

## **SOUTHAMPTON METHODIST DISTRICT**

### **MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS DISCUSSIONS 2015-16**

At the Spring Synod, it was agreed that the District would organise three Saturday meetings in different parts of the District. These meetings will be as follows:

Saturday 31 October at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church SO53 2DJ from 10am to 1pm. Information on the location of the church can be found at <http://www.chandlersfordmethodistchurch.org.uk/contact.php>

Saturday 7 November at Bemerton Methodist Church (Salisbury) SP2 9BH from 2pm to 5pm. Directions to the church can be found at <https://bemertonmethodist.wordpress.com/location/>

Saturday 21 November at St Andrew's Methodist Church Basingstoke RG22 6ER from 2pm to 5pm. A map showing the location of the church can be found from <http://www.basingstokereadingmethodists.uk/churches/st-andrews>

Drinks will be available and there will be facilities for eating a packed lunch at the venue after the 31 October meeting and before the 7 and 21 November events.

These meetings are open to anyone interested in contributing to the conversation taking place across the Methodist Church about marriage and relationships, issues about which Methodists hold diverse range of views. The key questions on which the Marriage and Relationships Task Group is seeking views for its report to the 2016 Methodist Conference 2016 are:

- whether the Methodist understanding of Christian marriage should be revisited; and
- whether the 1992 Conference Statement A Christian Understanding of Family Life, the single Person and Marriage should be updated.

All three meetings will be facilitated by Deacon Brian Purchase and Mrs Gina Tagoe who have attended the connexional training event for facilitators on behalf of the District.

It would be helpful for the planning of the events if those intending to come could let Dudley Coates know by email ([coatesdudley@gmail.com](mailto:coatesdudley@gmail.com)) in advance; but you will be welcome even if you have not notified your intention to come.

It would also be helpful if those coming had read at least the main page on the Methodist Church website about this consultation. This can be found at <http://www.methodist.org.uk/who-we-are/views-of-the-church/human-sexuality/talking-of-marriage-and-relationships>. There are links from that page to a wide range of other relevant resource materials which those coming might also find useful.