



The Methodist Church

East Anglia District

Chair of District: Revd Helen Hollands

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Dear Friends,

I am delighted to invite you to the next gathering of the Representative Synod of the East Anglia District on Saturday 21st September 2024. We will be meeting at **Downham Market Methodist Church** in the **West Norfolk circuit** from 10am (refreshments will be available from 9am).

It will be a joy and privilege to meet so many of you for the first time and to begin to get to know you as we begin to share in ministry across the District. Thank you for your warm welcome. It will be a pleasure to welcome others who are with us for the first time and share in worship including Holy Communion. I hope we will encourage and affirm one another in our conferring and reflection on the work of God in our churches, circuits and communities.

At this synod our theme will be 'New Beginnings'. There will be two sessions when circuits share something about their ministry, mission and local activities. This time this will include short presentations from Norwich, Southwold, Haverhill and Thetford.

We will reflect together on our District partnership with the Harare West District in Zimbabwe and learn more about the Methodist Conference of 2024, 3Generate, youth work and MHA. We will elect our representatives to the Methodist Conference which meets in Telford next year.

We will also have a 'synod soapbox' when you are invited to share news, in a couple of minutes, of any events or activities you would like to advertise or encourage others to join.

If you are a lay representative and are unable to come to Synod, please send your apologies through your Superintendent minister, who may be able to ask a substitute to come in your place. Presbyters and Deacons in the active work who are unable to attend should seek a dispensation, please send your requests to me at chaireamethodist@gmail.com. All Supernumeraries, Authorised and Associate Ministers are of course very welcome, but are not required to attend Synod, so do not need a dispensation.

When travelling to Synod we are encouraged to use public transport or car-sharing where possible.

May we know God's blessing as we gather in September.

Helen