

2026 Elections - President

MINISTER JULIA ALMOND



Candidate Statement

Our Union stands at a crucial moment and how we respond to it will shape the next decade. After 34 years as a proud Spiritualist and having served as Church President, District Council President, National Council member, Finance Director and Vice President, I believe the time has come to restore clarity, trust and accountable leadership.

Our Union needs strong leadership and effective governance. I bring extensive leadership experience from within the Union together with a professional career as a secondary headteacher and local government director, where integrity, sound governance and accountable leadership were not optional extras but

the foundation of everything. I will work for clear accountable governance, open reporting to Churches and members, transparent decision making at every level and an NEC that is visibly answerable to the membership it serves.

I profoundly value the contribution of every church, District Council and individual member. My intention is to agree clear priorities together for a Vision 2030 plan, shaped by your voices, not handed down to you.

As Vice President, I led the re-writing of the education courses for ministerial work and developed a new training scheme. We need to develop the role of the Ministry further. I am a

Spiritualist healer and believe Spiritualist Healing is a central to our religion, I will champion it. We need to consider the education and training of speakers and mediums to maintain our status as a quality provider. Spiritualism must be extended beyond our walls and promoted more widely, especially to young people.

I believe spirit must remain at the heart of all we do and that our leadership must reflect that in word and action alike. Together, with honesty, unity and courage we can restore confidence in our Union. I will work tirelessly for this, and I ask for your vote so that together we can achieve it.

2026 Elections - President

MINISTER JACKIE WRIGHT



Candidate Statement

Over the past four years, it has been my privilege to serve as your President, and together we have taken meaningful steps to renew and strengthen our movement. We have awarded more grants than ever before to support our churches, helping to preserve and improve the places at the heart of our communities.

We introduced a fairer and safer complaints process, strengthened compliance through additional office staff, increased membership year on year, and laid stronger foundations for the future of the SNU.

I established the President's Fund, personally donating my college earnings to help churches facing financial hardship, while providing vital support during the fuel crisis so churches could continue serving

the most vulnerable. We have made the Arthur Findlay College more inclusive through accessible accommodation, modernised outdated regulations to give churches greater freedom to serve their communities, strengthened the relationship between the NEC and our churches, and ensured that where a church building cannot be saved, its assets remain with that church to secure its future.

Through our Presidential Commissioners, we have also brought greater expertise, wider consultation and fresh thinking to the opportunities and challenges facing Spiritualism. I am proud of what we have achieved, but renewal is never complete. My vision is to continue backing our churches, serving our members, and growing Spiritualism with confidence

and compassion. I want every church to feel supported, every member to feel heard, and every community to see the value of the religion we proudly represent.

Together, we can continue to invest in our churches, encourage new generations of Spiritualists, strengthen training and governance, develop future leaders, and ensure our movement is equipped to thrive in a changing world.

Renewal is not simply about change, it is about building on our proud heritage to create a stronger future. With your support, I will continue to lead with compassion, listen with humility, and work tirelessly to build a stronger, more united, more inclusive and more vibrant Spiritualist movement for generations to come.

2026 Elections - Vice-President

DES BEAMOUNT OSNU



Candidate Statement

I am standing for Vice President because everything I do in Spiritualism is from the heart. I am not a careerist, nor am I driven by personal ambition.

I am a Spiritualist who believes deeply in service, real service, rooted in compassion, responsibility, and the quiet, consistent work that strengthens our movement from the ground up.

My commitment has always been to our churches. They are the living centres of our philosophy, and they deserve

more support, more guidance, more practical help. I want to ensure that every church, large or small, whether thriving or struggling, feels seen, valued, and equipped to grow.

I also want to help strengthen our District Councils. They carry enormous responsibility, often with limited resources.

Better training, clearer processes, and stronger safeguarding will empower our volunteers and committees to serve confidently and safely.

When we support our volunteers, we strengthen our whole movement.

Our mediums, too, need a louder voice.

I am standing because I listen.

I am standing because I believe our future depends on practical service, honest leadership, and unity across every level of our organisation.

I offer my heart, my hands, and my commitment to serve.

2026 Elections - Vice-President

PAUL JACOBS CSNU



Candidate Statement

"Service is the coin of Spirit." -Silver Birch

Standing for election as Vice President of the Spiritualists' National Union is an honour and a privilege at this time, because I believe in fair democracy and that, together, we can bring much-needed healing, harmony, and renewed inspiration.

Commitment and dedication to the work of the Union and the NEC are qualities I can bring, and if elected, I will contribute to discussions with other officers in the Union. It is important that we do not make changes for the sake of change; we need to review and consider aspects of our work so we can do better for everyone in the future.

The SNU can be a vehicle for the work of the Spirit if we work to bring balance, considered decision-making, inspiration, and guidance into greater prominence in our work, whilst also listening to each other.

I wish to be realistic when making promises and know that I can bring a vast amount of experience within our Union to the role of Vice President. I became a member of Wolverhampton Spiritualist Church in 1983, of Longton Church in 1986, and an Individual Member of the SNU at that time. I served on the committee at Longton from 1986 to 2000 and was president

of the church for 7 years. Between 1986 and 1993, I became an approved tutor and course organiser at the Arthur Findlay College. For 36 years, I have volunteered on Church, District, and National-level committees as a member or Chairperson; I have also worked hard for several years on the AFC collegiate committee.

I have always served churches, and if elected as Vice President, I will continue to work in as many churches and districts as possible, offering any support needed and donating my time freely.

2026 Elections - Vice-President

MINISTER MATTHEW SMITH



Candidate Statement

'Change Nothing – Nothing changes'

For 46 years I have proudly been a member of Southampton Bitterne serving the Spiritualists' National Union at church, district, and national levels on numerous committees. The last one being Vice President of the Ministry Development Committee.

My extensive experience within the union has equipped me with a deep understanding of its management and spiritual values. I have knowledge from experience to help guide our union forward. Spiritualism has a wealth of teachings where messages, philosophy, and healing are all vital threads in a religion, science and philosophy which is diverse and inclusive.

God sees us all as equal. If elect-

ed as Vice President, I commit to enhancing elements of our religion to the forefront in our churches and center's. Particularly philosophy and Spiritualist healing.

I support corrective change that creates growth in our membership. Valuing our members showing compassion and kindness. Listening and guiding with a collective voice we ensure that our truth enlightens and enriches lives.

My banner is "Change nothing and nothing changes" My vision is to help our existing churches and center's while encouraging growth in areas where Spiritualism is dormant. I believe that together we can build a spiritual community characterised by

compassion and a commitment to combatting ignorance.

To strengthen our ranks, I will be proposing that we investigate the possibility that church membership would automatically grant union membership. This will provide everyone with voting rights. The SNU structures are outdated restricting education, awards, and participation in national and district positions.

We need to involve everyone whose skills can help the union. Together we can make Spiritualism more inclusive and less dogmatic. Acknowledging our past and then embracing a bright future. Spiritualism and its Principles define my life, I am dedicated to our cause and humbly ask for your support.

2026 Elections - Vice-President

JAMES UNDERWOOD CSNU



Candidate Statement

Dear Members, I am deeply honoured to be nominated for the office of Vice President of the Spiritualists' National Union. Thank you to every member and church that has placed trust in me.

For over 30 years, Spiritualism has been central to my life, and I have sought to serve our movement with dedication, honesty, integrity and humility. Whether through my local churches, the East London District Council, the National Executive Council or by supporting students and churches across the Union, my focus has always been service. As an approved CSNU Healer, SH1 and SH2 tutor, trainer and assessor, I have seen the life-changing impact of SNU Spiritualist healing.

I believe healing is a cornerstone of our religion, and together with Education and the developing role of the Ministry, we must continue investing in high-quality training, education, mentoring and development. If elected, I want to support healing and education as integral part of ministry, encouraging more members to discover, develop and confidently use their gifts in service to churches and members.

During my three years as Financial Director on the National Executive Council, I have worked to ensure responsible stewardship of our resources while keeping the needs of our churches and members at the centre of every decision. Alongside this my portfolio responsibility for Spirit-

ualist Healing. I have also been proud to be a consistent voice for healing and its place within the future of the SNU.

If elected as your Vice President, I will lead with openness, respect and collaboration. I will listen, support our churches, and work alongside members to strengthen every aspect of our movement. Together we can build a future honouring our traditions while embracing new opportunities for growth, learning and service.

By encouraging healing, education and lifelong spiritual development, while supporting our churches, we can ensure that Spiritualism flourishes for generations to come. I would be honoured to receive your support and your vote.

2026 Elections - Vice-President

ANJI
WYLDE
CSNU



Candidate Statement

The “Wylde Card” - Grassroots Experience.
Uncompromising Principles.

I am not a politician; I am a lifelong Spiritualist who has served our movement as an award holder, church president, and district president. I know exactly how our Union works from the ground up, and more importantly, I understand how it should work.

I am running for Vice President because I believe the S.N.U. needs a shift in focus:

More Spiritual, Less Political:
Our focus must return to the mediumistic, religious and philosophical heart of Spiritualism, rather than

getting tangled in politics.

Genuine Transparency:

An open, honest, and accountable Union is the only way to build trust, attract new members, and secure our collective prosperity.

Inclusive and Accessible Education:

Spiritual education and training must not be an elitist club or an expensive gate keeping exercise.

We must ensure our educational pathways, courses, and awards are fully inclusive, affordable, and accessible to every single member at the grassroots level,

regardless of their background or financial means.

Education should serve the development of the individual, not just the system’s bureaucracy.

Independent Thinking:

I have no political allegiances or hidden agendas. I stand firmly by my own principles and answer only to the membership.

“If you want a straightforward, no-nonsense Vice President, ready to put the Spirit back into the Spiritualists’ National Union, then I am your Wylde Card.”