

Chair of District: Rev Gill M Newton

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August 2020

Dear Synod Member

I am pleased to invite you to the next gathering of the Representative Synod of the Sheffield Methodist District on **Saturday 12th September 2020 from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.** Because of the current Covid-19 restrictions this will be a virtual gathering and you are asked please to register your intention to be present by following this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEudOmsrTgtH9ZmfpQ16fEmDM9ubDDUNCNP>

A paper offering guidance regarding the use of Zoom will be sent separately as an attachment in a group email to all Synod Representatives. Many of you will have become very familiar with this platform over recent months but if you require any additional help or assistance in this regard, please do be in touch with Katrin Hackett at admin@sheffieldmethodist.org.

Despite not being able to gather physically, I hope that the Synod will still be an informative, encouraging and inspiring experience for us all as we hear the important messages from this year's Methodist Conference, listen to stories of how you have all continued to fulfil "Our Calling" during lockdown and engage in theological reflection on racism.

Any Notices of Motion for consideration by the Synod should be forwarded both to me and to Rev Margaret Mwaitu, Synod Secretary by **Saturday 29th August**. Any future events that you wish to be announced should also be sent to the Synod Secretary by **Saturday 5th September**.

The draft District Directory for the year 2020-21 will follow in the group mailing. Please check your contact details and inform Katrin Hackett at the District Office of any amendments or any additional diary dates. Hard copies of the Directory will be available on request from the District Office.

You will also find a nomination form for representatives to the Methodist Conference 2021. Any completed forms should be with the Synod Secretary by **Thursday 3rd September**. I appreciate that this is a little earlier than usual but because we are meeting virtually, it will be necessary for us to have time to circulate the information regarding the nominees to all of you a few days before the Synod. This will enable you to be prepared for the vote which will be taken by an on-screen poll card during the Synod.

If you wish the Synod to send any letters of greeting to anyone, please be in touch with Katrin Hackett prior to the Synod with details of the name and address of the recipient.

Our gathering together in Synod always provides us with a great 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. On this occasion it will feel like a very different experience but I hope that we will still all benefit from worshipping, praying, learning and reflecting together.

Your presence at the Synod and the contributions you make to our conversations and decision making are important, as is the news that you will then take back to your Circuits and churches. 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.

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 seeing you all on Saturday 12th September and trust that we will have a fruitful and blessed time together.

Yours sincerely



Revd Gill Newton
Chair of Sheffield Methodist District.

Autumn Representative Synod

12th September 2020 - Agenda

Zoom Meeting open from 9.00 a.m.

09.30	Welcome	Rev Gill Newton
09.33	Explanation of ways of working/Appointment of scrutineers	
09.38	Opening worship	Trinity Circuit
10.00	Welcome to new arrivals in the District	Rev Gill Newton
10.05	Opening Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dispensations and apologies• Letters of greeting• Appointment of District Officers• Ballot for Representatives to Methodist Conference 2021	Rev Margaret Mwailu
10.20	Deferred Special Resolution	Rev Gill Newton
10.25	Introduction of District Safeguarding Officer	Alison Hill
10.35	News from Methodist Conference 2020	Conference Representatives
11.00	Comfort break with MHA video	
11.15	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Black Lives Matter	Rev Inderjit Bhogal
11.45	Learning Network News	Siggy Parratt-Halbert
11.55	Mission during lockdown stories Passionate contextual worship Growing Disciples Transforming Mission Sharing Stories	Neil Harland
12.30	District website/social media platforms	Sam Roberts
12.40	New Places For New People	Neil Harland
12.50	Invitation to and information about future Synods	
12.55	Closing Prayer	