



The Benefice of Pontefract

Parish of St Giles with St Mary's

The Revd Canon June Lawson
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**Please note, the service on
Wednesday, 6th May will take place at
12.00pm and not 9.30am.**

Canon June writes...

On Friday in our churches calendar we remember Julian of Norwich who lived as an anchoress in the 14th century. In our May magazine, on pages 34-5, you can read more about her in an article written by Gill Butterworth, a Companion of the Julian Centre in Norwich. In it, Gill makes some links between our own times and Julian's.

Her *Revelations of Divine Love*, the first work in English to be authored by a woman, appears to have been written down in 1373 soon after Julian, as a young woman, recovered from the illness that nearly killed her. In it, Julian describes the terrifying recent events of her deathbed and the spiritual comfort she received during her darkest hour. There is another version – the so-called 'Long Text' – which was composed around 20 years later. In the later text, Julian seeks to make out the meaning of the visions she experienced.



A reading from the conclusion to the *Revelations of Divine Love*

"He beholds his heavenly treasure with such great love on earth that he wills to give us more light and solace in heavenly joy, drawing our hearts from the sorrow and darkness they are in. From the time of the showing, I desired frequently to understand what our Lord's meaning was, and more than fifteen years afterward I was answered by a spiritual understanding that said, 'Do you want to understand your Lord's meaning in this experience? Understand it well: love was his meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For love. Hold yourself in this truth and you shall understand and know more in the same vein. And you will never know or understand anything else in it forever.'

Thus was I taught that love is our Lord's meaning. And I saw most certainly in this and in everything that before God made us he loved us, and this love never slackened and never shall. In this love he has done all his works, in this love he has made all things profitable for us, and in this love our life is everlasting. In our creation we had a beginning, but the love by which he made us was in him from without beginning, and in this love we have our beginning. And all this we shall see in God without end."

A Biblical passage to read and mediate upon:

'The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord'. *Lamentations 2:22-26*

Statue of Julian of Norwich, Norwich Cathedral, by David Holgate FSDC
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/8762310@N07/4835855098>

READINGS FOR 3RD MAY 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Acts 2.42 to end

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Psalm 23

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
³ he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

I Peter 2. 19 to end

¹⁹ For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly.

²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

John 10.1-10

¹ "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

DAILY READINGS THIS WEEK

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| Monday 4th | Morning: Psalm 103 & Luke 2.41 to end Evening: Psalm 114 & Ephesians 4.1-16 |
| Tuesday 5th | Morning: Psalm 139 & Luke 3.1-14 Evening: Psalm 116 & Ephesians 4. 17 to end |
| Wednesday 6th | Service at 12.00pm today, not 9.30am. Morning: Psalm 135 & Luke 3. 15-22 Evening: Psalm 47 & Ephesians 5. 1-14 |
| Thursday 7th | Morning: Psalm 118 & Luke 4. 1-13 Evening: Psalm 85 & Ephesians 5. 15-end |
| Friday 8th | Morning: Psalm 33 & Luke 4.14-30 Evening: Psalm 36 & Ephesians 6.1-9 |
| <i>Julian of Norwich, Spiritual writer, c.1417</i> | |
| Saturday 9th | Morning: Psalm 34 & Luke 4.31-37 Evening: Psalm 84 & Ephesians 6.10-end |

We pray for those who are ill:

Eric; Linda; Mar; Murray; Hans; Lesley; Gail & Liam; Derek & Janet; Pam & Brian; Cynthia; Brenda; Jean; Margaret; Jonathan; Ellie; Joyce; Barrie; Lucy Nichol; Rhys Williams; Janis Gallagher; Catherine & Colin Godridge; Pat Steel; Sandra Cutting; David Murray; Anita Murray; Robert Metcalfe; Russ Hunter; Ray Steel; Jean Johnson.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Donald Chessman; Alan Netherwood; David Lill; Graham Atkinson.

And those whose years mind falls at this time:

Doris Helen Guest; Ernest Dean; Thomas Walsh.

Please note, the service on Wednesday, 6th May will take place at the later time of 12.00pm and not 9.30am. Sunday's service remains unchanged at 10.00am.

The e-magazine for May is now available to view on the website. Follow the link below or look within the 'News' section as well as in the 'Weekly Notices & Magazine' page.

<http://www.stgilespontefract.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parish-Mag-May-2020-compressed.pdf>



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



CONNECTIONS

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** - has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind.

"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are." Archbishop Justin Welby

St Mary's Community Centre is not actually open at present, but are operating as a virtual Community Hub, in conjunction with Wakefield Council, to provide help and support for the Pontefract area. If you know of anyone needing support, please contact St Mary's as shown opposite:

Coronavirus COVID-19 Crisis Community Hubs

Pontefract: St Mary's Community Centre
01977 705341 (please leave a message)
denisepallett@stmaryscommunity.co.uk

Community Hubs

If you need help in your local area you can contact your Community Hub. They have volunteers and a range of support to help you and they are working with the Council to support communities during this crisis. Please only contact the Hub in your area as they are going to be very busy. For more information about local Hubs, please visit:
<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/about-the-council/coronavirus-information>

Joyce Bellamy is hoping to raise funds for St John Ambulance who are helping frontline NHS staff battle Coronavirus and, like many charities, are in dire straights due to the loss of fundraising opportunities through social distancing measures. She is knitting little dolls dressed as nurses.



Please sponsor her to knit as many nurses as she can by 31st May. You will also be entered into a raffle to win one of the dolls.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/joycebellamy>

DONALD CHESSMAN—RIP

I would like to thank everyone in our church family for all their support and sympathy following Donald's death. The cards of condolences, flowers and phone calls have helped immensely during this sad time. Thanks also to his friends who made it to the crematorium, although they could only stand outside due to the present prevailing circumstances, Donald would have been proud. When things start to get back to normal I look forward to thanking you all personally. Finally, thanks to Canon June for a lovely service and her support throughout.

Barbara Chessman

ALAN NETHERWOOD—RIP

Thank you to my Church family for the many messages of condolence received by my family and myself following Alan's sudden death. They have been of great comfort. I look forward to the day when we can all be together again at St. Giles. Until then stay safe and well. Special thanks to Canon June for her support throughout this sad time.

Gina Netherwood

CONTACT DETAILS

During the current Coronavirus crisis, if you would like to receive the weekly notices direct to your email address, please would you send your contact details (name, address, email and phone number) in order that we can add these to our database. By sending us your contact details you are agreeing to us holding this information. We assure you that this information will be used solely for the purpose of keeping in contact with you.

Please send your contact details to: stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Wednesday, April 29th: Deadline for Notices. Items must be received by 3:00p.m. Please e-mail Vivienne Smales at stgileschurchpontefract@gmail.com

Sunday, May 24th: Deadline for June's Parish Magazine. Please e-mail items to both brucedalgleish0@gmail.com and stgmmonthlymag@gmx.com

A NOTE CONCERNING GIVING FROM DAVID LEIGH, OUR TREASURER

The CofE Stewardship and Income Generation Team has asked us to highlight the impact of the decline in income from lettings, donations and offertories during the current Coronavirus outbreak.

A significant number (45%) of our parishioners already donate via Direct Debit and Standing Orders from their banks and we are extremely grateful for that contribution. In the current circumstances, we would like to encourage individuals who would normally bring cash into church to continue making their weekly/monthly contributions via their bank. This will make a significant difference to our cash flow in the weeks and months ahead.

Equally, at this time, many people may be concerned about income and livelihoods and we do not want them to feel any additional burden of worry about their financial giving at this time.

If you would like to change your method of giving to Direct Debit, you can do this by contacting your bank by phone (if you have the Telephone Banking facility) or online if you have internet banking. Although you can visit your bank in person to make this change, we are not encouraging you to consider this option during the current lockdown period.

Details of our church bank account are as follows:

Account Name: St Giles Parochial Church Council

Bank: Yorkshire Bank, 25 Ropergate, Pontefract, WF8 1LQ

Sort Code: 05-06-71

Account Number: 16172795

With every good wish to you all. Stay safe.

David Leigh
Treasurer

If you would like something posted on our social media platforms, please email:

stgmsocialmedia@gmail.com

To keep in touch with the latest news from the Parish, please visit our websites:

www.stgilespontefract.org.uk

www.stgilescentrepontefract.org.uk

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/stgilespontefract

Twitter: @CofEPontefract & Instagram: stgilespontefract

We look forward to hearing from you soon!



Citizens Advice Wakefield District continue to offer a full range of advice and help during the lockdown period.

We can help with benefits claims including advice and support on setting up claims for Universal Credit; we can help you deal with debts and give advice if your employment has been affected.

We are free, confidential, independent and impartial

We are able to offer advice & assistance via telephone, email or webchat

(Debt/Benefits/Housing/Employment/Family)

Telephone 03444 111 444

(Universal Credit – Help to Claim)

Telephone 0800 144 8 444

(Consumer goods, services, digital, events, travel etc.)

Telephone 0808 223 1133

Email us via

www.wakefielddistrictcab.co.uk

Web chat with us at

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/contact-us/contact-us/

Citizens Advice Wakefield District is a registered charity. Although part of the national Citizens Advice network we are independent and run locally for the residents of Wakefield District.