

# Election Address – General Synod



## The Revd Jon Stevens

Curate St Albans Cathedral • Executive Pastor Soul Survivor Watford • Watford Deanery

I am offering myself for election to General Synod as I am passionate to see:

- The Church of England flourish and grow as we seek to communicate the Gospel of Jesus to our communities;
  - Our churches grow and be renewed in order to impact local communities;
  - Social transformation;
  - Unity across the whole church
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### About Me

- I was ordained in 2019 and currently serve as **Curate at St Albans Cathedral** and **Executive Pastor at Soul Survivor Watford**, a Bishops Mission Order in the Diocese of St Albans where I will continue to serve.
  - Prior to ministry I spent 15 years in corporate roles and held senior management positions at Heathrow Airport and Starbucks Coffee Company.
  - I have been involved in church life and ministry for much of my life having been raised in a Christian home. Following university, I worked for the Soul Survivor youth festivals for 4 years. During that time, I discerned a calling to Christian leadership and ordination. I spent 15 years in industry, during which time I began to sense a growing call to ministry and pursued this in 2014.
  - I have been part of Soul Survivor Watford since 1996 and was active in the life and ministry of the church prior to ordination. In a lay capacity I led worship, preached, ran home groups and was a trustee and treasurer of the church for 8 years.
  - I'm married to Clare and we have three children; Toby 16, Jessica 14 and Roseanna 11.
  - My passions are spending time with my family, cooking great food and sharing this with family and friends, I love sailing and watersports.
  - I am a school governor of Bushey Heath Primary School.
  - I am a trustee of Soul Survivor Watford and Soul Survivor Ministries Trusts.
  - I am part of the Watford Deanery, and was recently elected to the St Albans Diocesan Synod.
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## Why I feel called to General Synod

- **Growth:** I am passionate about the Church of England and long to see it flourish, grow and thrive in the years to come as we seek to share the Gospel of Jesus in every community across England. The issue of decline is a challenge for the whole church and needs to be addressed across the church traditions. I want to see ministry and mission resourced at a parish level, and my hope is, that as part of General Synod we can prayerfully take the necessary steps to help bring about growth for the future. I have a passion for mission and evangelism and believe my strategic, organisational and operational giftings would benefit Synod.
- **Unity:** I am passionate about unity. I spent a number of years in business negotiation whereby ongoing relationships were key to successful partnerships and outcomes. The ability to work through challenging situations, disagreements and negotiations was vital in order to maintain relationship for the long term. Learning to disagree well, and loving one another despite the differences we may encounter is crucial I believe for unity within General Synod and the wider Church of England. The next quinquennium will address various subjects, I will seek to listen well and discern my response prayerfully. If, we are to communicate the Gospel with authenticity and integrity in the years ahead then it's vital, we are known for our unity; rather than our disagreements.
- **Mission and Evangelism:** I am passionate about evangelism and mission, and joining in with what God is doing. I have been involved in many local church mission programmes which are relationally based, as well as leading the Alpha course where we have seen many people discover faith over the past few years.
- **We are a broad church:** I have experience of broad 'churchmanship' across the traditions which I believe is crucial for the representation within General Synod. I am currently serving my curacy at St Albans Cathedral and Soul Survivor Watford. I love the diversity of these two places. Both so different in terms of expression of worship; yet the heart, passion, love for Christ and desire to communicate the gospel beyond the four walls of the church is the same.
- **Diverse skills and experience:** I believe I have developed a broad and diverse skillset to offer Synod based on a number of years in corporate positions and in ministry.
- If I am elected to General Synod then I would be available for people to contact me with questions and concerns related to Synod.
- I would be grateful if you would prayerfully consider casting your first preference vote for me.
- If you have any questions then please don't hesitate to contact me:
  - Email: [Jonathan.stevens@stalbanscathedral.org](mailto:Jonathan.stevens@stalbanscathedral.org) / [jstevens@soulsurvivorwatford.co.uk](mailto:jstevens@soulsurvivorwatford.co.uk)
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