

Plymouth & Exeter District

REPRESENTATIVE SYNOD - 9TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Hatherleigh Community Centre, Hatherleigh

Dear Friend,

I look forward to welcoming you to our next Synod, to be held in Hatherleigh at the start of a new Connexional year. We will begin our time together with an act of worship during which we will pick up on this year's presidential theme of 'Day by Day'.

At the recent Conference, we were exercised by the continuing decline that there is in our church. I know from many conversations around the District that this is an issue for us all and, if we are not too careful, we will wind ourselves into a downward spiral of despair. In recognising the issues and concern, what might we do/how can we focus ourselves so that we see both a halt and a reverse in the current trend? During Synod, we will seek to confer with one another - and together with God - about this matter and I hope you will come ready to engage in such an important opportunity.

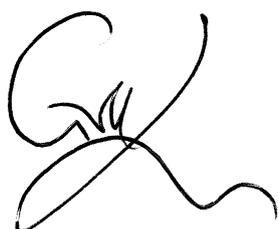
Sanya Strachan will be with us to make a presentation entitled 'Telling Stories'. Sanya is a Marketing Executive from the Connexional Team and will be sharing stories from around the Connexion and how they contribute to fundraising initiatives and the work of Methodist Publishing. Sanya will be with us throughout the day and so there will be informal opportunities to talk with her about her work.

As well as the usual business, we will hear more about the 2017 Conference that met at the end of June in Birmingham and elect our representatives for future Conferences. Please give some prayerful thought as to whether you can offer to be a member of Conference. We need a balanced team of people who properly represent our District.

If there is time, we will conclude Synod with some Good News Stories, please come ready to share and to put a focus on God who enables and blesses us so that God's Kingdom may come and God's will be done.

Please will you remember Synod in your prayers? Please come ready to listen and learn as we seek to be open to all that God has for us.

Yours in His service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. K.', written in a cursive style.