

Chair of District: Rev Gill M Newton

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

February 2022

Dear Colleagues

Presbyteral Session of Synod: Tuesday 15th March 2022

I am writing to call you to the Presbyteral Session of Synod for this Connexional year 2021/22 on **Tuesday 15th March at St. Paul's Methodist Church, Dronfield, commencing at 9.30 a.m. and ending at 1.30 p.m.** A draft agenda is enclosed for your information.

In addition to our usual business, we will have the opportunity to consider the theme **"Reality, Grief and Hope"** with our guest speaker, Deacon Eunice Attwood, Church At The Margins Officer from the Connexional Evangelism and Growth Team. I am delighted to be welcoming Eunice, who will draw on her experience from both her current role and her former role of Wellbeing Officer at The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham to help us consider how we face up to the reality of our situation whilst maintaining our focus on and finding our hope in God.

We will conclude with a service of Holy Communion which will include the Annual Inquiry, as usual. We will respond to these questions individually and I hope that this opportunity for re-affirmation of promises made, and obligations undertaken at Ordination will affirm, encourage, and inspire us all. However, I am conscious that some have concerns about making these affirmations in the light of recent Conference decisions. I am therefore offering a zoom conversation in advance of our Synod for anyone who would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further. This will be at **7pm on Wednesday 9th March**. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact Katrin Hackett at the District Office for a zoom link.

Finally, I remind you of Standing Order 741 regarding attendance at Synod:

Except as provided by SO 1007(3)(b), 806(6) and 791(5) every presbyter and every presbyteral probationer, unless, in any case, excused by dispensation of the Chair, is required to attend the Synod of which he or she is a member and to remain throughout its sessions. A dispensation for absence is to be given only on compelling grounds. The Chair shall report to the Synod all dispensations for its approval.

We hope to provide a simple zoom stream of the Synod for those who are physically unable to be present. If that would be helpful for you, please be in touch with me, to request this partial dispensation from attending at Dronfield.

I look forward to seeing you all on March 15th and trust that we will have a fruitful time together.

Every blessing

Revd Gill Newton
Chair, Sheffield Methodist District

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