

Launch of the Margery Kempe Centre in King's Lynn Minster

We are delighted to inform you of the events that will be taking place in St Margaret's, King's Lynn Minster, in October and November to celebrate the launch of the new **Margery Kempe Centre**.

The official launch will take place on 9th November, Margery's feast day, and there will be three introductory talks in the run-up to the launch.



Wednesday 19th October 2022 at 6pm: Susan Maddock, 'The Real Margery Kempe'

Susan Maddock is Hon. Research Fellow at the University of East Anglia and she was responsible for the King's Lynn Borough Archives for over thirty

years. Susan's most recent discoveries about Kempe can also be found in her essay 'Margery Kempe's Home Town and Worthy Kin' in *Encountering The Book of Margery Kempe* (Kalas and Varnam, ed., 2021).

Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 6pm: Dr Paul Richards, 'Margery Kempe's Lynn: A Hanseatic World'

Paul Richards is well known for his many outstanding books on King's Lynn.

Wednesday 2nd November 2022 at 6pm: Rev Dr Luke Penkett, 'Margery Kempe: A Hysterical Exhibitionist or a Devout Christian?'

Luke Penkett, late Hon. Librarian at the Julian Centre, is an independent researcher, reviewer, and writer, and he is the Secretary of the Margery Kempe Society.

Wednesday 9th November 2022, 6.30pm-9pm (incl. 20 minute interval): King's Lynn History Variety Night

This collaborative event on Kempe's feast day will showcase some of the fascinating and hilarious history of King's Lynn, inspired by the successful play 'Skirting Heresy' by Elizabeth MacDonald. A combination of historical readings, performances, and displays of art by local schools, plus songs, will interweave history with comedy, including an ongoing commentary by two historical hecklers, Nick and Margaret.

The **launch of the Margery Kempe Centre** is important for King's Lynn itself, where it will be an important step forward in the veneration of Margery Kempe, but also for late medieval scholarship worldwide. The Minster, where Margery herself worshipped, will become the physical presence for the Margery Kempe Society. Thanks to the work of Luke Penkett, the Society Secretary, we have the beginnings of a Margery Kempe library at the Minster, including virtually all the books and book chapters on Margery. There will also be a fascinating interactive display in addition to striking artwork inspired by Margery's writing.

We hope that many members of the Society will be able to visit the new Margery Kempe Centre in King's Lynn and enjoy the talks and events on offer.

Please contact Luke Penkett (lukepenkett@outlook.com) with any questions about the above.

