

# Revd Madi Simpson

Assistant Curate for Ulverston and Furness  
General Synod (House of Clergy) Candidate 2021

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I live in Ulverston and enjoy walking, reading and paddle-boarding. In addition to my regular work and training as a curate, I write occasional blog pieces for [www.wonderingfair.com](http://www.wonderingfair.com), am involved with The Filling Station ([www.thefillingstation.org.uk](http://www.thefillingstation.org.uk)), the New Wine Network ([www.new-wine.org](http://www.new-wine.org)), and am a trustee of The Friends of Regent College Canada UK Trust, a graduate theological college in Vancouver ([www.regent-college.edu](http://www.regent-college.edu)). I am married to James and we have three children, aged 12, 10, and 8.

## Church Background

I grew up in a Christian family in an Urban Deprived Area in St Helens, Merseyside, my mother Roman Catholic, my father an Anglican vicar. I was baptised Roman Catholic and confirmed Anglican. After university, I worked in sales and recruitment for an American book company, then in church administration and later as Community Pastor and churchwarden at St Paul's Hammersmith. I helped to run Alpha at St Paul's and volunteered with church-based charity 'Grandma's', visiting a family affected by HIV/AIDS every fortnightly Saturday for two and a half years. While studying in Canada, we attended a community church on Vancouver's north shore. Back in the UK, I got involved in community organising with London Citizens, seeking to address London's housing crisis. Since coming to Ulverston in 2019, I have served on a church school board of governors and am a member of Furness Deanery Synod. My broad experience of church and public life helps me feel at ease in a wide range of contexts, while other experiences – of costly discipleship, unity of believers across different ages, cultures and traditions, and ministry of Word and Spirit – give me a vision for what is possible. Not surprisingly, I don't like being pigeon-holed!

## General Synod

I long to see the church reflect the joy, glory and goodness of God. This is a critical time for Christians everywhere, and for the Church of England. I have hope because Jesus is alive. We are called to bear witness to him as the world's saviour, healer, and hope, and to follow and obey him, which liberates but also constrains. I am concerned for the generations who are all but absent from our gathered worship in Cumbria and beyond. Evangelism must be at the top of the agenda. I am likewise concerned for curates and clergy; we need spiritual renewal, not just practical training and advice. We need a vision that will sustain us individually and inspire the next generation too. 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' I hope and pray that changes made through the new Synod will breathe life into the Church and into the nation. If elected, I would endeavour to listen well and to speak up for our diocese and the parts of it that feel forgotten or overlooked. I would challenge this generation of clergy to set a better example for the ones that follow.

**Please give me your 1<sup>st</sup> Preference vote in the forthcoming election.**

## Education and Theological Training

MA: Theology, Ministry and Mission, St Mellitus College London, awarded by Durham University (2019)

MA: Theological Studies, Regent College Canada (2009)

BA: Geography, University of Newcastle upon Tyne (2001)

Proposed by Revd Alan Bing, Vicar of Ulverston Parish Church. Seconded by Revd Andrew Norman, Vicar of St Michael and All Angels, Beetham and St James, and Arnside with Storth.