

# General Synod Elections

## Jimm Rennie for the House of Laity

A representative of St. Matthew's Church in Walsall Deanery Synod, and of Walsall in Lichfield Diocesan Synod, Jimm is a keen and active member of the Church, looking to serve through engaging in the governance processes of the Church of England.

If elected Jimm will represent the interests of Lichfield Diocese and its communities within the House of Laity at General Synod.



*"If elected I would like to help shape the future of the Church of England and ensure that there is a voice, heard at the highest level of Church Governance, representing areas of great diversity in many aspects, much as my home Deanery of Walsall."*

*– Jimm Rennie*

### **Key Issues:**

- Supporting diversity in the Church community and encouraging diverse representation at all levels, from the refreshments rota to General Synod.
- Promoting missionary attitudes in day-to-day life.
- Continual review of practices, to justify the retention of tradition where it enhances praise, worship and discipleship; or to inform effective change where needed.
- Simplification of processes to aid parishes in their work and the upkeep of Church properties, including access to funding streams and applications for faculties.

### About the candidate:

Jimm is an active member of the St. Matthew's, Walsall church community, leading a pub-based prayer and bible study group; preaching, with incumbent's permission; part of the leadership team of the St. Matthew's Evening Service; engaging with the online congregation during live-streamed services; operating the sound, visuals, and live-streaming technology at services and other church events; sitting on the PCC as a Deanery Synod Lay Representative, as well as being a member of the Shaping for Mission team in Walsall; facilitating discussions at Alpha and similar courses; and offering friendly support and prayer to other church members, visitors, and the local community.

Outside of church Jimm is a freelance actor and theatre professional, with experience of script writing, set and lighting design, and has previously performed stand-up comedy dressed as a pirate. Most of Jimm's work has been in small-scale touring productions, appearing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2016. One of his favourite roles so far has been performing the voices of Harry Secombe in *The Goon Show* (2014) produced by Birmingham Comedy Festival.



The Goon Show (2014), Birmingham Comedy Festival.  
L-R Phil Hemming, Richard Usher, Jimm Rennie, Rob Colletta.

Jimm has been married to Kate for 14 years, lives in Walsall town centre, has completed one marathon & three half-marathons, and enjoys real ale.

### Looking to the future:

Jimm has begun to discern whether or not he is called into full time Christian ministry, and whether this would be in a lay or ordained capacity. As part of his exploration into ministry he has gained an interest in Distinctive Deacons.

*"I would like to help increase the understanding of the Distinctive Diaconate as, regardless of my personal exploration, I feel this is a ministry that suits the times in its dedication to being on the threshold of Church and society, demystifying tradition and welcoming all – especially those who feel unable or unworthy to attend and engage with church activities."*

Jimm is also eager to engage in politics within the Church of England at all levels in order to gain an understanding of legislation and the process involved in taking informative lessons from the past, maintaining the relevance of the Church in the present, while also bringing about effective change to face the challenges of the future.