

St Clement's Monthly News

May 2026

Julian of Norwich

On 8th May, the Church of England celebrates the life and witness of Julian of Norwich. Julian was an anchoress who lived a simple life of prayer and spiritual counsel in a small cell attached to St Julian's Church in Norwich at the end of the 14th and the beginning of the 15th century.

She is known for her writings, *Revelations of Divine Love*, the earliest surviving English-language work by a woman. In it, she describes a series of visions—or “shewings,” as she calls them—received when she was gravely ill at the age of thirty and thought to be dying.

There are two versions of *Revelations of Divine Love*. The first, *A Vision Showed to a Devout Woman*, was written soon after the visions. The second, *A Revelation of Love*, was written about twenty years later and is a fuller, more mature account.

At the end of this longer work, Julian writes that she often “yearned” to understand the meaning of the revelations. In a moment of spiritual insight, she comes to see that love is their meaning. She writes: “*I was answered in my spiritual understanding, and it was said: ‘Do you want to know your Lord’s meaning in this? Be well aware: love was his meaning. Who showed you this? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For love. Hold fast to this...’*”

It is easy to imagine that figures like Julian are too far removed from the realities of our lives to have anything meaningful to say. Nothing could be further from the truth. Julian lived through the “calamitous 14th century,” enduring repeated waves of the Black Death which killed around half of Europe’s population. Britain was at war with France throughout her lifetime. She witnessed the Peasants’ Revolt in Norwich in 1381 and lived through a period of deep religious and political instability. Yet in the midst of such turmoil, she prayed, offered counsel to those who sought her out, and quietly made a difference.

‘Love was his meaning’: this is a truth we can live by today. We know that love is demanding and hard work. In a world of wars and rumours of wars, of sickness and political tension, we need to remember that we are made by Love and made for love. Julian also wrote in *Revelations* that, “Jesus Christ is my heaven,” meaning that as she looked at Jesus on the cross, she knew she could not go wrong: here was truth, here was love, and nothing could separate her from his undying love for her and all people.

With Julian, we can affirm that in Jesus we have everything we need to live purposeful lives of faith, hope and love.

Rev’d Matthew

Diary for May

Fri 1 st	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 3rd	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 4 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group NO HANDBELL RINGING
Tues 5 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 6 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
	2.00pm	Mothers' Union Service in Church
Fri 8 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 10th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 11 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 12 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 13 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 14th	7.30pm	Ascension Day Eucharist at St Mary's
Fri 15 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 17th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 18 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
	4.00pm	Handbell Ringing
Tues 19 st	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 20 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 21 ^{st h}	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	7.00pm	Men's Group
Fri 22 nd	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 24th	10.30am	Pentecost Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 25 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Whit Walks in Manchester NO HANDBELL RINGING
Tues 26 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 27 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Fri 29 th	7.00pm	Choir Practice
Sun 31st	10.30am	Trinity Sunday Eucharist at the Parish Church



THE BRANCH CHURCH HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

SUNDAY May 3rd
10.30am Morning Worship

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tuesday
Meeting in the Parish Hall

Contact Samantha

Surmstonbrownies@gmail.com

WHIT WALKS

Mon 25th May 2026
Meet 9.30am Cathedral Gardens
Walk starts at 10.00am

The route:

Walk along Deansgate to St
Peter's Square

Act of Worship
10.45am

Address by Rev'd Kate Bottley

Return to Manchester Cathedral
via Deansgate.

Please contact Daniel if you wish
to join the walk so that the
organisers will have an idea of
numbers.

If you are unable to walk you can
join the service in St Peter's
Square if you wish to meet the
walkers there.