

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Easter Newsletter 2019



Message from the Chair, Shirley Buxton

Dear Friends & Companions,

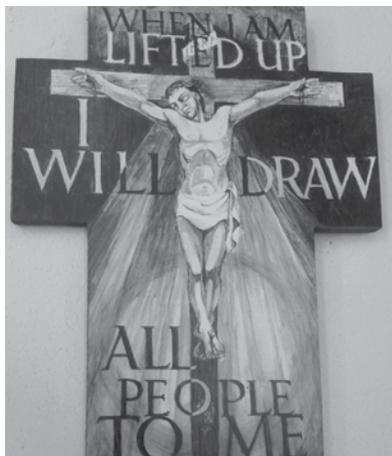
Lent is a time when it seems natural to reach to Julian's *Revelations of Divine Love*. It brings into focus God's amazing love that surrounds each of us on our own spiritual journeys. To read of Julian's 'shewings,' where she is present at Christ's crucifixion and is at one with our Lord's suffering, presents us with the stark reality of the Holy Week narrative. What a privilege it is to have Julian's words drawing us closer to God.

The Julian Book Group has been meeting on the first Friday of each month in the Julian Centre for the past year. Together we are journeying through Julian's Revelations. Starting

with the short text we received an overview of what we are now exploring in the long text. The earlier writing gives such an intimate and vivid account of Julian's shewings, whereas there is a great richness to be found in Julian's exposition as she explores the meaning of her visions in her later text. Looking at each shewing in turn, we have only reached the seventh, so if you live nearby or are visiting, do join us.

Again this year we have been privileged to welcome many pilgrims and visitors from near and far. Already we have a number of groups booked wanting to find out more about Julian and her writings, as well as people wanting to spend a time of prayer and reflection in the Julian cell and Garden. The Trustees are aware that a visit to Norwich is not possible for many people; so much effort is going into developing the Julian website.

Owing to the success of the extended Julian Festival last year, which attracted many new participants, the Trustees decided to run a three day programme for this year's Festival. Already some people are planning to



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Message from the Chair, Shirley Buxton (continued from page 1)

attend all three days. On Saturday, in addition to the Julian Lecture to be given by Fr. Bruce Batstone CJN and our AGM, there is a 'Future Forum' providing an opportunity to explore a vision to unite various elements of the Julian Site.

There was a good gathering for last year's Autumn Retreat and plans are underway for a 2019 Retreat in October. You are also welcome to attend a day conference in June, led by Fr Brendan Pelphrey.

We are pleased to welcome Fr. Richard Stanton as the Interim Priest at St John's and St. Julian's. We look forward to his involvement with us as he develops his ministry here in Norwich. Our Prayers, best wishes and thanks go to Fr. Christopher Wood. In the five years he was Rector here Fr. Christopher welcomed hundreds of visitors, inspiring them with his talks and knowledge about Julian.

On your behalf I offer a huge thank you to all my fellow Trustees who offer their time, dedication and expertise to develop, promote and steer the Friends of Julian of Norwich. We offer a special vote of thanks

to Howard Green, our secretary, for the many hours and endless energy given to the running of the Friends of Julian of Norwich. Our grateful thanks also go to Felicity Maton who has been a Julian Trustee for many years. She continues to bring a wealth of valuable experience and knowledge and unceasing support in so many areas.

The team of volunteers at the Julian Centre has been wonderful in ensuring the Julian Centre is open and maintaining a warm welcome to visitors. There is a great deal of work done behind the scenes to maintain this. Thank you for all you do. The Volunteers and Trustees are aware that there is so much more that could be achieved but it requires a lot more people to be involved. If you think you could help in any way or know someone who might enjoy becoming part of this dedicated team, please contact the Julian Centre. The help needed extends to all parts of the world if we aim to fulfil our objectives. One thing we can all do is to join together in prayer, celebrating God's Love.



*The garden outside Julian's Cell is
tented by Companion Sheila Tolley*

COMPANIONS

The Companions of Julian of Norwich is a core group within the members of the Friends of Julian who have been drawn to give expression to their devotion to God, valuing Julian and her teachings, as lived out contemplatively in daily life. The first four members were admitted in 2009.

Three new members were admitted last year so the present membership is 29: Europe and Scandinavia 17; Asia, Australia/New Zealand 5; North America 7; and there are 5 Aspirants considering joining us.

CJN's who are able to attend the Julian Festival renew their commitment each year in the Julian cell at the end of the day's proceedings and share something of their CJN experience over the past year. Most importantly, we also light a candle and pray for each of the Companions, mindful that for many it is impossible to be there physically. The bond between us feels, and is, very strong and real.



Companions keep in touch in various ways – in prayer, by email, both group and personal, by meeting together where geographically possible, by visits to St Julian's, the Julian Cell and to the Centre where there is always a warm welcome from the volunteers. Unfortunately it is no longer possible to stay at All Hallows though there are other places to stay nearby.

Recognising the diversity of our situations, each Companion has the freedom to work out and live the 'Rule of Life of a Companion' to blend with their own circumstances. Learning to live contemplatively, growing into living with God as revealed to us by Julian, continually pondering and renewing our faith commitments is an ongoing journey. Prayer for the work of the Julian Centre, the life of St Julian's Church, the many visitors to the Cell and for the Friends of Julian throughout the world and for each other is very important and much valued.

Gill Butterworth CJN



JULIAN CENTRE REPORT

With spring, comes an increase of visitors to the Julian Centre. The volunteers are delighted that stock taking is done and the main focus once more is on welcoming pilgrims. The Trustees' declutter days have given us a little more space. The morning sun and the garden flowers brighten all our spirits.

It has been another successful year with an estimated four thousand people visiting the Julian Centre in 2018. It is a privilege to hear their stories and share knowledge of Julian and discuss her writings.

Those visiting come for many reasons. Last Easter there was a large group from Australia, touring Europe in search of Medieval Mystics. They came to England just for Julian of Norwich. In contrast there are people who have lived in Norwich for much of their lives, calling in out of curiosity and discovering a very special place. Creative people visit looking for inspiration or to develop ideas sparked by Julian's writing. Discussions in the Centre often reveal visitors seeking a better understanding of Julian and her writings, alongside academics wanting to study in the library. At times the Centre buzzes with the exchange of knowledge, views and

experience between visitors. Some of the volunteers give talks to visiting groups which is always a great joy, but also we find ourselves entering into deep discussion with individuals or couples. Pilgrims come seeking out the special spirituality found in the Julian Shrine. There are nearby residents and workers who visit frequently while there are people journeying from all over the world on a once in a life time visit.

In the Julian Centre we strive to provide a place where visitors can feel a warmth and welcome. Prayer continues to be central to our day. We have a book where prayer requests are recorded. Some are brought by visitors while others arrive by letter, phone or email all included in our Julian Centre Prayers. The small prayer table reminds people that 'God is in the Centre'. A silent prayer might be offered as we use the till, answer an email or prepare a parcel. As well

as a special place to visit it is a special place to work.

We have welcomed a number of new volunteers over the past twelve months and sadly said good bye to others who have other commitments. On most days we now have two volunteers on duty for at least part of the time. Over the past few months a number of our volunteers have needed to take time off due to ill health. Our love and prayers go to them, particularly those who are currently recovering from surgery or awaiting treatment. We wish them all a full and speedy recovery.

As volunteers we are aware of the countless areas we would love to develop. We are frustrated by the limitations of time and energy. The answer is to increase the number of volunteers. As well as welcoming and administering the shop and library there are all the supporting tasks: cleaning the church and Centre; tending the Julian Garden; speaking to groups; updating the website; running the eBay shop; maintaining stock; working with schools; the list seems endless. While much of the work requires people to volunteer locally, there are many tasks that can be done by those living much further afield.

We have an excellent team but **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!** Please pray for new volunteers and maybe you or someone you know could be one of those stepping forward to help.

HEATING APPEAL FOR ST JULIAN'S CHURCH

At present, the heating system in St Julian's Church requires outside access to the top of the tower for maintenance. Following a third winter of the heating system failing, we need to address the problem. Possible solutions are being investigated, but whatever is decided, it will be costly.

Therefore the Friends of Julian are launching this appeal. Please help us with an encouraging start. Donations should be made to the 'Friends of Julian of Norwich' and marked Heating Fund. Thank You.

We would like to offer a warm welcome to all those entering the church next winter rather than a chilly blast!





THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Report May 2018 – May 2019

1. The Objects of the Friends of Julian of Norwich

The Charity's objects are to advance the education of the public in the Shrine of the Lady Julian of Norwich and to advance religion by promoting and furthering the work of the Shrine of the Lady Julian of Norwich.

2. Membership, March 2019 (Total 740)

Argentina	1	Germany	3	Philippines	1
Australia	29	Hong Kong	1	Poland	1
Brazil	2	Indonesia	1	Portugal	1
Canada	15	Ireland	5	Rep China	1
Czech Republic	1	Japan	2	South Africa	2
Denmark	4	Mexico	1	Sweden	4
Finland	1	Netherlands	2	Spain	1
France	4	New Zealand	7	UK	545
Greece	1	Norway	1	US	103

3. Trustees & Executive Committee

Rev Christopher Wood – Parish Priest in charge of St Julian's Church

Sister Pamela CAH – a member of the Community of All Hallows

Shirley Buxton (Chair)

Rev Canon Peter Doll

Peter Colback

Howard Green (Secretary)

Sally-Anne Lomas

Fred Thompson CJN

Felicity Maton (co-opted)

Canon Hilary Wakeman

In accordance with our constitution two members of the Board of Trustees retire each year, but can be willing to stand again for election. Anyone wishing to stand for election as a Trustee, please notify the Secretary by 23 April.

The Julian Centre, St Julian's Alley, Rouen Road, Norwich, NR1 1QT

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www.juliancentre.org ebay.co.uk/usr/friendsofjulianofnorwich Reg Charity 289918

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

SUNDAY 13 MAY 2018

St Julian's Church

Present: 30 Members.

1. Greeting and Apologies

Shirley Buxton, Chair of the Trustees, thanked everyone for coming and opened the AGM with a prayer and silence.

Apologies were received from Bruce Batstone CJN, Peter Colback Trustee, Rev. Peter Doll Trustee, Nina Johnson CJN, Jill Peake, Rosemary Radley, Maurice da Silva (RIP), Ulla Simmons CJN, Rev Andrew Thomson, Sheila Upjohn, Alan Watson, Muriel Wilson.

We thank Nina and Bruce for their services as trustees. In addition, they are also Companions and they are both ordained. Their inability to be at this meeting because of their home church commitments on Sundays is symptomatic of the work pressures that both of them have been under over last year.

Last Autumn Canon Michael McLean died. He was founder of the Friends of Julian of Norwich and a great friend of Julian. We gave thanks for his life and a short silence was kept in his memory.

2. Minutes of last AGM (13.05.17)

Liz Thomas proposed and Julia Lincoln seconded that the Minutes be approved. They were unanimously accepted.

3. Matters Arising

Item 6. The Julian Fund. The fund is in

excellent health, and currently worth c. £156k. It has been called on this year for the fabric of the church building, and is likely to be drawn on in the coming year for the replacement of the Church's heating system.

Claire Woodmansee, our Treasurer, reluctantly had to resign due to ill health, and we warmly welcome Jenni Hancock in her place.

Nick Fudge, a semi-retired accountant for a firm in Norwich, kindly agreed to examine our accounts this year after the previous auditor said he didn't wish to continue providing the service.

4. To Receive and Consider the Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2017:

Jenni Hancock introduced herself; she is a freelance book keeper with a background in general finance and latterly in charity fundraising.

The figures in the newsletter were pre-examination. Upon examination, two figures have been updated: one the cost of the examination itself (a very generously low sum of £150) and a more accurate reflection of the cost of the stock according to the principle of accruals, reducing the value by £5,000. The amount at bank is unaltered. There has been an increase in the number of Friends and hence the amount of Friends' subscriptions and donations.

Questions were invited within or after the meeting.

Thanks was given to Jenni for all the

work she has done. The accounts have been approved formally by Nick Fudge. The accounts proposed by Brian Thorne, and seconded by Gill Butterworth were unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. To Receive and Consider the Trustees' Report

The Report was sent out within the Easter Newsletter. In addition, Shirley mentioned that a two-day conference in October 2017 led by Father Brendan Pelphrey was a real success. Then we had the sad news of Sister Pamela's departure to the Isle of Mull. Yesterday we celebrated the history of the Community of All Hallows, in Ditchingham, and its dispersal. They are our landlords in 'All Hallows Hall', the Julian Centre. After the natural cessation of the lease (paid annually by a hazelnut) the Trustees who are now looking after the Community's interests have agreed that we can have an indefinite lease with an acceptable notice period.

The Trustees' annual report was unanimously accepted.

6. The Auditor

Howard Green proposed, Shirley Buxton seconded, and everyone agreed to re-appoint Nick Fudge to externally examine our accounts.

7. Election of Trustees

Howard Green offered himself for re-election after his three-year term of office had lapsed. Howard Green proposed, and Felicity Maton seconded Sally-Anne Lomas to be a Trustee. Bruce Batstone CJN proposed, and Gill Butterworth CJN seconded Fred Thompson, CJN to be a Trustee. Shirley Buxton proposed, and Sheila Tolley CJN seconded Canon Hilary Wakeman to be a Trustee. All were unanimously approved by the meeting. The position of the Trustees is now as follows:

NAME	STATUS	SENIORITY IN YRS
Rev Christopher Wood	Priest in Charge of St Julian's Church	Ex Officio
A member of the	Community of All Hallows	Ex Officio
Mrs Shirley Buxton	1 Elected	1
Peter Colback	2 Elected	2
Rev Peter Doll	2 Elected	3
Mr Howard Green	3 Elected	0
Mrs Sally-Anne Lomas	4 Elected	0
Felicity Maton	Co-opted	Co-opted
Fred Thomas, CJN	5 Elected	0
Canon Hilary Wakeman	6 Elected	0

8. Other Business

8.1 Library. Father Luke has been volunteering in the library and has embarked on a bibliophile's dream of tracking down around 400 articles and 90 theses. Naylor (guide dog) Paul (companion) all feel very welcomed having moved to Norwich this week. Thanks were given to Joe and Nicky Daggers for their work in cataloguing and reordering the books in the Julian Library.

8.2 Thanks. Gillian Butterworth, CJN proffered many thanks and warm appreciation for the volunteers who have kept the Julian Centre a place of such consistent welcome six days a week, and also to the Trustees who have worked on the Friends' behalf. These were unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

The meeting closed with prayer.

AGENDA: AGM of the Friends of Julian, Saturday 11 May 2019, 1.50pm

1. Apologies 2. Minutes of last AGM 3. Matters arising 4. To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018, together with the Trustees' Annual Report 5. To amend the Constitution to allow for internet banking 6. To elect members of the Board of Trustees 7. AOB.
Notification of any further topics to the Secretary by 29 April, please.

“SHOULD I NOT TELL YOU ABOUT THE GOODNESS OF GOD?”

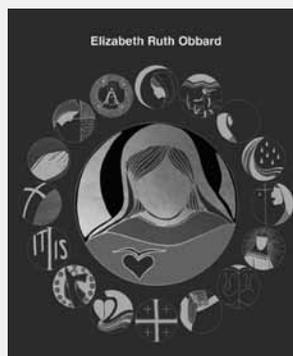
A Two-Day Retreat, Friday, 11 & Saturday 12 October 2019

Facilitated by Luke Penkett, Ob.J.N., C.J.N.

With words and music for our worship kindly prepared by Sr Elizabeth Ruth Obbard, O.Carm.

Luke Penkett, having been ordained and professed his life vows as a monk in the Celtic Orthodox church now lives as a solitary in Norwich where he works as Honorary Librarian and Archivist at the Julian Centre.

This series of talks focuses on not only what we learn from Julian herself and her writing but also how this has shaped the lives of others, those who have read or heard her teaching and, most importantly, how it is still relevant today, in a world that presents each one of us with hard and, at times, painful decisions to make.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Jenni Hancock

I am delighted to report that the Friends of Julian of Norwich continue to be financially self-sustaining, with 2018 showing a healthy surplus (figures below).

The Trustees were delighted to accept an extremely generous legacy gift during the year. This donation was given without restriction (i.e. the charity is not required to use it for a specific purpose) and the Trustees made the decision to designate it to the Vision Fund, keeping it aside from general funds.

Aside from the legacy, total income was on a par with the previous year. We continue to be blessed with the generosity of Friends and Companions, which allows us to meet our costs. Online eBay sales go from strength to strength, together with income from shop sales as we continue to welcome visitors to the Julian Centre. **The trustees have agreed to invest in upgrading the charity's website and computer systems. Work on this has already started, which accounts for most of the increase in running expenses.**

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN INCOME & EXPENDITURE		
INCOME	2018	2017
Friends' subscriptions, donations, Companions' gifts	£13,660.35	£13,030.34
Legacy gift	£63,697.80	£0.00
Conference, Courses & Festival	£1,297.92	£830.49
Bank Interest	£4.94	£2.79
Sales	£28,062.69	£29,210.97
Bookstall	£1,196.73	£1,515.56
Miscellaneous income	£378.50	£0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£108,298.93	£44,590.15
EXPENDITURE	2018	2017
Purchase of Stock	£19,832.73	£15,104.17
Credit Card, ebay & Paypal charges	£1,361.36	£839.91
Other expenses (eg promotion, postage)	£845.77	£798.02
Charitable activities (eg newsletter, festival)	£3,530.10	£2,727.38
Running Expenses (eg utilities, website, centre maintenance)	£13,557.98	£10,067.73
TOTAL EXPENSES	£39,127.94	£29,537.21
SURPLUS for the year	£69,107.99	£15,052.94

INTRODUCTION

FROM THE NEW PARISH PRIEST, RICHARD STANTON

Dear friends,

I'm delighted to have this opportunity to introduce myself as the new (interim) Priest-in-Charge of St John's Timberhill and St Julian's, Norwich. It's a real pleasure to be joining the Church Family here following just over three and a half years as Assistant Curate in Attleborough and Besthorpe, to the south of Norwich. As I arrive in the parish, I give thanks for the dedication and commitment of the Friends, the parishioners and the volunteers in the Julian Centre, who exercise a wonderful apostolate through their prayer, service, hospitality to visitors, and sharing of the persistent relevance of Julian's teaching and

example. To have the custodianship of St Julian's and Julian's cell is a great privilege and a significant responsibility, and I shall value hugely the prayers and encouragement of the Friends and Companions of Julian for the whole life and work of the parish, and particularly for the unique witness of the Julian Shrine at the heart of twenty-first century Norwich.

We will of course continue to pray for all the Friends throughout the world, and I hope you will get in touch with particular requests for prayer which we will offer regularly at Mass, at Evening Prayer each day and at weekly Shrine Prayers. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming weeks and months, especially at the Julian Festival, and I pray that through our partnership in the Gospel we will hold out to the world the gentleness, vigour and vitality of Julian's message, and through her the courteous and compassionate love of Jesus, her Lord and ours.

With my love and prayers for a blessed Holy Week and Easter,

Fr Richard Stanton



CHRIST AS MOTHER

"As truly as God is our Father, so truly God is our Mother; and that shewed He in all."
Chapter 59.

A free early-evening event facilitated by Father Brendan Pelphrey

Father Brendan is a Greek Orthodox priest living in San Antonio, Texas. He received his education at the University of Edinburgh, including a PhD in Medieval Christian Mysticism. During his ordination training he was for a time a resident at Kykkos Monastery

in Cyprus. He gave a popular two-day retreat at St Julian's in October 2017 and is author of *Lo, How I Love Thee!*, a theological analysis of the mysticism of Julian of Norwich.

THURSDAY 13 JUNE Refreshments 5.15pm. Talk with Meditations 6.15pm

THE JULIAN WEEKEND

THURSDAY 9 – SATURDAY 11 MAY 2019

Full details are available in the Julian Weekend leaflet, enclosed with printed copies of this newsletter, and also on our website: www.juliancentre.org

IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR COLLECTION OF BOOKS

St. Jerome, the patron saint of librarians, must be looking favourably upon us. We are blessed at the moment with... (what is the collective term?) ...a 'luxury' of librarians from amongst our volunteers at the Julian Centre. Joe and Nicky Daggers come in regularly for an afternoon, and Father Luke, CJN, our Honorary Librarian and Archivist, is around a good deal.

This wonderful concentration of experience and expertise is enabling us to bring our collection more up to date (making donations as we do so to the Book Aid Charitable Trust, www.book-aid.org) and make some space on our shelves by focussing our resources on the Julian Reference Library – our unique repository of

books to support Julian Studies. The Norwich Cathedral Librarian and Curator, Gudrun Warren, has been a wonderful support in developing our thinking about cataloguing and making the collection available on the web to anyone who is interested.

We look forward to welcoming more visitors and readers to Norwich in the coming year. Thank you to everyone involved!

Howard Green, Secretary to the Friends.



THE CUDDESDON COLLECTIVE CONCERT

St Julian's Church, Friday 26 April 2019 at 7:30pm

Combining sacred and secular music, 'The Cuddesdon Collective' offers an exciting evening of acoustic entertainment. With a blend of modern sacred music and secular songs, it will be an evening of joy, fun and spirituality. Not to be missed! Proceeds for the St Julian's Heating Fund.

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

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