

St James News: Thought for the day – Thursday 6th August 2020

Margery Kempe – Rev John Marshall

You may have noticed that Kit has been using some prayers from Margery Kempe. She was a remarkable woman, a contemporary of Julian of Norwich, and in fact Margery visited Julian. She was born in Bishops Lynn about 1373. She was the wife of a business man and mother to 14 children. She travelled widely, including going to Rome and Jerusalem.

She was a woman of deep faith and dictated a book about her life, now known as the book of Margery Kempe. (She could not read or write – but got other people to read her the scriptures and other religious works.

I would like to share some of her writings collected in *The Joy of the Saints* edited by Robert Llewelyn.

“On the day of purification which is Candlemas, all the people were in church with their candles and in contemplation. I saw our Lady with Joseph offering her son to Simeon, the priest in the temple, I heard song so beautiful that I was transported with love for our Lord and could not hold my candle to offer to the priest.”

“When I see children carried in their mother’s arms it seems to me I see Christ in his childhood.”

“How can I love you Lord? I asked. He answered, “Be aware of your sins and of my love. Do not be afraid, what a person has been in the past is not important, what matters is what they will be in the future. Remember Mary Magdalene, St Paul and many other saints before they knew me. The dishonest I make honest, the bad, I make good.”

Jesus says “When I love you, I love you for ever.”

“Blessed be Jesus, who is always near in times of stress. Even when we cannot feel His presence he is near.”

Have you met someone who has told you of their faith who has impressed you? What is the story of faith you can tell ?