

PRAYING WITH MOTHER JULIAN

3. ALL SHALL BE WELL

Good morning. Today we are having the third reflection on praying with Mother Julian. We may feel that Julian's life was very limited and intolerably sheltered, but the effect on Julian was to set her spirit free. She was shut up most of her life in the narrowness of one room, but because that room was open to God, she was able to embrace the whole of creation in her thought her care and her love.



Julian's book, which was called 'Revelations of Divine Love' was lost for many years after she died. Copies of it were made and held in monasteries and convents, but it didn't become widely known until a Rev Henry Collins discovered a copy in the British Museum in 1877. It was translated into modern English, and from there into many editions and languages. So from her tiny cell, Julian's wisdom has reached the whole world.

She wrote:

*Our good Lord showed me a vision of his simple loving.
Also in this revelation he showed me a little thing,
the size of a hazelnut
in the palm of my hand
and it was as round as a ball*

*I looked at it with the eye of my understanding and thought:
'What can this be?'*

*And it was generally answered thus:
'It is all that is made'*

*I marvelled at how it could continue,
because it seemed to me that it could have suddenly have sunk into nothingness
because of its littleness.*

*And I was answered in my understanding
'It continues and always will, because God loves it;
and in this way everything has its being in the love of God.'*

And then:

*See, I am God
See, I am in everything,
See I do everything,
See I never lift my hands from my work, nor ever shall, without end
See, I lead everything to the end I ordained for it, from without beginning
by the same power and wisdom and love with which I made it.*

*And all shall be well
and all shall be well
and all manner of things shall be well*

Intercession

With those words in our minds, I'd like us now to share in the Julian prayer of intercession

It's a simple way of intercession which is the way of awareness
Intercession is not pleading with God. Intercession is simply standing in God's presence on behalf of another.

To pray for others we do not have to be clever or eloquent or even perceptive of their needs; just ourselves as we are: simple, a bit confused perhaps, but wanting God's will – or at least wanting to want God's will for ourselves and others.

It is God's business to take things on from there.

The first step is to become aware that God has been working long before we came on the scene,
that he is working now,
and that our desire is to be linked with him
within the communion of saints
in this work.

The second step is to bring to mind those persons or concerns for whom/which we pray,
slowly, one by one,
and let all our awareness be given to them.
This is not concentration, no mental effort is required.
Just awareness, as we might have
standing in the presence of a picture or a sunset.

The third step is to put our concerns aside
and just *be* in God's presence.
We do not now have to reflect that we are there on behalf of another; what has already been done makes that clear.
We just *are* in the presence of God,
our intention – again we do not have to reflect upon it now –
being that God's love shall flow freely into this other,
as our hope is,
it shall in ourselves.