

WHAT DOES JULIAN PRESENCE MEAN TODAY?



How can we be like Julian today, as contemplative people of compassion, service and prayer?



In 2023, honouring the legacy of Julian of Norwich, we are not simply remembering the visions of a medieval woman writer in a hidden Norwich backstreet 650 years ago! Whilst it is easy to focus on *The Revelations of Divine Love* as a piece of important literature, penned by a very significant icon of English medieval mystical theology, we are celebrating that same revelation of God's love made to each of us throughout our lives.

This online conference asks the question, *'What does Julian presence mean today?'* Or put another way, *'How can we be like Julian today, as contemplative people of compassion, service and prayer?'*

Hosted by the **Companions of Julian**, this Candlemas conference is for anyone who wants to take seriously the truth that this revelation of the Divine Love continues, and dearly desires to be responded to in the hidden roads and streets of our own cities, towns and villages today.

OUR SUBJECTS & SPEAKERS



The Right Revd Graham Usher



Sister Elizabeth Ruth Obbard



Father Colin

‘What might Julian presence mean at a time of climate and biodiversity emergency?’

The Right Reverend Graham Usher is the Bishop of Norwich and Church of England lead bishop for the environment. Bishop Graham is the 72nd Bishop of Norwich. He began life as an ecologist, is a keen bee-keeper, and speaks and writes widely on the environment, including two books *Places of Enchantment: Meeting God in Landscapes* and *The Way Under Our Feet: a Spirituality of Walking*. Bishop Graham has embraced the legacy of Julian of Norwich in much of his ministry, and gives a hazelnut tree sapling to each of the people confirmed by him in Norfolk. Until 2020 he was a board member of the Human Tissue Authority. He is a Church Commissioner, a member of the Anglican Consultative Council and the International Commission for Anglican Orthodox Theological Dialogue. Bishop Graham is married to Rachel, a GP, and they have two adult children.

‘Becoming Another Julian’

Focusing on the loving heart of Christ, **Sister Elizabeth Ruth Obbard** will speak about compassion, so resonant to what was revealed to Julian, and fundamental to God’s invitation to us to serve with compassion and love wherever we find ourselves. Sister Elizabeth comes from an army family, and was educated between England and Germany. She entered religious life aged 18. During her time as a Carmelite, Elizabeth spent 15 years as a solitary attached to the Carmelite Shrine at Aylesford in Kent. Here she developed a special relationship with Julian as a woman of prayer, yet also close to ordinary people and their needs. With other trustees of the Julian Shrine she was instrumental in the founding of the Companions of Julian, and was herself a member until she returned to enclosure at her original monastery of Quidenham, Norfolk in 2013.

‘Reflections on Julian’s writings and the monastic tradition’

Father Colin has been Superior of the Community of the Servants of the Will of God since April 2008, and a member of the community since 1984. Brought up in Liverpool, Fr Colin was ordained in 1976, and worked in parishes until he joined CSWG, an Anglican monastic community based at Crawley Down in West Sussex. About a possible theme he writes, “I shall certainly have some comments to make on what she has to say about prayer....I have also been very taken with her comments on the theme around, ‘all shall be well’. In particular, I do find her understanding about believing that all will be well, in God’s good time, and in heaven, but in the meantime we don’t need to know how things will work out....I’ll see if I can work something round that, as well as other things”.

Bishop Tony Robinson



Mother Hilary Crupi



Sister Pamela



'Only in you do I have everything' : the value of consecrated life today.

Bishop Tony Robinson is Bishop of Wakefield, in the Diocese of Leeds, and is Episcopal Visitor to the Single Consecrated Life community. Born and educated in Bedford, he was a secondary school teacher, before training for the priesthood. Since he was ordained, Bishop Tony has worked in parishes with significant ethnic communities. He moved to West Yorkshire in 1997 to work first as the Archdeacon of Pontefract, and was consecrated in 2002 as the Bishop of Pontefract in the Diocese of Wakefield. He chairs the diocesan links with the Dioceses of Mara, Rorya and Tarime in Tanzania and Faisalabad in Pakistan, and nationally, he chairs the Church of England Presence and Engagement task group which supports the Church's mission in areas with large ethnic communities. Also, he is Chairman of Forward in Faith and Chair of the Council of Bishops of The Society.

'Patience and Despair: Experience of Julian Presence Today'

Mother Hilary Crupi OJN is a priest in the US Episcopal Church, and has been Guardian of The Order of Julian of Norwich since 2010. OJN is a contemplative monastic order of the Episcopal Church, committed to intercession and conversion of life in the spirit of the teaching of Saint Julian. The nuns of the Order live the monastic life together under Benedictine vows of stability, conversion of life, and obedience, while Oblates and Associates of the Order are dispersed throughout the world, observing the vows in ways suited to their particular vocations and life situations. To live the contemplative life is to occupy the prophetic hidden ground that offers space for God to work, in the way God chooses. Julian embodied this difficult work by holding in tension the seemingly irreconcilable aspects of **patience and despair** making space in herself for the trust and vulnerability necessary to keep the heart open to God's presence and mercy.

'JULIAN PRESENCE IN NORFOLK & NORWICH: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Sister Pamela CAH writes 'I have known St Julian's and the house since the 1960s. I worked there as a Novice in the 70s and then later lived and worked with Sister Rosamund. In 2000 I replaced the CSP Sisters (who'd been running the house for us) until we dispersed and I moved to Mull five years ago.' Thanks to generous funding from the Community of All Hallows and the Friends of Julian of Norwich, the house has been refurbished to enable it continue to receive guests and pilgrims, to be a focus of life for a revitalised community around the Julian Cell, and to be a transformative presence in its own local area. Sister Pamela will share with us memories of the past, help us to reflect on the current vision, and encourage us to consider ways that this Julian presence may be imagined in the future.

WHAT DOES JULIAN PRESENCE MEAN TODAY?

Thursday 2 & Friday 3 February 2023. All times GMT.

This is an online conference. Your link can be accessed when you buy a ticket via Eventbrite (see below). Ticket holders will receive the live Zoom link and will be provided with the links to the recordings a couple of days later.

THURSDAY 2 FEBRUARY	
09:00	Welcome and Introduction Fr Bruce CJN
09:15	Reflections on Julian's writings and the monastic tradition Fr Colin CSWG
10:45	Break
11:30	<i>'What might Julian presence mean at a time of climate and biodiversity emergency?'</i> The Right Reverend Graham Usher
13:00	Break
17:00	<i>'Becoming Another Julian'</i> Sister Elizabeth Ruth Obbard OCD
18:30	Close

FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY	
09:00	<i>'Julian presence in Norfolk and Norwich: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'</i> Sister Pamela CAH
10:30	Break
11:30	<i>'Only in you do I have everything': The value of consecrated life today.</i> Bishop Tony Robinson
13:00	Break
15:00	<i>'Patience and Despair: Experience of Julian Presence Today'</i> Mother Hilary Crupi OJN
16:30	Break
17:00	Plenary and closing remarks Fr Bruce CJN
17:30	Close

Tickets are free for Companions, £20 for one day or £30 for both days. To find out more, and to book your place, please visit: <https://julianpresence2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

THE FRIENDS OF JULIAN OF NORWICH

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