



Amanda Robbie

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Proposer: **Hazel Bloxham**: Lay Chair of West Bromwich Deanery Synod, member of Lichfield Diocesan Synod and chair of Holy Trinity School governing body

Seconder: **John Clark**: Lay Chair of Stafford Deanery, Member of Lichfield Diocesan Synod and Bishop's Council, and member of General Synod 1970-2010.

Please feel free to contact me!

About Me

- Now living in West Bromwich, where I'm a member of [Holy Trinity Church](#), I'm originally from London. I came to faith after I took myself to our local parish church, aged 11. My best friend was in the choir and I wanted to see her on Sundays. I joined the Sunday school, was confirmed and slowly found myself gripped by the love of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Before our three children were born, I worked as a Chartered Mechanical Engineer for a firm of consulting engineers, designing pumping stations and water and wastewater treatment works for the UK and around the world.
- I'm married to Neil, a vicar, and we have three almost grown up children and a large lurcher.
- I've been a regular worshipper in (mostly Anglican) churches in Runcorn, Bristol, Cambridge, Inverness, Hyderabad (Pakistan), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Singapore, London, Essex and Wolverhampton before we moved to our current home. I have loved belonging to all sorts of churches and traditions and have a wide appreciation of some of the great diversity of church life in Anglicanism and in other denominations, both in the UK and overseas.
- I'm Secretary of West Bromwich Deanery Synod and recently elected to Lichfield Diocesan Synod. I am also on CEEC, on the council of Church Society, and Vice Chair of the recently relaunched Lichfield Diocesan Evangelical Fellowship. I was a governor at our church school for over ten years, and chaired the Premises, Health and Safety committee.
- I am active on social media and run our church Facebook and Instagram pages. I also sometimes contribute to the Premier Radio news review on Friday afternoons. You can read more about our parish [on my blog](#), where I tell stories of parish life and of God's goodness. In 2013, I had a book published by IVP: [The Ministry of a Messy House](#), which was written to encourage people to look for the grace and providence of God in the messiness of home, church and community.



The Next Synod:

Our Church: the parish at the centre

I believe that Synod should work hard to serve our parish churches, which have made such a difference to so many over the last 18 months, as we've gone door to door and online, bringing parcels and kindness to our neighbours. So I want to work towards:



- **Helping every member of the laity know God's love** deeply for themselves and understand their faith. And equipping people to communicate that love to their family, friends and neighbours, in word and deed. That means ensuring that national resources and initiatives can be used easily by people in parishes.
- **Local churches that share God's love** for each person in the parish, using practical means and technology to reach everyone we can. One idea would be to have better national and diocesan support for technology issues and risk assessments.
- **A national church that speaks clearly about God's love for the world**, that shares the salvation and forgiveness that the Lord Jesus Christ brought us, and communicates the joy that comes to all of us who put our trust in the Lord.

Our Communities: doing good to all

I want to help our church reach our parishes and nation:

- **Using our buildings for the good of all**, starting with prayer and worship. And then thinking about opening them up, not only for toddler groups, clubs and other normal church social activities, but also as alternative shared workspaces for people in our parishes who are increasingly working from home.
- **Showing and practically working out new and creative ways to address global and national issues.** Because we know and trust God, we think differently about issues like the environment, poverty, racism, class prejudice and housing. Let's be clear about that and work for the change that is needed in our churches and society.
- **Increasing our confidence** that every church member who knows God's love can do good to all, in many different ways, at home, school and work, in their parish and in our nation. I want to ensure that our General Synod reminds people of that and makes the national machinery work so that can happen in homes and churches across the nation. As laity, we are able to make a huge difference and I would love to enable that.

The Future: generosity, gentleness, safety, healing and comfort

I want us to face the future trusting God and displaying the love of Christ:

- We have difficult internal issues to address in the coming years including severe financial challenges and the LLF process. **I want us to model generosity and gentleness** as we discuss the details and ensure that everyone feels heard and understood. Change is always painful and challenging and my prayer is that through it all we will demonstrate our mutual commitment to our Lord and our love for one another, bearing faithful witness as we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad.
- **I want our churches to be safe places** where the traumatised and abused can find healing and comfort. People in our society are carrying deep wounds, and I want to ensure that every church is equipped to minister to them. This includes working at our love for one another across racial and class divides and helping churches to understand the issues. In General Synod this will include reform of the Clergy Discipline Measure which has been a cause of deep pain, both to survivors of abuse and to clergy who have been falsely accused.

I am **quick** to absorb and process information, **creative** when it comes to finding solutions to all sorts of problems and **confident** to ask probing questions and suggest ideas. I would love to represent the laity of Lichfield Diocese on General Synod

I would be very grateful for your support in the election to General Synod. Please consider giving me your first place preference.