

Neil Robbie, Vicar Holy Trinity West Bromwich



Who am I?

I am a Scot who is 6'6" tall. Ordained deacon at Lichfield Cathedral at Petertide 2005, I have served all my ordained ministry in the Diocese of Lichfield. Married to Amanda, we have three adult children and a large greyhound-saluki lurcher, called Theo.

Before being ordained, I was licensed as a Lay Reader in the Diocese of Singapore, where I served in the majority Tamil Parish of Christ Church. This experience led me to an understanding of and practice of intercultural church. I now serve Holy Trinity, West Bromwich, which has members who were born in 20 different countries. I would like to see more work done across the Church of England to make parish churches become God's home for everyone who has made this country home.

Prior to being selected to train for ministry I worked for over twelve years as a consultant structural engineer, sales engineer and project manager.

During training I discovered I have dyslexia and would like to see the church serve neurodiverse people better.

I have a track record in steering changes to policy through diocesan synod and will continue to work with others to make improvements to mission and church life for all.

Synodical and Governance Experience

I am currently serving my third term on Diocesan Synod and have grown in appreciation of good governance in the church for the sake of the parishes and as a model to the world.

My experience has included raising and steering two motions through diocesan synod.

First, I brought a motion to General Synod from our PCC, via deanery and diocesan synod, which sought to bring the Church Representation Rules (CRR) and Safeguarding into line, strengthening protection for PCCs and synods. This motion resulted in changes to the CRR, most notably the introduction of a confirmatory vote when candidates are returned unopposed.

I also brought a motion to diocesan synod from our deanery synod which sought to protect clergy from some forms of abuse by developing a vexatious and malicious complaints policy for the diocese. My work included membership of the working group which wrote the policy and revisions. Lichfield Diocesan synod is the first in the Church of England to welcome such a policy.

My other governance experience includes 16 years service as ex-officio governor at our church school where I use my engineering and project management background to oversee finances and the school estate.

What others say about me

Fr Ron Farrell SSC, West Bromwich St Francis (proposer)

I am pleased to nominate Neil for General Synod. He contributes energy and wisdom to our deanery, collaborating across theological difference with grace and insight.

Rev'd Mark Wilson West Bromwich St James and St Paul's, (second)

I am pleased to second Neil's nomination for General Synod. He has served us well on synod in the West Bromwich deanery and the diocese in matters of governance.

If you want a chat, I can be contacted on 07810 544265 or vicar@holytrinitywb.org