

***Statement for members of the Northampton District Synod
and for all Circuit Superintendent Ministers for wider sharing***

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am writing to share three pieces of news with you.

The first is that the Rev'd Vivienne Smith has been moved early by the President of the Conference into her appointment in the Peterborough Circuit with the kind agreement of her previous circuit, the Leigh & Hindley Circuit, in the Bolton & Rochdale District. Please keep Viv, and her husband the Rev'd Luke Smith, in your prayers. Luke will be serving in the Lincolnshire District in the next connexional years. Viv had already been present, and voted, in the Representative Session of the Bolton & Rochdale Synod and so did not attend Synod today with my knowledge so that we were not able to welcome her together. We will do so in September.

The second is that it is my great joy and privilege to confirm that the Birmingham District Synod voted unanimously on Saturday to accept the nomination of the Rev'd Novette Headley as the next Chair of the Birmingham District beginning September 2022. We are overjoyed that Novette's considerable gifts and graces will be used in the senior leadership of the Church. Please keep Novette in your prayers as she moves for one year to be Superintendent of the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Circuit before moving to be Chair of the Birmingham District.

The final piece of news is that the Nottingham & Derby District voted unanimously on Saturday to accept the nomination of the Revd Andy Fyall as the Deputy Chair of the District from September 2022. Andy will be the senior leader in the N&D District for 80% of his appointment and the remaining 20% will be given to a circuit appointment in the N&D District. This role of senior leadership will be overseen by and exercised in partnership with a senior Chair in the region. This is a new pattern of senior leadership and Andy's gifts and skills will be well used in modelling this to other Districts and regions in the connexion. Please keep Andy and Helen and the family in your prayers.

Finally,

In the last 4 years, 4 Superintendent ministers from the Northampton District (The Rev'ds Helen Kirk, Dawn Saunders, Novette Headley and Andy Fyall) have all become senior leaders in the life of the Church. I am overjoyed that the gifts and skills of such good and impressive colleagues have been recognised in this way. Please pray that as a District we will continue to nurture and support others into the senior leadership of the Church.

My thanks to you all, for being so thoughtful and gracious in your engagement as a Synod on Saturday. It is a privilege to serve you as your Chair.

Every blessing,

