

Dear Friends,

Some of you may have heard others of us speak about SYNOD. You may know about this gathering but you may not and unless you attended the recent one (as I know a few of you did!), you certainly won't know what we discussed.

So in case you're interested, here's a bit of information first.

District Synod meets in two different formats, three times a year:

Representative Synod calls together all the ministers and the lay representatives from the Circuits, along with District Officers and some additional people with Connexional responsibility – meeting in September and April.

Presbyteral Synod meets annually in March (i.e. for the Presbyters - that's the dog-collared type of minister, as we all currently are in Wey Valley; our diaconal colleagues have their own Convocation annual gathering in May).

It's a time for the District to gather, share in worship, confer together, update ourselves on key matters, note new beginnings and endings, and make some important decisions that are relevant to the life and witness of our Churches, Circuits and United Areas. It's also a good chance to catch up with old friends from other parts of the District or make new ones and to remember that we are always part of something bigger!

Last Saturday (20th April) a good number of us descended upon Redhill Methodist Church as our venue and were well supplied with cakes, biscuits, fruit and cups of tea/coffee, with chance for conversation before the business of the day began.

The core theme was 'Justice' – Asking ourselves 'What does God's justice look like?' and 'What does it mean for us to be Justice Seeking Church in the 21st Century?'. We were able assisted in unpacking some of that by our key-note speaker, Rachael Lampard MBE (Past Vice President of Conference and currently serving as Director of Social Justice and Social Action) and this proved to be a most engaging and stimulating morning session.

The theme carried through into workshops in the afternoon in the areas of: 'Reconciliation and Justice from a Military Perspective', 'Refugees – Sustaining Hope when all seems Hopeless', 'Property for Environmental Justice' and 'Let's End Poverty'. (See links below for more details on some of these areas of Action and Church Life.)

We also attended to matters of business including: Job Vacancies in the District team (including **District Treasurer – please see me if you're interested!**), welcoming our new District Safeguarding Officer (Claire Coles), sending our four second year Probationer Ministers (Revs Anne Day & Steven Donnison, Deacons Margaret Chipandambira & Vicky Welsh) off to this summer's Conference with our love and prayers for their Reception into Full Connexion and Ordination, attending to matters of the District finances, receiving the Synod Report (37 pages covering all areas of our District's life, witness and ministry, circulated in advance for people to read), Communications Strategy, Kent Workplace Chaplaincy, permissions for churches to cease to meet and/or to sell the buildings.

There was also a short 'Soap Box' session where people could advertise events such as: The Methodist Modern Art Collection at Emmanuel Church in Eastbourne (Rev Paul Tabraham's church) and 3Generate 2024 – the most amazing event for Children & Young People, supported by Young-at-Heart leaders (See links below!).

It was a good day, a challenging day; it's inspired us and energised us; it informed and resourced us.

So, if you're interested in going, then please see me and I'd be happy to talk to you as we don't have all our representative spaces filled – there's room for one or two more!

It can be all too easy to think we're struggling on in our own little corner and there's not a lot we can do to impact on our local communities and the wider world in a positive, God-guided manner...Synod reminds us that we are part of something much bigger and that there is ALWAYS something we can do! So be inspired, let the combined resources of the District and beyond help to enable you and always be encouraged and encouragers – for GOD IS WITH US!

Yours in Christ,

Sam.

You may find some of the following links of interest: Have a good read/listen!

[Action - Methodist Church](#) (re Justice Seeking Church)

[Forces Chaplaincy - Methodist Church](#)

[Methodist South East District - Refugees](#)

[Getting your Building down to Net Zero - Methodist Church](#) (re Property & Environment)

[Home - Let's End Poverty \(letsendpoverty.co.uk\)](#)

[Emmanuel Church Eastbourne | Methodist Modern Art Collection \(emmanueleastbourne.org.uk\)](#)

[3Generate - Methodist Church](#) (Please watch the video, if you can – you can really see the impact that 3Generate has on young people and might just be inspired to encourage a younger person you know to attend, or even send a small group from your church, if you are blessed to have this age group in your church community.)

And if you're interested in the full Synod Report – please follow the link below where you can download the report in Word or as a pdf: [Methodist South East District - Representative Synod](#)



Coffee & Cake

**St. Mary's Quarry St,
Guildford GU1 3UP**

Thursday 25 April

Thursday 23 May

10.30 – 12 noon

*~ each morning features
a different charity*

Everyone welcome





KMC

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING AND SALE

TEA
COFFEE
BISCUITS
BACON BUTTIES

**BOOKS, DVDs,
JIGSAWS, CAKES,
BRIC-A-BRAC & MORE**

KNAPHILL METHODIST CHURCH HALL

4th Saturday every month (except December)

10am to Noon



Plant Sale

christian aid

11 May • 10am to 12 noon

Trinity Methodist Church
Brewery Road, Woking

A range of quality plants include annual and perennial flowers, indoor and conservatory plants, vegetables and more!

There will be volunteers to help with advice if needed.

Coffee, tea and home-made cake will also be available.
Cash and card payments are accepted.