



Spend a little time studying the picture above then, if you wish to, colour it in making it as muted or vibrant as you wish.

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 15: 12

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

Julian of Norwich was born in 1342. It was a very turbulent time and a time when religion dominated the lives of most citizens, Aged 30 Julian became seriously ill, thinking she was going to die received the 'last rites'. Whilst gazing at the Curate's crucifix Julian had a vision of Jesus bleeding. Julian did recover and, over the next few days, received a series of visions. Over her long life she spent much time thinking about and talking with Jesus, she comes to understand the visions as Revelations of the love of God through him.

Julian went on to live in seclusion in a small cell attached to a church. She became a spiritual authority and what, we might now call, a Spiritual Director. People would come to the window of her cell with their worries and questions. Her theology was optimistic full of God's benevolence, love, joy and compassion. We are all loved by God and protected by his providence. Julian equated divine love with motherly love - God is both our mother and our father.

During one of the visions Julian says Jesus 'informed me' 'all shall be well.....' Julian struggled with this as we do today. Over many years she argues with Jesus asking how this can be when there is so much sin in the world. Jesus responds saying 'what is impossible with man is possible with God'. He tells her that, through the Trinity, God 'shall make all well'. Julian had to learn to live with what she sees happening in the world and accepting Jesus' words of love, hope and reassurance. If you are in a group you might like to discuss the tension between the horrors in the world and Jesus' words that all 'shall be well'.

During one 'conversation' with Jesus Julian comes to see in a small hazelnut three truths on which everything depends. Firstly God made the hazelnut. Secondly God loves the hazelnut. Thirdly God looks after that hazelnut moment by moment. This realisation moves Julian to cry out in amazement: "What is he indeed, that is maker and lover and keeper?"

It took Julian a life time of prayer to realise that there are no words adequate to describe, or even comprehend, who or what God is. Prayerfully colour in the hazelnuts alongside and ask God to help your understanding of Him.

Do you agree with Julian that if God makes something he will both love it and care for it? If so, how do we go about fulfilling Jesus' 'command' to love one another as he loves us?



Bible in Pictures is produced by the Revd. Janet Parker to help by being a Ministerial Presence in challenging times. A new picture should go up every two weeks and can be found, with all previous BiPs, at:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KPqLuwWi_2dcibEKwnp4dvz4CLqrs9s

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