

Lorna Tampling

I became a Christian in my teens, something that was a surprise both to myself and my family, mainly because my family did not think of Christianity as being a reasonable lifestyle choice.

I have of recent years trained within the Church of England and am now a commissioned lay reader.

I had not ever thought of Synod as being something that the church member sitting in the pews could be part of without being put forward as a suitable candidate from the clergy, so I was surprised to read about the house of Laity elections.

I listened to and read the information available and gradually realised that someone like me was entirely suitable to apply and the thought of being involved in some small way in the decision making process of Synod interested me.

I have a chronic illness, which makes life difficult sometimes and I am classed a disabled. But anything worth doing causes everyone involved to adjust their lives to some extent.

I work in a hotel on a part time basis, just a few miles from Brampton where I live, and I am part of the family of St Cuthbert's Church at Netherdenton.

If I have a soapbox to stand on it is that I would like the Church of England to be regarded not just as a place to be seen, or a place of history, or a place of tradition but as a place of God.