

## St James News: Thought for the day – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### Hildegarde of Bingen – Revd John Marshall

When we were travelling down or up the Rhine in Germany, one place I wanted to visit but never quite did was Bingen. We went to the ferry and maybe to a Christmas shop but not to Bingen.

Years ago I acquired a cassette tape – it was blue with a nun on it, which played her music and hymns, but with a disco or possibly trance backing and sung by the nuns. I enjoyed it and so did my pupils (It has also been played in church.)

Hildegarde was a remarkable woman, she lived from 1098 - 1179. She became a nun when she was 15 and for 17 years she led an uneventful studious life; until her visions and revelations began. She became the Abbess of Diesenberg and was told to write down her vision (In the work Scivias – these were approved by an archbishop and the Pope. She moved the abbey to Bingen. She reproved rulers and wrote poems, hymns, a morality play, besides works on medicine, and natural history. She also wrote commentaries on the Gospels, the Athanasian creed and the rule of St. Benedict, as well as lives of the saints. She was also a musician and artist.

I am so grateful to scholars who have used the talents given to them by God to explain the world and the Scriptures.

I still enjoy Hildegarde's music. I think Hildegarde may have agreed with this. "Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him." Psalm 147.1