**The Methodist Church**

**East Anglia District**

Chair of District: Revd Helen Hollands

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Dear Friends,

I am delighted to call you to the next gathering of the Representative Synod of the East Anglia District on Saturday 20th September 2025. We will be meeting at **Thetford Methodist Church** in the **Thetford Diss and Mildenhall Circuit** from 10am (refreshments will be available from 9am).

At this synod our theme will be ‘Our Story, Our Song’, the theme of the President and Vice President of Conference for this year, 2025/6. We will share in a service of Holy Communion and offer a warm welcome to all those who have recently arrived in the East Anglia district. If that applies to you, we hope you and yours will be happy here and look forward to working with you.

During our Synod, there will be a session when circuits share something about their ministry, mission and local activities. We will confer and reflect together on our story and song, on what has been as well as our hopes and dreams for the future. We will appoint our representatives to the annual Methodist Conference, and I encourage you to put your name forward for this important role on behalf of the district. At Conference we make decisions on behalf of the Methodist Church in Great Britain and we are also inspired and encouraged by others, often coming home with a fresh perspective.

At synod there will be a ‘synod soapbox’ and 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 Representative Synod, so do not need a dispensation.

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

Blessings for this new Connexional year and all it brings. I look forward to seeing you on the 20th September.

Helen