

# Rhodri Walters

Standing for House of Laity, General Synod

**Proposer:** James Black,  
*Deanery of Richmond and Barnes*

**Seconded:** Jane Bennett-Powell,  
*Deanery of Richmond and Barnes*



I am a retired parliamentary official (my last job was as Reading Clerk and Head of Corporate Services in the House of Lords). I live in Barnes, south-west London, and worship there at St Michael & All Angels Church.

I lead a very active life, and not only in my church – I still row several times a week, ski in the winter, and look after my garden (as well as that of St Michael's Church!)

In the course of my career I was successively head of human resources, head of legislative services and head of committee services. I was for some years secretary to the Ecclesiastical Committee of members of both Houses and in that context helped steer the Synod's Measures through Parliament. Many aspects of the work of the General Synod are very familiar to me and as a former senior public servant I understand how to work with others to achieve consensus.

I have attended St Michael's Church regularly since 1990, where I sing in the choir. I have served on the PCC on numerous occasions and was Churchwarden between 2010 and 2016. I continue to sit on our Finance Committee and have responsibility for faculty applications and the archives.

St Michael's is a church in the modern catholic tradition but I would categorise myself as a broad churchman. While I sing at the Parish Mass I also assist at the earlier Book of Common Prayer communion service and lead Morning Prayer in the occasional absence of the Vicar.

I understand representative bodies like the Synod and would play a constructive and I hope effective part in its proceedings. My wish is to see a Church that is confident, well run, with a clear vision, and – ideally – managed with a light touch.

**Here is where I stand on some of the issues which I think are important for the Church today.**

**The uniqueness of the Church of England** - I am a firm believer in the Church of England and its doctrines as a reformed and catholic church; in its significance at national and local level; and of its potential as a focus for the spiritual and moral life of the nation.

**Parish life** – I consider that the parochial system is the principal strength of the church and a jewel which distinguishes it from all other denominations. Parish churches are themselves physical expressions of faith. They are holy places. Accessible to all, as befits an established church, this very openness is the key to mission. Parish churches and parish life must continue to be properly supported and resourced, supplemented by such other expressions of church as parishioners may desire.

**An inclusive Church** – I consider that the Church and its ministry should be open to everyone at all levels. I endorse the principles of inclusive church, which I believe are entirely consistent with the message of the Gospels and the Christian faith. (As a former head of HR perhaps that is hardly surprising!)

**The importance of listening** – Listening to others and seeking the common ground must lie at the heart of the work of the Synod and this is what I would wish to promote. Consulting work I have undertaken in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Venezuela has illustrated all too clearly the high price that can be paid where there is no meeting of minds.

**Thank you for reading my electoral statement. I hope it will encourage you to vote for me, ideally as your first preference.** Should you wish to contact me on any aspect of my candidature, I should be happy to hear from you:

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