

THIRD ORDER



news

Issue 58

July 2016

THIRD ORDER PROVINCIAL CHAPTER JUNE 2016

Summary of the principal issues and points of discussion and decisions:

+Stephen. During the first afternoon we were led in a guided meditation by our Bishop Protector, Stephen Cottrell, based upon Exodus 33: 12 –34:10. We thought about how God does not give us a clear map of the way ahead but instead promises that His presence will be with us as we journey. This is of particular significance to Chapter in its rather daunting task of supporting the Order and as we struggle to improve our ways or working. We are very grateful to +Stephen for his pastoral input to Chapter.

Leave of Absence. Guidance for Area Teams on agreeing leave of absence will be reviewed and updated and published in due course.

Spiritual Directors. A register of accredited spiritual directors within TSSF is to be compiled and, building on the good work of Jeremy and Debby Plummer, consideration is being given to training spiritual directors.

Assisi booklet on Ageing. Terms of reference for the working group were agreed by Chapter and a draft edition for consideration is planned for the Spring of 2017.

Annual Reports. A draft of guidance for AFGs in drawing up annual report forms with suitable questions, based upon last year's feedback, has been developed and will be distributed to AFGs shortly.

Web Site. The current website is no longer considered fit for purpose and a radical rebuild is required. The task is large and beyond the capacity of volunteers to carry out or maintain. The Communications Team are to consider what specification is required of a new website before talking to external consultants.

Knox-Dick fund. Guidelines for managing the money held in this fund were reviewed as well as the terms upon which members can apply for funding. More will be published in due course by the new Knox-Dick administrator, Jane Gillbe.

Election to Profession (with Prayer)

The following were elected to profession, with prayer:

Cathi Bryant	Wales
Catherine Chambers	East Anglia
James Cooper	London South
Sam Gibson	Oxford
Stephen Harding	Canterbury
Steven Hersey	Mersey Valley
Christopher McDermott	Sussex
Pauline Porter	Sussex
Judith Russenberger	London West
Sandra Tauson	Mersey Valley
David Wood	Wales

The full minutes of Chapter are available on the website

THE ROLE OF TSSF PROVINCIAL SECRETARY

Tertiaries who have not had any dealings with Chapter, may not know what the Provincial Secretary's role involves. It sounds a bit 'dry and dusty'. Not so! As I approach the end of my 6 year term in office, I thought I should enlighten tertiaries into some of the different aspects of the role to encourage those who might be pondering whether it is something they might do to support the Third Order.

The Provincial Secretary organises the three Provincial Chapter meetings each year, which includes organising the venue, accommodation, Programme of events and Agenda. The latter is done with the approval of Chapter members and often involves the production of papers by office-holders, in advance of the Chapter meetings, so that proposals for new policies or ways forward can be offered and considered before debate.

In recent years I have sought to arrange more Programme time, to ease the pressure on the busy Agenda, and Chapter is about to embark on a major rethink about the way we conduct our Chapter business. This is intended to enable our Franciscan spirituality and discernment to play a much fuller role in the way we try to respond to our Rule.

There is a regular need to elect new members of Chapter and, in recent years, I have been helped enormously by our 'Returning Officer', who manages the nomination and election process for me. We also have a Chapter Minutes Secretary who records the activities and decisions of Chapter for me, and this allows me to participate much more fully in the discussion of agenda items. Chapter members are also Trustees of the TSSF charitable trust, which seeks to ensure that our funds are used responsibly and that, as a religious Order, we can satisfy the Charity Commission we are providing a public benefit. I am the contact for Charity Commission issues and, in concert with the Provincial Treasurer, the Finance sub-group and our Independent Examiners, we seek to ensure the annual report and accounts are submitted properly and on time.

Chapter has a very important role in ratifying the requests for election to Profession and also release from vows or leave of absence. A good deal of care and prayer is taken over

the latter categories, so it is important that names and details are checked with the membership secretary to ensure it is done correctly. I help Chapter to produce our new Annual Review to the Province to tell you what Chapter have been doing, and I am also responsible for advising Chapter on matters of data protection so that personal information is safeguarded and used responsibly. In summary, the Provincial Secretary is involved in many aspects of Chapter business in support of the Minister Provincial and Chapter members, which makes it a very satisfying and worthwhile way to serve the Third Order. I hope another tertiary will be encouraged to take over the role.

Howard McFadyen

TSSF Banner



We now have a pop-up banner for use at events at which the Third Order has a presence. It is kept at Third Order Distribution at Freeland.

The main picture on the banner is the picture which is used on the new enquirer leaflet and on the front of the first issue of *Little Portion*

The stand which is easy to erect, packs into a box approximately 5"x5"x36" and, can be booked by contacting Third Order Distribution: distribution@tssf.org.uk or

The responsibility for cost of transport will be with the person or group borrowing the banner.



Forming Franciscan community

A gathering for anyone interested in nurturing the Order's local life and mission

12 November 2016, Berwick upon Tweed

26 November 2016, central Manchester

You are invited to one of these two opportunities to find encouragement and help in building up the life of the Order.

These Saturdays in November follow a similar successful event in London, described in March 2016's *Little Portion*.

For details of how to book, see the flyer circulated with this edition of TON, or visit the TSSF website at <http://tssf.org.uk/ffc>.

If you do not have internet access please book by writing to TSSF c/o Corner Cottage, Langar, Nottingham NG13 9HE.

Copy date for forthcoming issues

TON 59: 29 October 2016
TON 60: 24 February 2017
TON 61: 30 June 2017
TON 62: 27 Oct 2017

FUTURE CHAPTER DATES

2016 14-16 October
2017 9-11 February
 15-17 June
 13-15 October
2018 8-10 February
 14-16 June
 12-14 October

STUDY & PRAYER NETWORK

The **Study & Prayer Network** exists to support and facilitate the study and prayer to

which all members of the Third Order are called, as part of our life-long formation.

We maintain a **Study & Prayer Reference Group** email list (currently around 100 Tertiaries) of people who wish to be kept informed of events and issues particularly relevant to study and prayer, and/or to share their own news and requests with an interested group. If you would like to be added to this list, please email studyprayer@tssf.org.uk

The **Study & Prayer Enabling Group** (S&PEG) is the main facilitator of our work, and the means by which the Network is encouraged, supported by, and accountable to Provincial Chapter. The S&PEG is currently looking for a couple of new members and we have drawn up a 'job description' to help people who might be interested in joining us. If you would like more information, including the job description, please email (without any commitment) studyprayer@tssf.org.uk

Study & Prayer Enabling Group Events

Finally, a date for your diary: the annual Freeland Study & Prayer Weekend in 2017 will be Friday 21 – Sunday 23 April. More details to follow.

POSTCARDS FOR REFLECTION

Anne Spalding's photographs, first seen in the TSSF Contemplatives Newsletter, are now available as postcards from Third Order distribution. The pictures (see below) are of sea, desert, reeds, a ruin, and plants, and the cards are intended to be used as a focus for meditation... or to send a note to a friend. They come in packs of six, one of each photograph, costing £3 incl P&P.



TSSF RETREATS AND OTHER EVENTS

RETREATS AT THE OLD PARSONAGE, FREELAND

Dates: Fri 14 - Mon 17 October 2016

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Fr Michael Campling, TSSF

Cost: £145 including conductor's expenses

Dates: Friday 17 - Monday 20 March 2017

Looking at St Francis through Art

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Reverend John de Wit

Cost: £145 including conductor's expenses

Bookings: Lesley Sutton,

12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB

T: 01865 248847

E: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

WALES AREA ANNUAL RETREAT 2016 'IN THE DARKNESS THERE IS LIGHT'

Dates: Thurs 15 - Sun 18 Sept 2016

A Contemplative Retreat

Conductor: Br Nicholas of Glasshampton

Venue: St. Non's Retreat House,
St. Davids, Pembrokeshire

Organised by Wales Area in a coastal setting,
the cost is £160 full board, inclusive of
conductor's accommodation.

Contact ginamary111@yahoo.co.uk or
phone 01348 873599

EAST LONDON & SOUTH EAST ESSEX AREA ANNUAL RETREAT

Humility . . . Love . . . Joy

Dates: Fri 21 - Sun 23 October 2016

Silent Retreat

Venue: The Retreat House Pleshey,
Chelmsford

Conductor: Fr Daniel Sandham

Cost: £154

Please contact me ASAP so that I have an
idea of numbers. Barbara Read.
20, Theydon Bower Epping Essex CM16 7AB
T: 01992-679375.

E: barbara@loughtonchurch.org.uk

*Please let me know of any dietary
requirements,
if vegetarian please state if you eat fish.*

IGR at LLANGASTY

Dates: Monday 24-Friday 28 October 2016

John and Tricia Hall-Matthews are directing
an Individually Given Retreat at Llangasty
Retreat House. This is not specifically
a Franciscan retreat but John and Tricia are
both Tertiaries. Depending on numbers there
may also be another director.

Llangasty is a small, comfortable retreat
house in a stunning setting by Llangorse Lake
in the Brecon Beacons National Park. There
are a limited number of ground-floor rooms
with en suite facilities for those with mobility
problems.

For all details and booking contact the
Warden, Llangasty Retreat House, Brecon,
Powys. LD3 7PX. 01874 658250. Email
enquiries@llangasty.com

Avril Landay is offering a
**Study and Prayer Weekend
at Alnmouth Friary, 2-4 December 2016**

Avril writes: "The idea is to write papers about
whatever anyone wishes, email them to me to
circulate to everyone else, and then discuss
them over the weekend. There will be free
time on Saturday afternoon. Arrivals are at
4pm Friday, departures after lunch
(circa 2:00-2:30) on Sunday."

There are 9 places available (10 if two people
would share a twin room), so it would be
possible for some people to attend and take
part in discussions without producing a paper.
(Requested donation to the Friary for
accommodation & meals is £35 per 24 hours).
For further information and/or to request a
place, please contact Avril directly.

Avril Pauline Landay, TSSF, MA,
Fife Local Group, Scotland Area.
St. Francis and St. Clare's,
12, Boase Avenue, St. Andrews,
Fife, KY16 8BX, Scotland
E: sisteravril05@yahoo.co.uk

*All opinions expressed in this publication are
those of the authors and contributors and not
necessarily those of the European Province
of the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis.*

Who to send things to

Changes in address, telephone number, e-mail address, TSSF Office held

Mollie Kingham, Membership Secretary
12 Buckingham Gardens,
West Molesey KT8 1TH
T: 020 8979 8053
E: memsec@tssf.org.uk
E-mail copy to Chris Jenkins (PCC):
E: comms@tssf.org.uk

Information for Little Portion

Verena Tschudin, Editor
26 Cathcart Road, London SW10 9NN
T: 020 7351 1263
E: editor@tssf.org.uk

Contributions for TON

Sue Charles, Editor
109 Tarnwood Park, Eltham, London E9 5PE
T: 020 8850 0189
E: ton@tssf.org.uk

All other matters to do with communication

Chris Jenkins, Provincial Communications
Coordinator
26 North Road, Wells BA5 2TL
T: 07860 712354
E: comms@tssf.org.uk

Contributions, TSSF expense claims and letters about finance

John Lovatt, Provincial Treasurer
Lower Stonehouse Farm, Brown Edge,
Stoke on Trent ST6 8TF
T: 01782 503090
E: treasurer@tssf.org.uk

Enquirers interested in joining the Order

Peter Dixon, Provincial Novice Guardian
Dove House, 4 New Road, Uttoxeter, ST14 7DB
T: 01889 569722
E: novguard@tssf.org.uk

Training and Development

Paul Bodenham, Provincial Formation Guardian
Corner Cottage, Main Street, Langar,
Nottingham NG13 9HE
T: 01949 861516
E: formation@tssf.org.uk

www.tssf.org.uk

All other enquiries about the Order

Averil Swanton, Minister Provincial
11 The Grange, Fleming Way, Exeter EX2 4SB
T: 01392 430355
E: ministertssf@tssf.org.uk

Disability Advice Team (alternative formats, access, support)

Margaret Armstrong, Cridlands Barn,
Brompton Ralph, Taunton, TA4 2RU
T: 01984 623918
E: disabilityadvisor@tssf.org.uk
Audio, CD and large print copies of various publications are available.

Knox Dick Fund Administrator

Jane Gillbe, Administrator
Annfield House, 5 Maori Road,
Guildford, GU1 2EG
T: 01483 562571
E: knoxdick@tssf.org.uk

Third Order Resource Material

Third Order Distribution,
The Old Parsonage, 168 Wroslyn Road,
Freeland, Witney, OX29 8AQ.
E: distribution@tssf.org.uk
Much material is available on the TSSF website and can be downloaded. Paper copies are kept at Third Order Distribution, where you may send your requests and make arrangements for payment.

Chasing the Wild Goose and Assisi booklets are still available.

Tau Cross lapel badges: £3.00

Replacement Manuals: £10

Replacement Profession crosses: £3.00

Martha (Biography of Dorothy Swaine, lay founder of TSSF): £6

Prices include p&p for UK only, overseas postage extra.

Website comments and enquiries

E: webmaster@tssf.org.uk

Franciscan Aid

W: www.franciscanaid.co.uk

Contact Details for TSSF Networks

Study and Prayer: studyprayer@tssf.org.uk
Contemplatives: contemplatives@tssf.org.uk
Justice Peace Integrity of Creation:
jpic@tssf.org.uk

