

Julian of Norwich Study

Context First

Geography - Physically Norwich is on the east side of England. It was a very important religious city and second in size to London. The Benedictine priory of Carrow goes way back to when King Stephen granted his lands in the fields of Norwich to God and the nuns serving at St Mary and St John of Norwich. (1146) Julian of Norwich may have been a Benedictine nun of Carrow in her early years.

St Julian Church was named for St Julian born in 7AD. He is the patron saint of hotel keepers, travelers, and boatman due to a rather gruesome story and his efforts to repent for his sin.

Anchorite and anchoress are people who, for religious reasons, withdraw from secular society to lead a life of prayer.

Dame Julian of Norwich (maybe 1342 - 1416)
First woman to have wrote a book in English that has survived.

Dame Julian was an anchoress at St. Julians Church. She never left her room. People left money to sustain her. In her later years she was known as a spiritual counselor. Wealthy people would go to her to seek council on various matters. She can be found in four wills including Margery Kempe.

Black Death - a plague originating in China and spread by a warfare tactic. The army would bring infected corpus into towns and trading areas. It was not airborne and did not thrive in the winter. Iceland and Finland were never affected by the Black Death.

No one knows who Dame Julian was at birth. She took her name from the church named after St. Julian who is an all together different character.

From julianofnorwich.org

Her writings were upbeat and hopeful and continue to inspire today.

"He attributes no blame, out of love..."

Peace and love are always in us, being and working, but we are not always in peace and love. But he wants us to pay attention to this: that he is the foundation of our whole life in love."

"It is true that sin is cause of all this suffering, but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. These words were said very tenderly, indicating no kind of blame."

