence at the Synod and the contributions you make are important, as is the news that you will then share within your Circuits and churches. If you are a lay representative and for some good reason are unable to attend this Synod, please send your apologies through your Superintendent Minister, who may be able to arrange for a substitute to come in your place. If this is the case, please pass these papers on to any appointed substitute.

Presbyters and deacons in the active work are required to attend Synod, but if for any compelling reason you may need a dispensation, please send your request directly to me at chair@sheffieldmethodist.org.

Thank you all for all that you do to serve God and his church across this District. I very much look forward to sharing this time with you on Saturday 11th September and trust that we will have a challenging but fruitful time together.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gill', with a short horizontal line underneath.

Gill Newton
District Chair

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