

Chair of District: Rev Gill M Newton

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

March 2022

Dear Member of Synod

I write to call you to the next gathering of the Representative Synod of the Sheffield District of the Methodist Church, which is being held at **Cliff College, Cliff Lane, Hope Valley S32 3XG from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. on Saturday 2nd April, 2022** (<https://cliffcollege.ac.uk/venue/directions>). Refreshments will be served from 9.00 a.m. before Synod commences and lunch will be provided. So, please book your place at the Synod by registering using the following link: <https://2022springsynod.eventbrite.co.uk>. We hope that the Synod will also be live-streamed, so please do encourage other members of your churches and circuits to share with us in that way.

If you need to bring any children with you who will need care provided for them during the period of the Synod, please advise the District Office by **Friday 25th March 2022** so that appropriate provision can be made.

The enclosed agenda outlines the business for our Synod, and you will note that we are focusing on the theme **"Everyone Has A Story."** As usual we will acknowledge all that has happened within the life of our District during the last year by receiving the reports contained within the Synod Agenda booklet. We will also hear from some of our District Officers, and we will be helped in our thinking about the theme by **Holly Adams, Connexional Evangelism and Contemporary Culture Officer** who will be our keynote speaker for the day.

During the afternoon there will be an opportunity to participate in workshops and you will be able to select those that you wish to attend when you register for the day. There will be a maximum capacity for each workshop, so please do book early in order avoid disappointment!

During the Synod there will be a collection taken for the benefit of the **Methodist Ministers Children's Relief Association** so please do come prepared to support this cause as generously as possible. In addition, there will be an opportunity to purchase books, resources and District merchandise.

Any **Notices of Motion or Memorials** for consideration by the Synod should be forwarded to me and to Rev Margaret Mwilu, Synod Secretary, at least **14 days before the Synod** meets, so that they can be included in the order papers. Any additional papers required to support our business will be available for download on the District website or circulated to you as appropriate.

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As ever, Synod provides us with a wonderful opportunity to confer together and seek the mind and will of God for the church as well as an opportunity for us to watch over one another in love. So, your presence at the Synod and the contributions you make to our conversations and decision making are important. If you are a lay representative and for some good reason are unable to attend the 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. Having this information will also enable us to ensure that the appropriate amount of seating is made available on the day.

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. Supernumeraries are, of course, very welcome at Synod, but if you are not able to come, we would appreciate **receiving your apologies** so that we do not produce more copies of papers and resources than we need.

May I take this opportunity to thank you all for all that you do to serve God and his church across this District. I very much look forward to seeing you all on Saturday 2nd April and to us having a productive day together.

Yours sincerely



Revd Gill Newton
Chair of Sheffield Methodist District