



THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Easter Newsletter 2025

A Message from the Chair, Andrea O'Grady

Dear Friends & Companions,

It is such a pleasure to write to you as the new Chair of The Friends of Julian. Over the past few months this role has given me the opportunity to work alongside the Board of Trustees, to focus anew on our objectives; to share and spread the writings of Julian, to promote awareness of her life and work, and to inspire others with her message of God's unconditional love and compassion.

In her wise and wonderful words from Chapter 86 of *Revelations of Divine Love*, Julian says: *"For I saw very clearly that before God made us, He loved us; and that His love never diminishes and never ceases. And in this love He made us, and through this love He sustains us and in this love He will keep us for evermore."*

Here Julian reminds us of the simple truth of the eternal and unchanging nature of God's love. It is such a simple but profoundly powerful truth and in her writings Julian demonstrates time and again her ability to turn complex matters into uncomplicated ideas that are easy to grasp. And this power of simplicity is something I have returned to as I have explored the many ways The Friends of Julian can achieve its aims and objectives.

I look forward to working closely with Father Richard, Bishop Peter and The Julian Partnership – who in addition to their ministerial and pastoral duties do such wonderful work maintaining and managing the Julian Campus with the help of an indefatigable team of volunteers and Father Bruce and the Companions – whose support offers us such strength and comfort.

Currently there are several special projects that require both our attention and our financial support including substantial building works at St Julian's (including new disabled access and heating) and essential works to All Hallows Guest House. I am struck by how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful guest house on our campus, that has been transformed by Josiah English, and his team, into such a successful facility, hosting pilgrims and travellers from around



the world as well as supporting an engaging schedule of retreats and events. There are many exciting projects under discussion to help us raise awareness of Julian – from an archaeological dig to the creation of a spiritual garden alongside the planning of a landmark exhibition of Julian's *Revelations of Divine Love*.

And last but not least, alongside all of these wonderful and deserving initiatives (that require funding and resources) there is an ongoing need for funding to support the most disadvantaged families and residents of the parish.

To this end, The Friends of Julian are embarking upon a renewed fund raising program. Firstly we intend to improve our membership site with a new digital platform that will host a full program of courses, events, and workshops with engaging new content relating to Julian as a spiritual guide, historical figure, theologian and writer. Julian's shrine will be celebrated at the heart of the platform. We look forward to sharing more about this with you soon. We are also committed to working alongside The Partnership on a new program of grant applications to help us transform and support the campus. And finally we look forward to embarking upon a sponsorship drive for new patrons amongst Norwich's vibrant community.

So there is a lot to look forward to! But there is also plenty to reflect upon.

It is hard to believe that it is already a year since the last Festival where we enjoyed the pleasure of the former archbishop of Canterbury Rowan William's wonderful lecture, *"Julian on the Trinity"*, kindly hosted by Norwich Cathedral. His thoughtful and engaging talk preceded a festival packed with lively events – some in collaboration with the National Centre for Writing – including Cindy Oswin's acclaimed play *"Cell"* which was performed to a

packed audience at Dragon's Hall.

In September, St John's hosted the Friends of Julian's autumn retreat with Gail and Ian Adams – in collaboration with the Norwich Christian Meditation Centre – where people who had travelled from the four corners of the UK shared their life experiences and contemplative prayer. Later in the autumn, The Friends of Julian along with the National Centre for Writing invited author Hetta Howes to Norwich to discuss her new book, *"Poet, Mystic, Widow, Wife"*, in which she explored the lives of four medieval women including our own Julian. This packed event was wonderfully chaired by trustee, Sally Anne Lomas.

The ever increasing interest in Julian was witnessed by several national radio programs, including Radio 4's *"Free Thinking"* in November and BBC Radio 3's coverage of the BBC Singers concert, *"The Organ Reborn"* – which featured musical settings of Julian's *Revelations of Divine Love* by prominent women composers. Finally, the British Library's block-buster exhibition *"Medieval Women in Their Own Words"*, which ran from October 2024 to March 2025, opened to great acclaim and featured the manuscripts of both the long and the short texts of Julian's work.

On your behalf I would like to thank all the trustees for their generosity in giving their time and energy and great good humour to our shared work! I should like to thank Fred who steps down as a trustee after many years support to the board, and on a personal note I'm very grateful to ex Chair Shirley Buxton for her guidance and generous advice and to Secretary Howard Green and Vice Chair Lesley Mitchell for their indefatigable work, great good humour and wise counsel.

I wish everyone a very wonderful Easter. All good wishes, **Andrea**



Section of the Julian Window. © Evelyn Simak

NEWS FROM THE PRIEST DIRECTOR, FR RICHARD STANTON

Dear Friends,

Each day, Morning and Evening Prayer are offered publicly in St Julian's Church, and for these offices I have the privilege of sitting opposite the window set in the wall between the chancel and the reconstructed cell. Made by the Norwich firm G King & Son, that window will be familiar to many of you. It is placed where we believe Julian in her enclosure could have looked towards the Holy Sacrament reserved at the high altar, as it still is today, and where she could have participated in the offering of the Eucharist at that altar.

The window depicts Julian kneeling in a posture of prayer, her hands uplifted and stretched out. Above her is a scroll proclaiming her remarkable assurance: 'All shall be well.' Julian looks steadily, joyfully, in the direction of the figure of the crucified Lord, crowned with thorns and looking back at her. This scene of steady contemplation and hope encapsulates the attitude of Julian's entire life, an attitude which the celebration of Holy Week invites us to make our own: 'He loved me and gave

himself for me,' as St Paul puts it, and so 'it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.'

That window sometimes raises a question from visitors and pilgrims when they notice one distinctive element of it: Christ is shown crucified not on the rough wood of the Cross, a bitter instrument of painful death, but on a vigorously flowering lily. 'Why?' people ask.

Put crudely, the lily, symbolising purity, was often incorporated in mediaeval art depicting the Annunciation: Gabriel's visit to Mary and her acceptance of her vocation to be the Mother of God. Over time, an allusion to the forthcoming death of the Son whom she was conceiving was sometimes incorporated into such depictions, by superimposing a tiny figure of the crucified Christ onto the lily stem.

Gradually this developed into a particular mode of representing the Crucifixion, Christ crucified on the lily, symbolising the shared suffering of Mother and Son on Calvary, a suffering,

(continued overleaf)

of course, on which Julian was to ruminate so deeply and fruitfully in her *Revelations of Divine Love*: 'I saw part of the compassion of our Lady Saint Mary, for Christ and she were so united in love that the greatness of her love for him caused the intensity of her pain; in this I saw the essential character of the love, natural but maintained by grace, which all creation has for him; this natural love was shown in his dear Mother most abundantly, and indeed supremely, for just as her love for him surpassed that of anyone else, so did her suffering for him.'

At the English Reformation, many such lily crucifixes disappeared, and they can be found in mediaeval or modern forms in only a handful of churches, of which ours is one. To me, the image speaks not only of the union of Jesus and Mary in suffering ('a sword will

pierce your own soul too'), but also of the fruitfulness of the Cross, which has become a tree of life bearing fruit for the healing of the nations, Christ himself being the grain of which he spoke in St John's Gospel, falling and dying and only thus bringing forth fruit.

When the Angelus prayer is said each day, we end by asking that we 'who have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an Angel [may] by his Cross and Passion be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.' This is my prayer for all the Friends and for all pilgrims to the Julian Shrine, that by the fruitful cross they may come to Resurrection joy, and share Julian's conviction as she looks at the lily crucifix in our window: all manner of thing shall be well.

Fr Richard



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JULIAN AND THE FRIENDS...

Check out the website and keep an eye on our social media accounts to keep up to date with news and events from across the world.

www.julianofnorwich.org



@JuliansShowings



@JuliansShowings



NEWS FROM THE JULIAN SHRINE

From the resident steward, Josiah English

As Easter approaches the whole Shrine team is tremendously grateful for all the blessings we have seen here at the Shrine over the last year.

We have faced challenges, but overwhelmingly feel a sense of gratitude for all the care and support shown to us by those who live and work at the Shrine, as well as all those nearby who are involved, and the many people who come to make pilgrimage to this place; their devotion and piety are inspirational and a constant reminder of our purpose here and the value of what we are seeking to protect, preserve and promote.

Spring is always a time of reflection for me and I think back to all the changes that have taken place since my arrival over three years ago: from the early days when I was one of only two people on staff (Fr Richard and myself) all the way to our present situation which includes another full time member of staff (Jordan), extra housekeeping assistance taken on in 2025 (Mark), our wonderful gardener (Elena) who joined us last year, and more - not to mention our invaluable volunteers - new and old - who keep the Shrine visitor centre open and

hospitable through sun and rain.

Having now served well over a thousand guests at All Hallows, I like to think that the guesthouse functions as a well-oiled machine most of the time, which leaves me time to consider what comes next and how we continue to fulfil our vision for a renewed Shrine and internationally significant place of pilgrimage. We want to stay true to our roots and build on our reputation for simplicity, care of the environment, and authentic welcome, not losing ourselves in the midst of change to a corporate image. But we also want to share the life and work of Julian with other generations who have yet to discover her. Bearing all that in mind, this year we will begin the tentative launch of what we hope will become an annual programme of events, retreats, quiet days, guided tours and more across the Shrine, which will enhance opportunities for our visitors to connect with Julian and - more importantly - through Julian, God. Watch this space!

BISHOP PETER EAGLES

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the new Chair of the Julian Partnership.

Born in Surrey, I undertook my theological study and training for ordination at St Stephen's House, Oxford. Ordained deacon at St Paul's Cathedral in 1989, I served as curate in the parish of St Martin, Ruislip in the Diocese of London. I left in 1992, embarking upon a 25-year ministry as a Chaplain to the British Army.

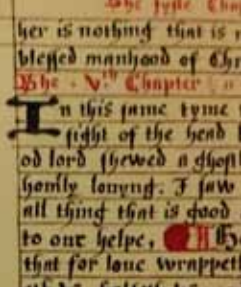
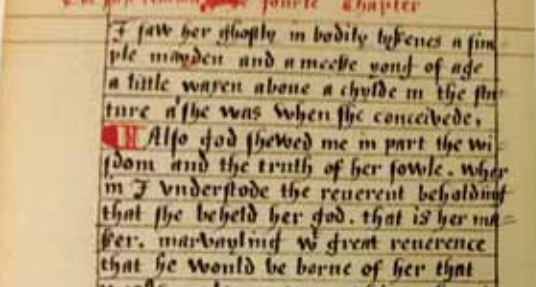
Accompanied by Gail, whom I met and married in Ruislip, and subsequently by our son, I spent 25 years ministering to soldiers and their families in garrisons across the British Isles and Germany. I also served on operational deployment in zones of conflict: Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Iraq in 2005, and Afghanistan in 2006. I left the Army as Deputy Chaplain-General and Archdeacon in 2017 upon my nomination as Bishop of Sodor and Man.

Sodor and Man is a diocese of the Church of England, consisting now of just the Isle of Man, and is indeed one of the very oldest, with its first bishop sent by St Patrick in 447. This Celtic diocese acquired a further richness of history during the Norse hegemony of the tenth century, the period of the founding of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament (and the oldest continuous parliament in the world), in which the Bishop still sits each week. I led the diocese through the pandemic of Covid-19, and spoke in Tynwald and across the Island's media on a range of ethical, moral and spiritual issues. I was (and continue to be) Ecumenical Lead Bishop on behalf of the Anglican Communion for our relationship with the Old Catholic Churches of the Union



of Utrecht. I laid down my crozier at the end of October 2023, when Gail and I moved to the pilgrimage village of Walsingham in Norfolk to lead a life of deeper study and prayer and to renovate and inhabit an ancient house. Both aspirations remain work in progress! I minister now, by the very kind permission of Bishop Graham, as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in this Diocese of Norwich.

The Julian Partnership is currently engaged in a number of projects, some arising from a Visioning Day held in October 2024. These include broadening the body of Trustees, to increase our areas of expertise and experience, as well as to make it ecumenically more representative; establishing long-term resilience with regard both to the ministry of the Shrine and its financial security; and a programme of development of the Guest House to equip it better for the increasing number of visitors. Numbers coming to the Shrine continue to grow, and this is very encouraging indeed for our aim of strengthening Julian's profile and renown. With an outstanding Hospitality Manager and an equally capable and inspiring Priest Director in place, the Partnership and Trustees look to the future with confidence and with hope, under the grace of God.



AN ESTONIAN TRANSLATION

With her texts, Julian of Norwich has left a message of love that is spreading all over the world, and the Friends of Julian of Norwich with their great commitment to her memory have contributed remarkably to keeping this message alive home and abroad.

Soon another translation of Julian's texts is going to begin. This time into Estonian, a small Finno-Ugric language in the Baltics, the North-Eastern edge of Europe. The translation will be published by Tallinn University Press, in the series of Bibliotheca Medievalis, and translated by Aet Varik – that is me, the author of this short notice.

The plan for this translation has been long in the making. I was first asked to contribute a little to the non-Latin part of an Estonian anthology of medieval literature, and translated some extracts of Julian's Vision, or the Short Text, as it is also called. Of course, even this short contribution required me to read a lot about Julian, and study both the Short Text and the Long Text in fullness.

Luckily, I was provided with an excellent publication for the original text, the version edited by Nicholas Watson and Jacqueline Jenkins, who have juxtaposed all the existing manuscripts of the Long Text in the Sloane and Paris libraries with the additional text of the original A Vision

Shewed to a Devout Woman, and by means of analysis and comparison created a synthesis of great significance. This comprises both A Vision and A Revelation.

At the moment, the translation is still in preparatory phase – I am reading Julian's texts, books about her and her contemporaries, as well as translating some extracts of the Book of Margery Kempe for the same anthology mentioned above – it has been in the making now for more than a decade, and I am very glad to have been able to contribute a little myself. Also, I consider this as a kind of warming-up before the great task.

In January last year, I had the good fortune to visit Norwich and stay at the Retreat House at St Julian's Church, and even be invited to dinner at home with Lesley Mitchell and her husband Andrew. During all my time in Norwich, I felt Julian's message to be heartwarmingly alive at the place where she lived and worked. Now I am looking forward to the very difficult but wonderful task of translating Julian's work into my native tongue, and once this is done, to sending a copy of my translation to your Reference Library. (See page 20 for a taster.)

Aet Varik Ringborg



THE JULIAN FESTIVAL 2025

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th May

We're thrilled that The Julian Festival is returning in May. With two days of talks and services as well as the Friends of Julian Annual General Meeting, we'd love to see you there.

Friday 9th May

5pm Mass at St Julian's Church

7pm Breaking the Habit: The Allure of Nuns in Storytelling, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall, Norwich

Saturday 10th May

10.30-11.30am Festival Eucharist at St Julian's Church led by Fr Richard Stanton. With Reception of new Companions (CJN) and renewal of vows.

11.30am-12pm Refreshments at Julian Centre

12pm-1.15pm 44th Annual Julian Lecture: Julian of Norwich – Having it All?

Given by Dr Hetta Howes St Julian's Church

1.15pm-14.15pm Lunch – please bring your own, or there are several cafes nearby. The Julian Centre will be open for hot drinks.

2.15pm-3.15pm Friends of Julian AGM at St Julian's Church

3.30pm Closing Prayer by Fr Richard Stanton 15.30

IMAGES: Hazel nut image by Lesley Mitchell, RIGHT: Dr Hetta Howes.

THE JULIAN FESTIVAL PANEL DISCUSSION

BREAKING THE HABIT: THE ALLURE OF NUNS IN STORYTELLING

We are also delighted that Hetta will be joining us for the panel discussion *Breaking the Habit: The Allure of Nuns in Storytelling* as part of the Julian Festival in partnership with the National Centre for Writing.

From Hollywood films like *Conclave* and *Immaculate* to Claire Keegan's novel *Small Things Like These*, our culture is captivated by nuns and the cloistered life. What draws us to the confinement and devotion of this religious figure?

Join our panellists — non-fiction writer Hetta Howes (*Poet, Mystic, Widow, Wife*), novelist Jess Kidd (*Murder at Gull's Nest*), and memoirist and former nun Catherine Coldstream (*Cloistered*) — as they explore the inner and creative freedom embodied by nuns and why they continue to inspire writers, filmmakers, and artists alike. Their discussion will be chaired by Sally-Anne Lomas, trustee of the Friends of Julian and director of *The Search for the lost Manuscript: Julian of Norwich* BBC4

FRIDAY 9th MAY, 7PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £10

Visit the National Centre for Writing's website to book:

www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/events/breaking-the-habit-the-allure-of-nuns-in-storytelling/

THE JULIAN FESTIVAL LECTURE

JULIAN OF NORWICH – HAVING IT ALL?

The Julian Lecture 2025 will be given by the lively and entertaining Dr Hetta Howes who is a Lecturer in Medieval and Early Modern Literature at City, University of London, and a BBC/AHRC New Generation Thinker.

Hetta regularly contributes to broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and 4, as well as writing for publications such as The Times Literary Supplement and BBC History Extra. Her new book *Poet, Mystic, Widow, Wife* is written for a popular audience and features both Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe.

Hetta's lecture is entitled *Julian of Norwich: Having it All?* There were plenty of medieval women who were trying to 'have it all' - a career, a family, friends and passions - just as there are today. Julian of Norwich was not one of those women. When she decided to become an anchoress, she cut herself off almost entirely from the outside world and dedicated her entire life to one goal: devotion to God. By sticking to one path and rejecting the concept of having it all, Julian was able to create something beautiful - her life's work, *The Revelations of Divine Love*.

This lecture will consider the concept of 'having it all' in terms of Julian's vocation - how did she manage to find creative freedom and personal liberation in narrowing her focus dramatically?

SATURDAY 10th MAY, 12noon, ST JULIAN'S CHURCH



Image from the British Library Collection



REVIEW: MEDIEVAL WOMEN IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The British Library's blockbuster exhibition, *Medieval Women In Their Own Words*, opened to great acclaim on 25 October 2024 and ran until 2 March 2025.

It provided a wonderful opportunity to see the manuscripts of both the long and the short texts of Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love*, beautifully displayed next to each other, and close to spiritual texts by other medieval women, including works by Margery Kempe, Hildegard von Bingen, Brigitte of Sweden and Christine de Pizan.

There was also an order for enclosing an anchoress (British Library, Lansdowne MS 451) and the often-quoted *Ancrene Wisse* or *Anchoresses' Guide* (British Library, Cotton MS Cleopatra C VI), which is the source of claims that Julian must have had a cat. The exhibition curators displayed the manuscript open at the relevant page, which instructs the three anchoress sisters to whom it was written in the 1210s, "Ne schule ye habben nan beast bute cat ane" ("You should not have any animal except one cat")

Julian's Short Text (British Library, Add MS 37790) was displayed open at the passage in which she described being shown all of creation as a small ball the size of a hazelnut. The Long Text

(British Library, Stowe MS 42) was open at the start of the first chapter, where the neat 17th century hand of its copyist seems quite startling after looking at example after example of manuscripts from the medieval period (1100-1500). It's a stark reminder that the Long Text only survived thanks to nuns exiled from England to Paris and Cambrai.

There was also an interactive exhibit that contrasted Julian's vision of the devil in her sixteenth showing with Margery Kempe's description of the sweet smell that surrounded her in the presence of angels when she married Christ in one of her visions in Rome. Opening Julian's door released a scent of fire and brimstone, whilst Margery Kempe's door emitted a sweet, syrupy fragrance.

It was profoundly moving to see Julian's texts in close proximity to works by other spiritual women from the same era. There were also exhibits covering work-life and home-life, and the exhibition as a whole wrote women's voices back into our understanding of the Middle Ages, using, as the exhibition title suggests, their own words. [Anne Welsh](#)



THE JULIAN CENTRE

Don't forget to pop into The Julian Centre if you're in Norwich. It has an excellent selection of books and gifts and is located right next to the Church. Opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 3.30pm.

REVIEW OF THE 2024 AUTUMN RETREAT

At the end of September 2024 I was blessed to attend a 2 day Autumn retreat, *Revelations of Divine Love*, led by Gail and Ian Adams, Chaplains at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, which was organised by the Friends of Julian and the Norwich Christian Meditation Centre. I resolved to set both days aside and disengage from everyday concerns and mobile phone communications – which is not often easy!

Each day was shaped around two main themes taken from the writings of Julian of Norwich. There was plenty of time built in for quiet contemplation, reflection and prayer which I found most valuable. The words of Julian, which can seem quite complex, were presented in an understandable and relevant way and we were challenged to consider their meaning and what gifts we might have received from God as a result. The content was rich, and there was great use of art, poetry and photography to help illustrate Julian's words.

St John's Church, Timberhill was an appropriate venue, being both beautiful and spacious. The whole retreat had a lovely relaxed and contemplative atmosphere to it, and it was clear that during the break times we were very welcome to bring questions or discussion points to Gail and Ian.

We were also fortunate on both days to be invited to Mass led by Fr Richard Stanton at the Julian Church and at St John's, at which we were made very welcome.

It was a wonderful opportunity to consider the words of Julian more deeply and to examine what they might mean for me at that point in my life. I felt spiritually rejuvenated as a result.

Thank you so much to Gail and Ian, Fr Richard Stanton and to all those who organised the event and worked so hard behind the scenes to provide a unique experience and superb hospitality.

Eleanor Laming



THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Report May 2024 – May 2025

1. The Objects of the Friends of Julian of Norwich

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

In furtherance of the above the Friends shall:

- (a) increase public awareness and knowledge of the life and writings of Julian of Norwich;
- (b) increase public awareness of the Julian Cell and encourage visits;
- (c) foster spirituality:
 - (i) engage in regular prayer
 - (ii) provide financial support for the upkeep and maintenance of the Julian Cell or such other religious or secular organisations promoting Julian of Norwich or spirituality in general
 - (iii) provide facilities for pilgrims and other visitors
 - (iv) provide and maintain a reference library of books on Julian and on spirituality in general
 - (v) make available for purchase books on Julian and on spirituality
 - (vi) produce or assist in the production of literature on Julian
 - (vii) publish a newsletter for members
 - (viii) promote scholarship, preaching, study and research on Julian
 - (ix) give or arrange for talks and lectures to be given on Julian
 - (x) assist in maintaining and improving the Julian Cell.



2. Membership, 31 December 2024

At the end of last year there were 2,188 members worldwide. If Friends from any country or region want us to arrange contact with each other, please let our Secretary know: howard.green@julianofnorwich.org

Argentina	1	India	2	Phillipines	2
Australia	35	Ireland	11	Poland	1
Brazil	1	Italy	1	Portugal	2
Canada	29	Japan	1	Singapore	1
China	1	Luxembourg	1	South Africa	2
Czech Republic	1	Malawi	1	Sweden	5
Denmark	1	Malaysia	1	Switzerland	1
Finland	3	Malta	1	Taiwan	1
France	6	Mexico	1	Togo	1
Germany	2	Netherlands	3	UK	836
Greece	1	New Zealand	6	US	226
Hong Kong	1	Norway	1	Unknown (email)	998

3. Trustees & Executive Committee

The trustees of the registered charity and the charity’s Executive Committee are one and the same. The trustees that were agreed at the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) (see minutes in this newsletter) were in place all year and during the year a further three trustees, Annelise Savill, Margit Thofner and Gwynne Wright CJN, were co-opted, and now seek election to the Board by the members at the 2025 AGM. After very many years’ service Fred Thompson CJN offered his resignation. Any Friend of Julian wishing to nominate any trustee to stand for election for the coming year should inform the secretary@julianofnorwich.org by 1st May 2025.

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY 11th MAY 2024

1. APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Lucy Care, Ron Ingamells, Liz Thomas amongst others.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM on Saturday 13th May 2023

There were no comments. The minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the AGM. Fred Thompson proposed Richard Norton seconded.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST AGM

There were no matters arising.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT ON ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2023

Pre-examination accounts are present in the Annual Report. Copies of the post-examination accounts are available today and were handed to one meeting attendee who was able to ask questions about them. One point was clarified, namely that the word 'deficit' describes only a transfer between account headings; at no point did the Friends go into deficit in the last financial year. They will be sent to the Charity Commission shortly.

A question about publishing balance sheet in the Newsletter. There is insufficient time to have the full accounts examined before the newsletter is published and therefore the balance sheet has to wait until the Examined Accounts, which are available at today's meeting and can be sent out on request.

Point raised about the membership numbers was clarified. No distinction is made between subscribing Friends and e.g. those who just sign up for e-newsletter. We are encouraging subscriptions, but it is not a strict requirement.

There has been expenditure supporting the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of Julian activities this year. Jenni Hancock, Treasurer, reported:

"My pre-examination income & expenditure figures and written report were circulated in the recent newsletter.

The 'designated' column includes monies restricted to the Bench Appeal which is shown separately in the full accounts. Otherwise, there are no changes.

Copies of the examined accounts, including the Statement of Assets and

Liabilities are available and will be submitted to the Charity Commission in due course.

My thanks to Nicholas Fudge for his independent examination.

Last year's anniversary activities were a great success, supported locally and internationally. The trustees had set aside a sum from reserves for this ambitious programme with the understanding that a project of this size may cost more. While the final cost was more than anticipated, the shortfall was largely covered by a £2,000 legacy received in 2022.

The general income was sufficient to cover regular activities and administration with a modest surplus. Our sincere appreciation to all our supporters for your subscriptions, donations, and purchases. Thanks also to Stephanie and Shirley for their key roles in our online shop.

To summarise, we ended 2023 with cash assets of £73k (£24k General / £49k Designated & Restricted) and total assets of £86k (£38k General/ £48k D&R)

This healthy financial position means that the trustees are able to explore new ways of promoting Julian while maintaining enough reserves for future outgoings."

Acting Chair Lesley Mitchell thanked Jenni for her professionalism in presenting the accounts. Patricia Menaul seconded that the annual accounts were accepted. The annual accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

5. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2021 TO MAY 2022

This had been circulated prior to the AGM, which is included in the Easter Newsletter, copies of which were available to attendees of the AGM. There were no matters arising from the report. They were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

6. ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES TO FRIENDS OF JULIAN

Shirley Buxton is standing down after many years, and latterly a long stint as Chair. In recent months, Shirley has been facilitating the transition to the future by supporting Lesley Mitchell as Acting Chair. Felicity Maton is standing down after even more years as a trustee. Neither are ceasing involvement altogether and hope to be able to be involved in whatever ways may be beneficial.

Replacing these two vacancies, Andrea Cornes (co-opted to the Trustees during the past year) and Lucy Care (who led on the exhibition Love Is the Meaning last autumn) have offered their services. These two were unanimously approved and thanked. Two further places are available for co-option during the year.

Shirley Buxton extended her warm appreciation to Brian Thorne, Felicity Maton, Lesley Mitchell, Bruce Batstone, CJN, Howard Green, and Richard Stanton for all the support that they have provided to her during her time as trustee and Chair of the Friends.

Members of the floor (Richard Norton, CJN, Jill Butterworth, CJN, Felicity Maton, and Howard Green) all spoke their warm appreciation of the efforts of the trustees generally, over the years and recently, and of Shirley's and Felicity's contributions particularly.

Following this meeting the position of the Trustees is now as shown on page 16:

NAME	TYPE	YRS SERVED
1. Revd Richard Stanton	Priest for St John's Timberhill with St Julian's	Ex Officio
2. Unfilled :	A member of the Community of All Hallows	Ex Officio
3. Andrea Cornes	Elected 1 of between 5 and 9	0
4. Lucy Care	Elected 2 of between 5 and 9	0
5. Howard Green	Elected 3 of between 5 and 9	2
6. Margaret-Mary McFadyen	Elected 4 of between 5 and 9	3
7. Sally-Anne Lomas	Elected 5 of between 5 and 9	3
8. Lesley Mitchell	Elected 6 of between 5 and 9	4
9. Fred Thompson, CJN	Elected 6 of between 5 and 9	3
	CJN representative	

7. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL EXAMINER

This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. AOB

9. Thank Yous

Lesley Mitchell thanked the Priest Director Revd Richard Stanton and Secretary Howard Green for their support. Felicity Maton and Shirley Buxton were also thanked for the loyalty, devotion, and energy they had given to the Friends. They were presented with flowers..

10. NEXT YEAR'S AGM DATE

Saturday 10th May 2025. Agenda is available on page 20.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Jenni Hancock

I am delighted to report that the Friends of Julian of Norwich have maintained a healthy financial stance throughout 2024 and ended the year with a surplus.

2024 marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Friends. As part of the Julian Festival, we were thrilled to collaborate with The National Centre for Writing where Cindy Oswin performed her play 'CELL', funded by a generous donation of £1,000.

The charity received a generous legacy gift which was unrestricted and added to general funds.

Other voluntary income and sales decreased slightly from 2023, while income from events was significantly higher (disregarding last year's anniversary income).

General expenditure was broadly on a par with last year and, more importantly, did not exceed income. Our thanks to all our supporters for their generosity, enabling the Friends to meet their costs – it is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the annual £5,000 contribution towards the Priest Director, the trustees were pleased to award £1,195 to the Julian Partnership for improvements

to the garden area. This was funds raised by Shirley Buxton's 'Big Splash' and held in a restricted fund awaiting a suitable project.

The charity's free reserves at the end of 2024 increased to £32,400, approximately 18 months expenditure. The trustees are looking at ways to best use some of these reserves in the near future.

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	2024 General	2024 Designated	2023 Total
Friends' subscriptions, donations, Companions' gifts	£13,002.92	£0.00	£17,997.45
Legacy gift	£1,645.25	£0.00	£0.00
Grant received	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Festival & Events (includes bench appeal)	£5,223.12	£0.00	£6,856.43
Bank Interest	£454.53	£863.69	£1,094.29
Sales	£5,631.88	£0.00	£6,347.57
Purchase of stock by partners	£660.00	£0.00	£1,577.90
Miscellaneous income	£75.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£26,692.70	£1,863.69	£33,873.64
EXPENDITURE	2024 General	2024 Designated	2023 Total
Purchase of Stock	£4,022.96	£0.00	£4,533.98
Bank and online partner charges	£1,260.11	£0.00	£1,932.57
Other expenses (eg promotion, postage)	£1,477.18	£0.00	£1,362.26
Charitable activities (eg newsletter, events)	£7,010.43	£1,000.00	£26,750.64
Depreciation of fixed assets (fixtures & pc)	£0.00	£0.00	£288.00
Contribution to Julian of Norwich Partnership	£0.00	£6,195.00	£5,000.00
Running Expenses (utilities, website, admin)	£5,627.75	£0.00	£7,318.02
Purchase of stock for partners	£660.00	£0.00	£1,577.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	£20,058.43	£7,195.00	£48,463.39
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year	£6,634.27	(£5,331.31)	(£14,889.73)

REVIEW OF THE 2024 JULIAN LECTURE

The Julian lecture of 2024 celebrated the fortieth anniversary year of the 'Friends of Julian'.

It was given on 11th May by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, on the topic of 'Julian and the Trinity'.

Most appropriately, it was held in Norwich cathedral, dedicated to none other than the 'Holy and Undivided Trinity'.



Above: Dr Williams at St Julian's Church after the lecture.

Dr Williams's lecture was an absolute treat. He is a lively speaker but, at the same time, an immensely learned and thoughtful theologian. Throughout his talk, his profound respect for Julian's equally deep learning shone through. Certainly, Julian wears her theological learning lightly in her writings, perhaps out of charity to her readers but perhaps also not to upset the male-dominated Church hierarchy of her day. But, as Dr Williams so eloquently demonstrated, it is nevertheless there, underpinning all of her thinking. In his exposition, one of the most striking things about Julian's book is its intellectual coherence, the inexorable logic with which she pursues her arguments. At the centre of that logic lies the Trinity, evident at a basic level in Julian's favourite rhetorical device of arguing in groups of three but also at the most exalted conceptual level, embedded in how she understands the relationship between God and humanity.

We are, in Julian's view, 'beclosed in the Trinity', where the substance of our humanity belongs. At least as I understood it, Dr Williams's argument is that Julian identifies and underscores the 'original good' in our frail humanity in a manner that challenges the St Augustine's concept of 'original sin', a fundamental doctrine of medieval Christianity. At the same time, Julian stays just on the right side of what constituted Christian orthodoxy in her time; she was far too clever to write something that would openly confront the powers-that-be.

In general, it was a wonderfully illuminating, at times entertaining and yet intellectually stimulating lecture – a fine contribution to what is now a firmly established tradition.

Margit Thofner

COMPANIONS' REPORT

from Fr Bruce-Julian Batstone CJN OboJN



The Companions of Julian is a growing communion of women and men for whom solitude, silence and intercession are hallmarks of life, inspired by the example and teachings of Mother Julian. Our international membership numbers: UK 28; Scandinavia 1; N America 10; Australia/New Zealand 6.

A group of Companions has recently led a quiet morning and quiet afternoon (different time zones necessitate flexible meeting arrangements) offering online space to be silent together, to reflect and discuss in small groups. We hope to repeat this again soon, as a way to support established Companions of Julian alongside enquirers and aspirants.

JULIAN NEWS FROM FLORIDA

In March Stephen Hoffman, CJN, held a Julian Workshop at the local United Methodist Church in Sarasota, Florida, US.

For many of the twelve enthusiastic participants this was an introduction to Julian of Norwich. They watched *The Search for The Lost Manuscript*, the film directed by FOJ trustee Sally-Anne Lomas, released in 2016. Stephen also showed photographs of the Cloth of Kindness <https://www.clothofkindness.co.uk/projects>, produced for the Julian 650th anniversary.

On Good Friday a Centering Prayer vigil will take place, shaped around the seven last words of Christ on the Cross, and accompanied by reflections from Julian's Revelations with space for silence.



Image from the Julian Workshop



THE JULIAN FESTIVAL 2025

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th May

We're so pleased that the Festival returns in May and would love to see you there. Please see pages 8 & 9 for more information about the events taking place, including the AGM of the Friends of Julian.

FRIENDS OF JULIAN AGM AGENDA

AGENDA of AGM of the Friends of Julian of Norwich

Saturday 10th May 2025 at 2.15pm

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last AGM on 11th May 2024
3. Matters arising
4. To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, together with the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending May 2025
5. To elect members of the Board of Trustees
6. Appointment of Financial Examiner
7. Any other business

Please notify the Secretary by 6 May 2025 of any items to be discussed or proposals regarding trustee membership: howard.green@julianofnorwich.org

THE BEGINNING OF JULIAN'S SHORT TEXT IN ESTONIAN

Here's the first part of the Estonian translation by Aet (see page 6 for more info).

Siin on nägemus, mille Jumal oma headuses on ilmutanud vagale naisele. Ja tema nimi on Julian, erak Norwichist, ning ta on elavate kirjas ka praegu, anno Domini 1413. Tema nägemuses on leida palju rõõstivaid sõnu ja suurt innustust kõikidele, kes ihkavad oma südames olla Kristuse armastajad.

Here is a vision which God in his goodness has revealed to a pious woman. And her name is Julian, a hermit of Norwich, and she is on the register of the living even now, anno Domini 1413. In her vision are to be found many words of comfort and great encouragement to all who desire in their hearts to be lovers of Christ.

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

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

Email: contact@julianofnorwich.org www.julianofnorwich.org Reg Charity 289918



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THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

(A Registered Charity number 289918)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2024

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities	3
Notes to the Statements of Assets and Liabilities	4
Independent Examiner's Report to the Members	5

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Receipts for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 General	2024 Designated	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Donations:					
Membership Subscriptions	5,777	0	0	5,777	5,520
Companions Donations	5,250	0	0	5,250	5,432
Other Donations	1,105	0	0	1,105	5,826
Tax refundable on Gift Aid	871	0	0	871	1,220
Legacies	1,645	0	0	1,645	0
	14,648	0	0	14,648	17,998
Operating Activities to further Charity's Objects:					
Sales	5,632	0	0	5,632	6,348
Festival and Events	5,223	0	0	5,223	6,856
	10,855	0	0	10,855	13,204
Other Receipts					
Miscellaneous income	75	0	0	75	0
Purchase of stock by partners	660	0	0	660	1,578
	735	0	0	735	1,578
Investment Income:					
Bank Interest	455	864	0	1,318	1,094
	455	864	0	1,318	1,094
Grants					
Grant funding	0	0	1,000	1,000	0
Total Receipts	26,692	864	1,000	28,556	33,874
Total Payments (page 2)	(20,058)	(5,000)	(2,195)	(27,253)	(48,763)
Transfer between funds	302	(302)	0	0	0
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,937	(4,438)	(1,195)	1,304	(14,889)

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Payments for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 General	2024 Designated	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Raising Funds					
Purchase of Stock	4,023	0	0	4,023	4,534
Postage of stock sold	1,370	0	0	1,370	1,362
Charges - bank and online partners	1,260	0	0	1,260	1,933
Advertising & promotion	107	0	0	107	0
	6,760	0	0	6,760	7,829
Charitable Activities					
Newsletter/materials production and postage	1,530	0	0	1,530	3,484
Festival and Events Expenses	3,702	0	1,000	4,702	21,680
Social Media Project	1,778	0	0	1,778	1,587
Contribution to the Julian Partnership	0	5,000	1,195	6,195	5,000
	7,010	5,000	2,195	14,205	31,751
Management & Administration					
Insurance	708	0	0	708	665
Online Outreach	2,525	0	0	2,525	2,650
Printing and Stationery	99	0	0	99	180
Accountancy Fees	150	0	0	150	150
Bookkeeping Fees	1,493	0	0	1,493	2,408
Membership Administration	411	0	0	411	645
Miscellaneous Expenditure	90	0	0	90	89
Purchase of stock for partners	660	0	0	660	1,578
Trustees' Expenses	41	0	0	41	0
Trustee Meetings	111	0	0	111	0
Training	0	0	0	0	530
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	288
	6,288	0	0	6,288	9,183
Total Payments	20,058	5,000	2,195	27,253	48,763

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	2024 General	2024 Designated	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Cash Funds					
Bank Balances					
Nat West Current	8,597	0	0	8,597	5,573
Barclays	1,380	0	0	1,380	1,382
CBF Church of England Deposit Fund	7,760	43,581	0	51,341	1,058
Nationwide Business Saver	15,000	0	0	15,000	65,000
Paypal	318	0	0	318	193
Ebay	22	0	0	22	30
	33,077	43,581	0	76,658	73,236
Other Monetary assets					
Stock Value at 31.12.2024 at Cost	4,527	0	0	4,527	6,760
	4,527	0	0	4,527	6,760
Investment Assets					
ISBN registration fee	48	0	0	48	48
Valuation of Assets Retained for Charity's Own Use					
Computer and other equipment	0	0	0	0	0
Reference Library books	8,099	0	0	8,099	7,059
	8,099	0	0	8,099	7,059
Plus Debtors note 1	230	0	0	230	752
Less Creditors note 2	892	1,250	0	2,142	1,738
Total Net Assets and Reserves	45,089	42,331	0	87,420	86,117

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Note to The Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2024

	2024 General	2024 Designated	2024 Restricted	2024 Total	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Note 1					
Debtors					
Sale of exhibition piece	0	0	0	0	45
Sale of stock	50	0	0	50	0
Miscellaneous income	0	0	0	0	334
Tax refundable on Gift Aid (claimed)	180	0	0	180	325
Online outreach (paid in advance)	0	0	0	0	48
	230	0	0	230	752

Note 2

Creditors

Membership Administration	17	0	0	17	11
Accountancy	150	0	0	150	150
Book keeper	131	0	0	131	114
Social Media Lead	0	0	0	0	89
Online Outreach	539	0	0	539	0
Postage of stock sold	55	0	0	55	124
Contribution to the Julian Partnership	0	1,250	0	1,250	1,250
	892	1,250	0	2,142	1,738

Certificate of Approval

Approved by the Friends of Julian of Norwich at the AGM on Saturday 10th May 2025, and signed by:

Andrea Cornes - Chair

Howard Green - Secretary

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

I report on the Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages one to four.

Respective Responsibilities of Officers and Examiner

The Charity's Officers are responsible for the preparation of the Accounts. The Charity's Officers consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the Accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the Accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the Accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Officers concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare Accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, have not been met or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the Accounts to be reached.

Nicholas Fudge
27 Lyhart Road
Norwich
Norfolk
NR4 6RF



THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Easter Newsletter 2025

A Message from the Chair, Andrea O'Grady

Dear Friends & Companions,

It is such a pleasure to write to you as the new Chair of The Friends of Julian. Over the past few months this role has given me the opportunity to work alongside the Board of Trustees, to focus anew on our objectives; to share and spread the writings of Julian, to promote awareness of her life and work, and to inspire others with her message of God's unconditional love and compassion.

In her wise and wonderful words from Chapter 86 of *Revelations of Divine Love*, Julian says: *"For I saw very clearly that before God made us, He loved us; and that His love never diminishes and never ceases. And in this love He made us, and through this love He sustains us and in this love He will keep us for evermore."*

Here Julian reminds us of the simple truth of the eternal and unchanging nature of God's love. It is such a simple but profoundly powerful truth and in her writings Julian demonstrates time and again her ability to turn complex matters into uncomplicated ideas that are easy to grasp. And this power of simplicity is something I have returned to as I have explored the many ways The Friends of Julian can achieve its aims and objectives.

I look forward to working closely with Father Richard, Bishop Peter and The Julian Partnership – who in addition to their ministerial and pastoral duties do such wonderful work maintaining and managing the Julian Campus with the help of an indefatigable team of volunteers and Father Bruce and the Companions – whose support offers us such strength and comfort.

Currently there are several special projects that require both our attention and our financial support including substantial building works at St Julian's (including new disabled access and heating) and essential works to All Hallows Guest House. I am struck by how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful guest house on our campus, that has been transformed by Josiah English, and his team, into such a successful facility, hosting pilgrims and travellers from around



the world as well as supporting an engaging schedule of retreats and events. There are many exciting projects under discussion to help us raise awareness of Julian – from an archaeological dig to the creation of a spiritual garden alongside the planning of a landmark exhibition of Julian's *Revelations of Divine Love*.

And last but not least, alongside all of these wonderful and deserving initiatives (that require funding and resources) there is an ongoing need for funding to support the most disadvantaged families and residents of the parish.

To this end, The Friends of Julian are embarking upon a renewed fund raising program. Firstly we intend to improve our membership site with a new digital platform that will host a full program of courses, events, and workshops with engaging new content relating to Julian as a spiritual guide, historical figure, theologian and writer. Julian's shrine will be celebrated at the heart of the platform. We look forward to sharing more about this with you soon. We are also committed to working alongside The Partnership on a new program of grant applications to help us transform and support the campus. And finally we look forward to embarking upon a sponsorship drive for new patrons amongst Norwich's vibrant community.

So there is a lot to look forward to! But there is also plenty to reflect upon.

It is hard to believe that it is already a year since the last Festival where we enjoyed the pleasure of the former archbishop of Canterbury Rowan William's wonderful lecture, *"Julian on the Trinity"*, kindly hosted by Norwich Cathedral. His thoughtful and engaging talk preceded a festival packed with lively events – some in collaboration with the National Centre for Writing – including Cindy Oswin's acclaimed play *"Cell"* which was performed to a

packed audience at Dragon's Hall.

In September, St John's hosted the Friends of Julian's autumn retreat with Gail and Ian Adams – in collaboration with the Norwich Christian Meditation Centre – where people who had travelled from the four corners of the UK shared their life experiences and contemplative prayer. Later in the autumn, The Friends of Julian along with the National Centre for Writing invited author Hetta Howes to Norwich to discuss her new book, *"Poet, Mystic, Widow, Wife"*, in which she explored the lives of four medieval women including our own Julian. This packed event was wonderfully chaired by trustee, Sally Anne Lomas.

The ever increasing interest in Julian was witnessed by several national radio programs, including Radio 4's *"Free Thinking"* in November and BBC Radio 3's coverage of the BBC Singers concert, *"The Organ Reborn"* – which featured musical settings of Julian's *Revelations of Divine Love* by prominent women composers. Finally, the British Library's block-buster exhibition *"Medieval Women in Their Own Words"*, which ran from October 2024 to March 2025, opened to great acclaim and featured the manuscripts of both the long and the short texts of Julian's work.

On your behalf I would like to thank all the trustees for their generosity in giving their time and energy and great good humour to our shared work! I should like to thank Fred who steps down as a trustee after many years support to the board, and on a personal note I'm very grateful to ex Chair Shirley Buxton for her guidance and generous advice and to Secretary Howard Green and Vice Chair Lesley Mitchell for their indefatigable work, great good humour and wise counsel.

I wish everyone a very wonderful Easter. All good wishes, **Andrea**



Section of the Julian Window. © Evelyn Simak

NEWS FROM THE PRIEST DIRECTOR, FR RICHARD STANTON

Dear Friends,

Each day, Morning and Evening Prayer are offered publicly in St Julian's Church, and for these offices I have the privilege of sitting opposite the window set in the wall between the chancel and the reconstructed cell. Made by the Norwich firm G King & Son, that window will be familiar to many of you. It is placed where we believe Julian in her enclosure could have looked towards the Holy Sacrament reserved at the high altar, as it still is today, and where she could have participated in the offering of the Eucharist at that altar.

The window depicts Julian kneeling in a posture of prayer, her hands uplifted and stretched out. Above her is a scroll proclaiming her remarkable assurance: 'All shall be well.' Julian looks steadily, joyfully, in the direction of the figure of the crucified Lord, crowned with thorns and looking back at her. This scene of steady contemplation and hope encapsulates the attitude of Julian's entire life, an attitude which the celebration of Holy Week invites us to make our own: 'He loved me and gave

himself for me,' as St Paul puts it, and so 'it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.'

That window sometimes raises a question from visitors and pilgrims when they notice one distinctive element of it: Christ is shown crucified not on the rough wood of the Cross, a bitter instrument of painful death, but on a vigorously flowering lily. 'Why?' people ask.

Put crudely, the lily, symbolising purity, was often incorporated in mediaeval art depicting the Annunciation: Gabriel's visit to Mary and her acceptance of her vocation to be the Mother of God. Over time, an allusion to the forthcoming death of the Son whom she was conceiving was sometimes incorporated into such depictions, by superimposing a tiny figure of the crucified Christ onto the lily stem.

Gradually this developed into a particular mode of representing the Crucifixion, Christ crucified on the lily, symbolising the shared suffering of Mother and Son on Calvary, a suffering,

(continued overleaf)

of course, on which Julian was to ruminate so deeply and fruitfully in her *Revelations of Divine Love*: 'I saw part of the compassion of our Lady Saint Mary, for Christ and she were so united in love that the greatness of her love for him caused the intensity of her pain; in this I saw the essential character of the love, natural but maintained by grace, which all creation has for him; this natural love was shown in his dear Mother most abundantly, and indeed supremely, for just as her love for him surpassed that of anyone else, so did her suffering for him.'

At the English Reformation, many such lily crucifixes disappeared, and they can be found in mediaeval or modern forms in only a handful of churches, of which ours is one. To me, the image speaks not only of the union of Jesus and Mary in suffering ('a sword will

pierce your own soul too'), but also of the fruitfulness of the Cross, which has become a tree of life bearing fruit for the healing of the nations, Christ himself being the grain of which he spoke in St John's Gospel, falling and dying and only thus bringing forth fruit.

When the Angelus prayer is said each day, we end by asking that we 'who have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an Angel [may] by his Cross and Passion be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.' This is my prayer for all the Friends and for all pilgrims to the Julian Shrine, that by the fruitful cross they may come to Resurrection joy, and share Julian's conviction as she looks at the lily crucifix in our window: all manner of thing shall be well.

Fr Richard



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT JULIAN AND THE FRIENDS...

Check out the website and keep an eye on our social media accounts to keep up to date with news and events from across the world.

www.julianofnorwich.org



@JuliansShowings



@JuliansShowings



NEWS FROM THE JULIAN SHRINE

From the resident steward, Josiah English

As Easter approaches the whole Shrine team is tremendously grateful for all the blessings we have seen here at the Shrine over the last year.

We have faced challenges, but overwhelmingly feel a sense of gratitude for all the care and support shown to us by those who live and work at the Shrine, as well as all those nearby who are involved, and the many people who come to make pilgrimage to this place; their devotion and piety are inspirational and a constant reminder of our purpose here and the value of what we are seeking to protect, preserve and promote.

Spring is always a time of reflection for me and I think back to all the changes that have taken place since my arrival over three years ago: from the early days when I was one of only two people on staff (Fr Richard and myself) all the way to our present situation which includes another full time member of staff (Jordan), extra housekeeping assistance taken on in 2025 (Mark), our wonderful gardener (Elena) who joined us last year, and more - not to mention our invaluable volunteers - new and old - who keep the Shrine visitor centre open and

hospitable through sun and rain.

Having now served well over a thousand guests at All Hallows, I like to think that the guesthouse functions as a well-oiled machine most of the time, which leaves me time to consider what comes next and how we continue to fulfil our vision for a renewed Shrine and internationally significant place of pilgrimage. We want to stay true to our roots and build on our reputation for simplicity, care of the environment, and authentic welcome, not losing ourselves in the midst of change to a corporate image. But we also want to share the life and work of Julian with other generations who have yet to discover her. Bearing all that in mind, this year we will begin the tentative launch of what we hope will become an annual programme of events, retreats, quiet days, guided tours and more across the Shrine, which will enhance opportunities for our visitors to connect with Julian and - more importantly - through Julian, God. Watch this space!

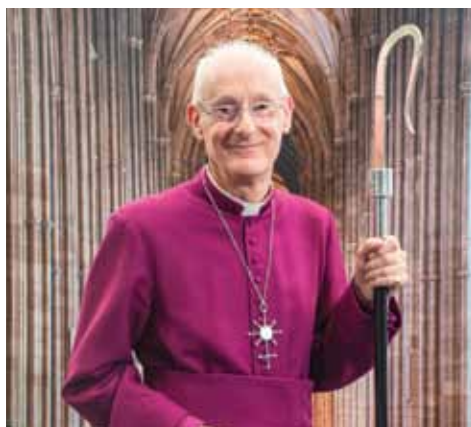
BISHOP PETER EAGLES

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the new Chair of the Julian Partnership.

Born in Surrey, I undertook my theological study and training for ordination at St Stephen's House, Oxford. Ordained deacon at St Paul's Cathedral in 1989, I served as curate in the parish of St Martin, Ruislip in the Diocese of London. I left in 1992, embarking upon a 25-year ministry as a Chaplain to the British Army.

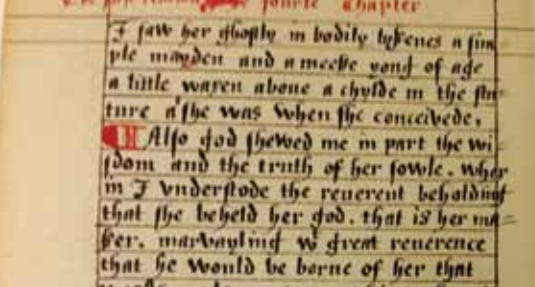
Accompanied by Gail, whom I met and married in Ruislip, and subsequently by our son, I spent 25 years ministering to soldiers and their families in garrisons across the British Isles and Germany. I also served on operational deployment in zones of conflict: Northern Ireland, Kosovo, Iraq in 2005, and Afghanistan in 2006. I left the Army as Deputy Chaplain-General and Archdeacon in 2017 upon my nomination as Bishop of Sodor and Man.

Sodor and Man is a diocese of the Church of England, consisting now of just the Isle of Man, and is indeed one of the very oldest, with its first bishop sent by St Patrick in 447. This Celtic diocese acquired a further richness of history during the Norse hegemony of the tenth century, the period of the founding of Tynwald, the Manx Parliament (and the oldest continuous parliament in the world), in which the Bishop still sits each week. I led the diocese through the pandemic of Covid-19, and spoke in Tynwald and across the Island's media on a range of ethical, moral and spiritual issues. I was (and continue to be) Ecumenical Lead Bishop on behalf of the Anglican Communion for our relationship with the Old Catholic Churches of the Union



of Utrecht. I laid down my crozier at the end of October 2023, when Gail and I moved to the pilgrimage village of Walsingham in Norfolk to lead a life of deeper study and prayer and to renovate and inhabit an ancient house. Both aspirations remain work in progress! I minister now, by the very kind permission of Bishop Graham, as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in this Diocese of Norwich.

The Julian Partnership is currently engaged in a number of projects, some arising from a Visioning Day held in October 2024. These include broadening the body of Trustees, to increase our areas of expertise and experience, as well as to make it ecumenically more representative; establishing long-term resilience with regard both to the ministry of the Shrine and its financial security; and a programme of development of the Guest House to equip it better for the increasing number of visitors. Numbers coming to the Shrine continue to grow, and this is very encouraging indeed for our aim of strengthening Julian's profile and renown. With an outstanding Hospitality Manager and an equally capable and inspiring Priest Director in place, the Partnership and Trustees look to the future with confidence and with hope, under the grace of God.



AN ESTONIAN TRANSLATION

With her texts, Julian of Norwich has left a message of love that is spreading all over the world, and the Friends of Julian of Norwich with their great commitment to her memory have contributed remarkably to keeping this message alive home and abroad.

Soon another translation of Julian's texts is going to begin. This time into Estonian, a small Finno-Ugric language in the Baltics, the North-Eastern edge of Europe. The translation will be published by Tallinn University Press, in the series of Bibliotheca Medievalis, and translated by Aet Varik – that is me, the author of this short notice.

The plan for this translation has been long in the making. I was first asked to contribute a little to the non-Latin part of an Estonian anthology of medieval literature, and translated some extracts of Julian's Vision, or the Short Text, as it is also called. Of course, even this short contribution required me to read a lot about Julian, and study both the Short Text and the Long Text in fullness.

Luckily, I was provided with an excellent publication for the original text, the version edited by Nicholas Watson and Jacqueline Jenkins, who have juxtaposed all the existing manuscripts of the Long Text in the Sloane and Paris libraries with the additional text of the original A Vision

Shewed to a Devout Woman, and by means of analysis and comparison created a synthesis of great significance. This comprises both A Vision and A Revelation.

At the moment, the translation is still in preparatory phase – I am reading Julian's texts, books about her and her contemporaries, as well as translating some extracts of the Book of Margery Kempe for the same anthology mentioned above – it has been in the making now for more than a decade, and I am very glad to have been able to contribute a little myself. Also, I consider this as a kind of warming-up before the great task.

In January last year, I had the good fortune to visit Norwich and stay at the Retreat House at St Julian's Church, and even be invited to dinner at home with Lesley Mitchell and her husband Andrew. During all my time in Norwich, I felt Julian's message to be heartwarmingly alive at the place where she lived and worked. Now I am looking forward to the very difficult but wonderful task of translating Julian's work into my native tongue, and once this is done, to sending a copy of my translation to your Reference Library. (See page 20 for a taster.)

Aet Varik Ringborg



THE JULIAN FESTIVAL 2025

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th May

We're thrilled that The Julian Festival is returning in May. With two days of talks and services as well as the Friends of Julian Annual General Meeting, we'd love to see you there.

Friday 9th May

5pm Mass at St Julian's Church

7pm Breaking the Habit: The Allure of Nuns in Storytelling, National Centre for Writing, Dragon Hall, Norwich

Saturday 10th May

10.30-11.30am Festival Eucharist at St Julian's Church led by Fr Richard Stanton. With Reception of new Companions (CJN) and renewal of vows.

11.30am-12pm Refreshments at Julian Centre

12pm-1.15pm 44th Annual Julian Lecture: Julian of Norwich – Having it All?

Given by Dr Hetta Howes St Julian's Church

1.15pm-14.15pm Lunch – please bring your own, or there are several cafes nearby. The Julian Centre will be open for hot drinks.

2.15pm-3.15pm Friends of Julian AGM at St Julian's Church

3.30pm Closing Prayer by Fr Richard Stanton 15.30

IMAGES: Hazel nut image by Lesley Mitchell, RIGHT: Dr Hetta Howes.

THE JULIAN FESTIVAL PANEL DISCUSSION

BREAKING THE HABIT: THE ALLURE OF NUNS IN STORYTELLING

We are also delighted that Hetta will be joining us for the panel discussion *Breaking the Habit: The Allure of Nuns in Storytelling* as part of the Julian Festival in partnership with the National Centre for Writing.

From Hollywood films like *Conclave* and *Immaculate* to Claire Keegan's novel *Small Things Like These*, our culture is captivated by nuns and the cloistered life. What draws us to the confinement and devotion of this religious figure?

Join our panellists — non-fiction writer Hetta Howes (*Poet, Mystic, Widow, Wife*), novelist Jess Kidd (*Murder at Gull's Nest*), and memoirist and former nun Catherine Coldstream (*Cloistered*) — as they explore the inner and creative freedom embodied by nuns and why they continue to inspire writers, filmmakers, and artists alike. Their discussion will be chaired by Sally-Anne Lomas, trustee of the Friends of Julian and director of *The Search for the lost Manuscript: Julian of Norwich* BBC4

FRIDAY 9th MAY, 7PM, NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING, £10

Visit the National Centre for Writing's website to book:

www.nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/events/breaking-the-habit-the-allure-of-nuns-in-storytelling/

THE JULIAN FESTIVAL LECTURE

JULIAN OF NORWICH – HAVING IT ALL?

The Julian Lecture 2025 will be given by the lively and entertaining Dr Hetta Howes who is a Lecturer in Medieval and Early Modern Literature at City, University of London, and a BBC/AHRC New Generation Thinker.

Hetta regularly contributes to broadcasts on BBC Radio 3 and 4, as well as writing for publications such as The Times Literary Supplement and BBC History Extra. Her new book *Poet, Mystic, Widow, Wife* is written for a popular audience and features both Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe.

Hetta's lecture is entitled *Julian of Norwich: Having it All?* There were plenty of medieval women who were trying to 'have it all' - a career, a family, friends and passions - just as there are today. Julian of Norwich was not one of those women. When she decided to become an anchoress, she cut herself off almost entirely from the outside world and dedicated her entire life to one goal: devotion to God. By sticking to one path and rejecting the concept of having it all, Julian was able to create something beautiful - her life's work, *The Revelations of Divine Love*.

This lecture will consider the concept of 'having it all' in terms of Julian's vocation - how did she manage to find creative freedom and personal liberation in narrowing her focus dramatically?

SATURDAY 10th MAY, 12noon, ST JULIAN'S CHURCH



Image from the British Library Collection



REVIEW: MEDIEVAL WOMEN IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The British Library's blockbuster exhibition, *Medieval Women In Their Own Words*, opened to great acclaim on 25 October 2024 and ran until 2 March 2025.

It provided a wonderful opportunity to see the manuscripts of both the long and the short texts of Julian of Norwich's *Revelations of Divine Love*, beautifully displayed next to each other, and close to spiritual texts by other medieval women, including works by Margery Kempe, Hildegard von Bingen, Brigitte of Sweden and Christine de Pizan.

There was also an order for enclosing an anchoress (British Library, Lansdowne MS 451) and the often-quoted *Ancrene Wisse* or *Anchoresses' Guide* (British Library, Cotton MS Cleopatra C VI), which is the source of claims that Julian must have had a cat. The exhibition curators displayed the manuscript open at the relevant page, which instructs the three anchoress sisters to whom it was written in the 1210s, "Ne schule ye habben nan beast bute cat ane" ("You should not have any animal except one cat")

Julian's Short Text (British Library, Add MS 37790) was displayed open at the passage in which she described being shown all of creation as a small ball the size of a hazelnut. The Long Text

(British Library, Stowe MS 42) was open at the start of the first chapter, where the neat 17th century hand of its copyist seems quite startling after looking at example after example of manuscripts from the medieval period (1100-1500). It's a stark reminder that the Long Text only survived thanks to nuns exiled from England to Paris and Cambrai.

There was also an interactive exhibit that contrasted Julian's vision of the devil in her sixteenth showing with Margery Kempe's description of the sweet smell that surrounded her in the presence of angels when she married Christ in one of her visions in Rome. Opening Julian's door released a scent of fire and brimstone, whilst Margery Kempe's door emitted a sweet, syrupy fragrance.

It was profoundly moving to see Julian's texts in close proximity to works by other spiritual women from the same era. There were also exhibits covering work-life and home-life, and the exhibition as a whole wrote women's voices back into our understanding of the Middle Ages, using, as the exhibition title suggests, their own words. [Anne Welsh](#)



THE JULIAN CENTRE

Don't forget to pop into The Julian Centre if you're in Norwich. It has an excellent selection of books and gifts and is located right next to the Church. Opening hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10am to 3.30pm.

REVIEW OF THE 2024 AUTUMN RETREAT

At the end of September 2024 I was blessed to attend a 2 day Autumn retreat, *Revelations of Divine Love*, led by Gail and Ian Adams, Chaplains at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, which was organised by the Friends of Julian and the Norwich Christian Meditation Centre. I resolved to set both days aside and disengage from everyday concerns and mobile phone communications – which is not often easy!

Each day was shaped around two main themes taken from the writings of Julian of Norwich. There was plenty of time built in for quiet contemplation, reflection and prayer which I found most valuable. The words of Julian, which can seem quite complex, were presented in an understandable and relevant way and we were challenged to consider their meaning and what gifts we might have received from God as a result. The content was rich, and there was great use of art, poetry and photography to help illustrate Julian's words.

St John's Church, Timberhill was an appropriate venue, being both beautiful and spacious. The whole retreat had a lovely relaxed and contemplative atmosphere to it, and it was clear that during the break times we were very welcome to bring questions or discussion points to Gail and Ian.

We were also fortunate on both days to be invited to Mass led by Fr Richard Stanton at the Julian Church and at St John's, at which we were made very welcome.

It was a wonderful opportunity to consider the words of Julian more deeply and to examine what they might mean for me at that point in my life. I felt spiritually rejuvenated as a result.

Thank you so much to Gail and Ian, Fr Richard Stanton and to all those who organised the event and worked so hard behind the scenes to provide a unique experience and superb hospitality.

Eleanor Laming



THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

Report May 2024 – May 2025

1. The Objects of the Friends of Julian of Norwich

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

In furtherance of the above the Friends shall:

- (a) increase public awareness and knowledge of the life and writings of Julian of Norwich;
- (b) increase public awareness of the Julian Cell and encourage visits;
- (c) foster spirituality:
 - (i) engage in regular prayer
 - (ii) provide financial support for the upkeep and maintenance of the Julian Cell or such other religious or secular organisations promoting Julian of Norwich or spirituality in general
 - (iii) provide facilities for pilgrims and other visitors
 - (iv) provide and maintain a reference library of books on Julian and on spirituality in general
 - (v) make available for purchase books on Julian and on spirituality
 - (vi) produce or assist in the production of literature on Julian
 - (vii) publish a newsletter for members
 - (viii) promote scholarship, preaching, study and research on Julian
 - (ix) give or arrange for talks and lectures to be given on Julian
 - (x) assist in maintaining and improving the Julian Cell.



2. Membership, 31 December 2024

At the end of last year there were 2,188 members worldwide. If Friends from any country or region want us to arrange contact with each other, please let our Secretary know: howard.green@julianofnorwich.org

Argentina	1	India	2	Phillipines	2
Australia	35	Ireland	11	Poland	1
Brazil	1	Italy	1	Portugal	2
Canada	29	Japan	1	Singapore	1
China	1	Luxembourg	1	South Africa	2
Czech Republic	1	Malawi	1	Sweden	5
Denmark	1	Malaysia	1	Switzerland	1
Finland	3	Malta	1	Taiwan	1
France	6	Mexico	1	Togo	1
Germany	2	Netherlands	3	UK	836
Greece	1	New Zealand	6	US	226
Hong Kong	1	Norway	1	Unknown (email)	998

3. Trustees & Executive Committee

The trustees of the registered charity and the charity’s Executive Committee are one and the same. The trustees that were agreed at the 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM) (see minutes in this newsletter) were in place all year and during the year a further three trustees, Annelise Savill, Margit Thofner and Gwynne Wright CJN, were co-opted, and now seek election to the Board by the members at the 2025 AGM. After very many years’ service Fred Thompson CJN offered his resignation. Any Friend of Julian wishing to nominate any trustee to stand for election for the coming year should inform the secretary@julianofnorwich.org by 1st May 2025.

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

SATURDAY 11th MAY 2024

1. APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Lucy Care, Ron Ingamells, Liz Thomas amongst others.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM on Saturday 13th May 2023

There were no comments. The minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate record of the AGM. Fred Thompson proposed Richard Norton seconded.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST AGM

There were no matters arising.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT ON ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2023

Pre-examination accounts are present in the Annual Report. Copies of the post-examination accounts are available today and were handed to one meeting attendee who was able to ask questions about them. One point was clarified, namely that the word 'deficit' describes only a transfer between account headings; at no point did the Friends go into deficit in the last financial year. They will be sent to the Charity Commission shortly.

A question about publishing balance sheet in the Newsletter. There is insufficient time to have the full accounts examined before the newsletter is published and therefore the balance sheet has to wait until the Examined Accounts, which are available at today's meeting and can be sent out on request.

Point raised about the membership numbers was clarified. No distinction is made between subscribing Friends and e.g. those who just sign up for e-newsletter. We are encouraging subscriptions, but it is not a strict requirement.

There has been expenditure supporting the 40th Anniversary of the Friends of Julian activities this year. Jenni Hancock, Treasurer, reported:

"My pre-examination income & expenditure figures and written report were circulated in the recent newsletter.

The 'designated' column includes monies restricted to the Bench Appeal which is shown separately in the full accounts. Otherwise, there are no changes.

Copies of the examined accounts, including the Statement of Assets and

Liabilities are available and will be submitted to the Charity Commission in due course.

My thanks to Nicholas Fudge for his independent examination.

Last year's anniversary activities were a great success, supported locally and internationally. The trustees had set aside a sum from reserves for this ambitious programme with the understanding that a project of this size may cost more. While the final cost was more than anticipated, the shortfall was largely covered by a £2,000 legacy received in 2022.

The general income was sufficient to cover regular activities and administration with a modest surplus. Our sincere appreciation to all our supporters for your subscriptions, donations, and purchases. Thanks also to Stephanie and Shirley for their key roles in our online shop.

To summarise, we ended 2023 with cash assets of £73k (£24k General / £49k Designated & Restricted) and total assets of £86k (£38k General/ £48k D&R)

This healthy financial position means that the trustees are able to explore new ways of promoting Julian while maintaining enough reserves for future outgoings."

Acting Chair Lesley Mitchell thanked Jenni for her professionalism in presenting the accounts. Patricia Menaul seconded that the annual accounts were accepted. The annual accounts were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

5. TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2021 TO MAY 2022

This had been circulated prior to the AGM, which is included in the Easter Newsletter, copies of which were available to attendees of the AGM. There were no matters arising from the report. They were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

6. ELECTION OF NEW TRUSTEES TO FRIENDS OF JULIAN

Shirley Buxton is standing down after many years, and latterly a long stint as Chair. In recent months, Shirley has been facilitating the transition to the future by supporting Lesley Mitchell as Acting Chair. Felicity Maton is standing down after even more years as a trustee. Neither are ceasing involvement altogether and hope to be able to be involved in whatever ways may be beneficial.

Replacing these two vacancies, Andrea Cornes (co-opted to the Trustees during the past year) and Lucy Care (who led on the exhibition Love Is the Meaning last autumn) have offered their services. These two were unanimously approved and thanked. Two further places are available for co-option during the year.

Shirley Buxton extended her warm appreciation to Brian Thorne, Felicity Maton, Lesley Mitchell, Bruce Batstone, CJN, Howard Green, and Richard Stanton for all the support that they have provided to her during her time as trustee and Chair of the Friends.

Members of the floor (Richard Norton, CJN, Jill Butterworth, CJN, Felicity Maton, and Howard Green) all spoke their warm appreciation of the efforts of the trustees generally, over the years and recently, and of Shirley's and Felicity's contributions particularly.

Following this meeting the position of the Trustees is now as shown on page 16:

NAME	TYPE	YRS SERVED
1. Revd Richard Stanton	Priest for St John's Timberhill with St Julian's	Ex Officio
2. Unfilled :	A member of the Community of All Hallows	Ex Officio
3. Andrea Cornes	Elected 1 of between 5 and 9	0
4. Lucy Care	Elected 2 of between 5 and 9	0
5. Howard Green	Elected 3 of between 5 and 9	2
6. Margaret-Mary McFadyen	Elected 4 of between 5 and 9	3
7. Sally-Anne Lomas	Elected 5 of between 5 and 9	3
8. Lesley Mitchell	Elected 6 of between 5 and 9	4
9. Fred Thompson, CJN	Elected 6 of between 5 and 9	3
	CJN representative	

7. APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL EXAMINER

This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

8. AOB

9. Thank Yous

Lesley Mitchell thanked the Priest Director Revd Richard Stanton and Secretary Howard Green for their support. Felicity Maton and Shirley Buxton were also thanked for the loyalty, devotion, and energy they had given to the Friends. They were presented with flowers..

10. NEXT YEAR'S AGM DATE

Saturday 10th May 2025. Agenda is available on page 20.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Jenni Hancock

I am delighted to report that the Friends of Julian of Norwich have maintained a healthy financial stance throughout 2024 and ended the year with a surplus.

2024 marked the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Friends. As part of the Julian Festival, we were thrilled to collaborate with The National Centre for Writing where Cindy Oswin performed her play 'CELL', funded by a generous donation of £1,000.

The charity received a generous legacy gift which was unrestricted and added to general funds.

Other voluntary income and sales decreased slightly from 2023, while income from events was significantly higher (disregarding last year's anniversary income).

General expenditure was broadly on a par with last year and, more importantly, did not exceed income. Our thanks to all our supporters for their generosity, enabling the Friends to meet their costs – it is greatly appreciated.

In addition to the annual £5,000 contribution towards the Priest Director, the trustees were pleased to award £1,195 to the Julian Partnership for improvements

to the garden area. This was funds raised by Shirley Buxton's 'Big Splash' and held in a restricted fund awaiting a suitable project.

The charity's free reserves at the end of 2024 increased to £32,400, approximately 18 months expenditure. The trustees are looking at ways to best use some of these reserves in the near future.

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN INCOME & EXPENDITURE

INCOME	2024 General	2024 Designated	2023 Total
Friends' subscriptions, donations, Companions' gifts	£13,002.92	£0.00	£17,997.45
Legacy gift	£1,645.25	£0.00	£0.00
Grant received	£0.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
Festival & Events (includes bench appeal)	£5,223.12	£0.00	£6,856.43
Bank Interest	£454.53	£863.69	£1,094.29
Sales	£5,631.88	£0.00	£6,347.57
Purchase of stock by partners	£660.00	£0.00	£1,577.90
Miscellaneous income	£75.00	£0.00	£0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£26,692.70	£1,863.69	£33,873.64
EXPENDITURE	2024 General	2024 Designated	2023 Total
Purchase of Stock	£4,022.96	£0.00	£4,533.98
Bank and online partner charges	£1,260.11	£0.00	£1,932.57
Other expenses (eg promotion, postage)	£1,477.18	£0.00	£1,362.26
Charitable activities (eg newsletter, events)	£7,010.43	£1,000.00	£26,750.64
Depreciation of fixed assets (fixtures & pc)	£0.00	£0.00	£288.00
Contribution to Julian of Norwich Partnership	£0.00	£6,195.00	£5,000.00
Running Expenses (utilities, website, admin)	£5,627.75	£0.00	£7,318.02
Purchase of stock for partners	£660.00	£0.00	£1,577.90
TOTAL EXPENSES	£20,058.43	£7,195.00	£48,463.39
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) for the year	£6,634.27	(£5,331.31)	(£14,889.73)

REVIEW OF THE 2024 JULIAN LECTURE

The Julian lecture of 2024 celebrated the fortieth anniversary year of the 'Friends of Julian'.

It was given on 11th May by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, on the topic of 'Julian and the Trinity'.

Most appropriately, it was held in Norwich cathedral, dedicated to none other than the 'Holy and Undivided Trinity'.



Above: Dr Williams at St Julian's Church after the lecture.

Dr Williams's lecture was an absolute treat. He is a lively speaker but, at the same time, an immensely learned and thoughtful theologian. Throughout his talk, his profound respect for Julian's equally deep learning shone through. Certainly, Julian wears her theological learning lightly in her writings, perhaps out of charity to her readers but perhaps also not to upset the male-dominated Church hierarchy of her day. But, as Dr Williams so eloquently demonstrated, it is nevertheless there, underpinning all of her thinking. In his exposition, one of the most striking things about Julian's book is its intellectual coherence, the inexorable logic with which she pursues her arguments. At the centre of that logic lies the Trinity, evident at a basic level in Julian's favourite rhetorical device of arguing in groups of three but also at the most exalted conceptual level, embedded in how she understands the relationship between God and humanity.

We are, in Julian's view, 'beclosed in the Trinity', where the substance of our humanity belongs. At least as I understood it, Dr Williams's argument is that Julian identifies and underscores the 'original good' in our frail humanity in a manner that challenges the St Augustine's concept of 'original sin', a fundamental doctrine of medieval Christianity. At the same time, Julian stays just on the right side of what constituted Christian orthodoxy in her time; she was far too clever to write something that would openly confront the powers-that-be.

In general, it was a wonderfully illuminating, at times entertaining and yet intellectually stimulating lecture – a fine contribution to what is now a firmly established tradition.

Margit Thofner

COMPANIONS' REPORT

from Fr Bruce-Julian Batstone CJN OboJN



The Companions of Julian is a growing communion of women and men for whom solitude, silence and intercession are hallmarks of life, inspired by the example and teachings of Mother Julian. Our international membership numbers: UK 28; Scandinavia 1; N America 10; Australia/New Zealand 6.

A group of Companions has recently led a quiet morning and quiet afternoon (different time zones necessitate flexible meeting arrangements) offering online space to be silent together, to reflect and discuss in small groups. We hope to repeat this again soon, as a way to support established Companions of Julian alongside enquirers and aspirants.

JULIAN NEWS FROM FLORIDA

In March Stephen Hoffman, CJN, held a Julian Workshop at the local United Methodist Church in Sarasota, Florida, US.

For many of the twelve enthusiastic participants this was an introduction to Julian of Norwich. They watched *The Search for The Lost Manuscript*, the film directed by FOJ trustee Sally-Anne Lomas, released in 2016. Stephen also showed photographs of the Cloth of Kindness <https://www.clothofkindness.co.uk/projects>, produced for the Julian 650th anniversary.

On Good Friday a Centering Prayer vigil will take place, shaped around the seven last words of Christ on the Cross, and accompanied by reflections from Julian's Revelations with space for silence.



Image from the Julian Workshop



THE JULIAN FESTIVAL 2025

Friday 9th & Saturday 10th May

We're so pleased that the Festival returns in May and would love to see you there. Please see pages 8 & 9 for more information about the events taking place, including the AGM of the Friends of Julian.

FRIENDS OF JULIAN AGM AGENDA

AGENDA of AGM of the Friends of Julian of Norwich

Saturday 10th May 2025 at 2.15pm

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last AGM on 11th May 2024
3. Matters arising
4. To receive and consider the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, together with the Trustees' Annual Report for the year ending May 2025
5. To elect members of the Board of Trustees
6. Appointment of Financial Examiner
7. Any other business

Please notify the Secretary by 6 May 2025 of any items to be discussed or proposals regarding trustee membership: howard.green@julianofnorwich.org

THE BEGINNING OF JULIAN'S SHORT TEXT IN ESTONIAN

Here's the first part of the Estonian translation by Aet (see page 6 for more info).

Siin on nägemus, mille Jumal oma headuses on ilmutanud vagale naisele. Ja tema nimi on Julian, erak Norwichist, ning ta on elavate kirjas ka praegu, anno Domini 1413. Tema nägemuses on leida palju rõõstivaid sõnu ja suurt innustust kõikidele, kes ihkavad oma südames olla Kristuse armastajad.

Here is a vision which God in his goodness has revealed to a pious woman. And her name is Julian, a hermit of Norwich, and she is on the register of the living even now, anno Domini 1413. In her vision are to be found many words of comfort and great encouragement to all who desire in their hearts to be lovers of Christ.

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

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

Email: contact@julianofnorwich.org www.julianofnorwich.org Reg Charity 289918



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