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Dear Friends *August 2020*

# Representative Session of the Autumn Synod

We look forward to welcoming you to the Representative Session of the Yorkshire and North East District Synod on Saturday 12 September 2020. This will be our first ‘virtual’ synod and you will be sent a link and instructions to access the event in the days immediately preceding the 12 September. To take part in the synod you will need to have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone with an internet connection. If this will be difficult for you, please contact your superintendent who should be able to make alternative arrangements.

We will begin at 9.30am and finish by 12.30pm, with breaks during the morning.

Synod papers will be available on the District website at <https://www.yorkshirenemethodist.org/district/synods/> or can be requested to be emailed directly, or printed and posted, by contacting the District Office at [admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org](mailto:admin@yorkshirenemethodist.org) or by phoning/texting 07809 431871

In calling you to the Synod, it is also our responsibility to remind you, as required by Conference, that *“every presbyter and every deacon who is not a supernumerary, and every presbyteral and diaconal 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 of absence is to be given only on compelling grounds.”* This also applies to Recognised and Regarded ministers.

* *Supernumerary Ministers and Ministers Authorised to Serve are welcome to attend the Representative Synod, but do not need a dispensation of absence if unable to attend*
* *Lay members of Synod who are unable to attend are asked to notify the Synod Secretary via the District Office and to let their Circuit-meeting elected substitute have their Synod Papers.*

We look forward to worshipping and reflecting together in these challenging times.

With best wishes

Leslie Newton

*Chair of District*

AGENDA

*The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it*

9.30am    Welcome and introductions

9.35am   Opening worship

9.45am   Opening business,

including appointments and election of Conference Reps

10.00am Reflections from the 2020 Methodist Conference

10.15am   Discussion

10.25am   Covid Testimony 1

*10.30am Break*

10.45am   Theme 1: Flourishing as an Inclusive Church

11.15am Covid Testimony 2

11.20am   Theme 2: Flourishing as a Growing Church

*11.45am   Break*

12noon    Covid Testimony 3

12.05pm   Theme 3: Flourishing as a Greener Church

12.25pm   Closing prayers

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