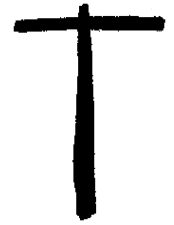


THIRD ORDER



news

Issue 51

April 2014

Chapter 13-15 March

Rather than sending out a list of bullet points, it was decided a more personal way of sharing what happened at the meeting would be produced, which would be supplemented by the reports of the Link Tertiaries. Our Minister General, Ken Norian was with us for the whole of Chapter and he pointed out that since we are the most numerous Province, it was important that we were in good spiritual health, since this affected the whole of the Worldwide Order.

In the meeting of the Link Tertiaries on the day before Full Chapter the matters raised by the Areas, especially those regarding our spiritual health, were discussed and included the following. Great stress was laid on the fact that we are a community with individual members both receiving and contributing service to the Order. It was repeated that the marks of the Professed Tertiary are the saying of the Daily Obedience, Report and Renewal of the Pledge and Contribution in service and finance. The Areas were very keen it should be made clear that if a Tertiary does not renew his/her pledge and gives no explanation, the Area Team would request the release of that Tertiary from the Order.

All novices need to be nurtured in this, together with the expectation that we belong to both a Local Group, where we test our vocation and seek to grow in the company of our brothers and sisters and also a wider Area Group to widen our outlook. It would be helpful if Local Groups could share in the Area what topics/activities they have found fruitful. It is the Local Group which cares for the housebound, visiting and providing an opportunity for Renewal. In some cases the

individual's Rule should be simplified to accommodate infirmity.

There had been a positive response to the **Cluster Days** and there would be more in Clusters which have not yet had one.

Various pastoral issues were raised, including Tertiaries with mental health and other problems. The Area's ability to support the individual, whilst realising that certain issues could be beyond our competency, was seen as crucial. The breakdown of pastoral care was evident in some cases when there was a move from one Area to another, particularly during the novitiate, when an individual may be vulnerable. It was agreed that there needed to be a named person to meet the newcomer and introduce him/her to the group and area.

The size and composition of the Areas was raised and it was agreed that Areas be asked to consider some re-arrangement of boundaries, so that those with smaller numbers might amalgamate, and thereby increase the number of people prepared to take on responsibility. No decision would be taken in a hurry and Areas are asked to come up with some suggestions. Another matter of concern was the number of individuals who hold two or more roles and the Groups/Areas where couples hold key roles. This too is something to be addressed over time, and Areas are asked to take note.

Other key issues were the proposed new format for **General Chapter**, details of which are in the current *Little Portion*, and an exciting project – the making of a film on the life of Francis, which deserves our support.

(See also items in this issue of TON)

There were also reports from various groups, including the **Contemplative Network**, which pointed out that joining this group was not an alternative to being a member of a local group.

In all it was a good meeting with time for worship and fellowship and much laughter.

Averil Swanton

General Chapter – your ideas please!

It's time to hold another General Chapter. But what kind of process should it be, and what should it address? An article in the last *Little Portion* proposed a gathering of Area representatives to explore our future, with plenty of opportunity for everyone to contribute. The article launched a short survey of what you think the General Chapter should aim to achieve.

A General Chapter is always an important landmark in our common life. There have already been several offers from *Little Portion* readers to help organise it, but these generous volunteers need your ideas.

Tertiaries are not normally short of opinions about how the Order should be run, so don't be shy! Please respond on your own behalf, but also encourage your local group or Area to contribute its collective thoughts.

Just two questions are asked in *Little Portion*:

1. What would you say is the biggest question, challenge or opportunity for renewal now facing the Third Order? If possible also try suggesting practical solutions. Visit www.tssf.org.uk/gc to contribute.
2. Could you help us take the next steps? If so please email gc@tssf.org.uk. No commitment is expected at this stage, only expressions of potential interest in volunteering.

You are also welcome to respond by post to your Link Tertiary.

To help you start thinking, the article identified 'some questions Tertiaries are asking':

How can the Third Order become today the radical witness that Francis and Clare were for their time?
How can each vocation be valued, nurtured and empowered as it unfolds throughout

profession – in our local groups, and in twos or threes; in the annual cycle of review, report and renewal; and through the roles to which we elect people? (See note below **)

You might want to propose something radically different from either of these. But if you don't say what you think, no-one will ever know! The steering group will be glad to hear from you.

** In *Little Portion* issue 4 a line dropped off the second question (for which many apologies).

Verena Tschudin, *editor, Little Portion*

TSSF Retreats and other events

Fri 2nd - Sun 4th May

Places are still available for the younger ("20s and 30s") tertiaries weekend at Freeland.

Fri 16th - Sun 18th May

Similarly, places remain on the artists weekend at Freeland

Contact for both weekends: John Wiltshire, M: 07717 547672 (ignore work message); E: katherine.wiltshire1@ntlworld.com

Retreats at the Old Parsonage, Freeland

12 – 15 May 2014

Silent retreat, not conducted

Cost: £120

9 – 12 June 2014

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Father Michael Campling, TSSF

Cost £135 inclusive

25 – 28 July 2014

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Revd David Norwood, TSSF

Cost £135 inclusive

10 – 13 October 2014

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Brother Sam, SSF

Cost £145 inclusive

Bookings: Lesley Sutton,
12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB
T: 01865 248847
E: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

TSSF IRELAND ANNUAL RETREAT 2014

(Silent Retreat)

9 – 11 May 2014 (dinner Fri – lunch Sun)

Venue: The Emmaus Centre,
Ennis Lane, Lissenhall, Swords,
Co Dublin, Irish Republic.

Conductor Br Malcolm SSF

Cost £146 / €170 plus conductor's
expenses - Deposit **£20 / €25**

Please send usual details, including any
special dietary needs plus deposit to:-

Mrs Shelgah Norton,
Ard na Cree, Church Hill, Wicklow
Co Wicklow, Ireland

E-mail: Shelagh.norton @gmail.com

Poets' Corner: the Study and Prayer week-end at Freeland:

June 13-15, 2014;

We will explore religious poetry, and test out
our creative skills.

Applications to: denise.mumford@zen.co.uk

Bishop Woodford House, Ely, Cambs

11 – 13 July 2014 (Fri 5pm – Sun 2pm)

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Bishop Martin Shaw TSSF

Cost: £126.50 (standard room)

£141.00 (ensuite) + conductor's expenses

Booking forms from: Katharine Ames-Lewis,
21 Victoria Street, Cambridge, CB1 1JP

E: k.ameslewis@btinternet.com

Silent Retreat for Wales Area, 2014:

26 - 29 Aug (Tue - Fri)

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

£145.00 plus Leader's expenses.

Deposit required: £30.00

Contact: Carolyn Waters

1, South Mews, Orange Gardens,
Pembroke, Pembrokeshire SA71 4DZ

Tel: 07875245002

E: carolyn.waters@blackberry.orange.co.uk

Wyevern Area Retreats 2014

Llangasty, 28 Apr – 2 May (Mon-Fri)

We will focus on the resurrection.

We will say the office together morning and
evening, and celebrate communion at
midday. There will be two talks each full day
and one on each on Monday and Friday,
and opportunities within the week to meet

individually with the retreat conductor Sarah
Cawdell. The cost will be around £240

Freeland, 22 - 26 Sep (Mon-Fri)

We will focus on creation and harvest.

We will join the worship of the community
each day, and there will be two talks each
full day, and one each on Monday and
Friday and opportunities within the week to
meet individually with the retreat conductor
Sarah Cawdell.

The house asks for a donation which should
be of the order of £40 a night, making £160.

If you would like to come on either of these
retreats please contact Sarah Cawdell, 16,
East Castle Street, Bridgnorth WV16 4AL
T: 01746761573

E: sarah.h.l.cawdell@btinternet.com

Arranged by Beds and Herts Area

6 - 8 October 2014 (Mon 4pm – Wed 2pm)

Silent Retreat

Location: Pleshey (Chelmsford Diocesan
House of Retreat)

Conductor: Canon Graham Newton TSSF

Cost: £142 + conductor's expenses (nearly
all single rooms and mostly non-ensuite)

Contact: Nigel Bridger,

e-mail: n.bridger@btinternet.com or

Tel: 01438 715449

Arranged by Mersey Valley Area.

October 20th - 23rd, 2014

Silent Retreat

Venue Monastery of Our Lady of Hying,
Near Carnforth, Lancs.

Conductor Br Anselm SSF Theme to be
decided

Cost £130 plus conductors expenses; £20
non returnable deposit needed with booking.

(cheques payable to Rev F Shaw please)

Contact: (to book and for more details)

Rev Felicity Shaw,

99 Pennine Road, Horwich,

Bolton. BL6 7HW

Tel: 01204 696851

E: rev.fmshaw@btinternet.com

Chelmsford Retreat House, Pleshey

17 – 19 October 2014 (5pm Fri – 2pm Sun)

Silent Retreat, Conductor: Sister Chris CSF

Cost £148 (includes all conductor's
expenses). Please send cheque for £20
deposit made out to

'TSSF East London and South Essex'
to Maria Fox, 101 Hadleigh Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2LY (no receipts unless requested)

"Offering Spiritual Direction in the Third Order": a short course:

There will be a weekend about Spiritual Direction with a franciscan flavour at Freeland between tea-time on Friday 20th June & after lunch on Sunday 22nd June 2014. The speakers will be Revd Sister Sue, CSF, and Revd Debby Plummer TSSF. The weekend is intended both as a support to those of you directing professed members of TSSF, and a "taster" to those of you who wonder if this is something that you could/should offer to your sisters and brothers in TSSF.

Further details and an application form will be available from 1st April 2014 from:

Jeremy Plummer (a member of the Provincial Formation Team)

E: jeremypiano@me.com:

Snailmail: St Margaret's Vicarage, 2 St Margaret's Road, Prestwich. M25 2QB

[Closing date: 31st May 2014]

Financial assistance for retreats

Are you finding it financially demanding to go on Retreat? If so, you should apply to the **KNOX DICK FUND**. This Fund is used to help Tertiaries of modest means keep their Rule of Life by helping with the costs of going on retreat. Please write or send an email to: Rachel Cornish, 36 Highfield Road, Felixstowe, IP11 7BZ
E: knoxdick@tssf.org.uk

South West Cluster Day

Saturday, 21 June 2014, 10am - 4pm

St Boniface Centre, Crediton

Contact Link Tertiary Hazel Sharp

E: hh.psharp@btinternet.com

East Midlands and Yorkshire Cluster Day

Saturday, 13 September 2014

St Mary's Centre in Sheffield

Theme: Following Jesus in the way of St Francis: Ongoing transformation.

Keynote Speakers: Averil Swanton and Brother Damian

Contact Link Tertiary Jan Davies,
E: janoftreegarth@live.co.uk

The Joys of Assisi with Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

7 days bed & breakfast & evening meal in the comfortable Convent of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in Assisi.

Full itinerary visiting in Assisi; the Rieti Valley and La Verna discovering the life of the Saints and their Spirituality.

Including flights from Stansted by RyanAir to Perugia and transport by mini coach throughout. Limited places initially planning up to eight in each group, but may be increased if there is sufficient interest.

Full details, itinerary and booking forms available in word or PDF format or by post from Revd David W Faulks TSSF 7 Pochin Drive, Market Harborough, LE16 7LP
email david.faulks@btinternet.com

TRAVEL DATES AND COST:

Pilgrimage Two Fri 13th - 20th June 2014

Eight Days seven nights. Cost £789.00

Pilgrimage to Walsingham

15 - 20 June 2014 (Sun - Fri)

Contact : Lorraine Scott

E: andrewls@tiscali.co.uk

T: 0191-2534567 M: 07739072514

Deposit of £30 payable when you book.

Film

An appeal for help in funding a film about Francis based on Paul Alexander's one-man show has been sent to Areas and is on the website. Averil Swanton, our Minister Provincial says: "*TSSF's Provincial Chapter is glad to support Paul Alexander's vision for a film of the life of St Francis. TSSF cannot take responsibility for such a project, but Chapter wishes it well and will give some practical help, including the banking arrangements. Most of all, we encourage Tertiaries to help to fund this exciting Franciscan initiative.*" All contributions will be welcome, as the project needs to raise a substantial sum. E: treasurer@tssf.org.uk

TON Editor

Roger Marks will soon have served six years in this post and TSSF needs a volunteer to replace him. Tertiaries who have suitable skills (the ability to edit a document, turn it into a file in PDF format and email this to Areas) are invited to contact Chris Petrie (Communications Coordinator). The Editor is appointed by Chapter after a recommendation from him. More information can be obtained from Chris or Roger.

TSSF website

As many will have noticed, the website has changed. This was forced upon us by the need to use a system less vulnerable to hacking. The change had to happen before we were ready, so there is a period (not yet over) when documents are not available on the web. We apologize for this - the web team is doing its best.

“Martha”

The biography of Dorothy Swayne by Denise Mumford is complete and being tidied up prior to printing. The plan is to send one or more copies to each Area, to make copies available for purchase from Third Order Distribution and to put a copy on the web. There is an accompanying discussion paper, “Then and Now” which will also be made available.

Connecting the Third Order worldwide

Our Order includes Tertiaries in five Provinces all round the world, and it's sensible for our Ministers Provincial, and occasionally others, to travel throughout their Provinces and to meet one another and the Minister General from time to time. The Provinces which are most geographically scattered are also those with the smallest numbers and the least wealth, and as Brothers and Sisters we share the costs of this travel among ourselves. The Central Fund of TSSF arranges this. Each Province contributes a small amount per Tertiary into a shared pot: currently £3.60 per person per year, yielding £11,000 per year. This pays for necessary travel by the Minister General and by the Ministers Provincial in Australia and the Pacific within their Provinces, for meetings of all these Ministers every two years, and for the Inter-

Provincial Third Order Chapter every seven years.

In addition, an extra amount (about one-fifth of the main contribution, except from Africa) goes into the Africa Travel Fund, which provides 40,000 Rand (about £2200) for the African Minister Provincial to visit remote parts of that province.

The Central Fund also administers the Ministers' Provincial Fund for emergency needs, financed by voluntary contributions from Provinces and individuals, and helps the Provinces to send money to Franciscan Aid, Franciscans International and other similar bodies while minimising exchange costs.

The Trustees of the Fund are the Minister General (Ken Norian), the Minister Provincial for Europe (Averil Swanton), and the Bishop Protector for Europe (Michael Perham). The Trustees met in London on 18 March 2014, and agreed to keep contributions unchanged in terms of sterling (their value in other currencies naturally varies). They felt that Franciscan Aid is the most appropriate way for Tertiaries to support development, but those who particularly want to give more to help communications within the Order can do so by giving to the Central Fund.

The Central Fund can accept donations from Areas, groups and individuals, especially those who wish to see the Provinces of the Third Order go forward together in their Franciscan vocation. If you want to make a donation, please send a cheque payable to “Third Order of the Society of St Francis Central Fund” to

Robert Dimmick, 12 Lowfield Road,
Caversham, Reading RG4 6PA

Tel: 0118 947 0258,

email: robert@dimmick.me.uk.

Please say whether you want the money to go to the Ministers' Provincial Fund, to the Africa Travel Fund, or for the Central Fund generally, and mention whether you have made a Gift Aid declaration in favour of TSSF.

Robert Dimmick

(Secretary/Treasurer Central Fund)

Elections planned

Jackie Alexander stands down as **Link Tertiary for Central and Eastern England** after 6 years at the end of October 2014 Chapter. A formal call for nominations will be sent to Areas in this cluster now. If there is more than one nomination, voting papers will be sent with TON 52 in July.

Chris Petrie is standing down as **Provincial Communications Coordinator** after 3 years, at the end of the February 2015 Chapter. It is planned to circulate a call for nominations with the next issue of TON (52) and voting papers with TON 53 in November.

Tertiaries are invited to consider whether they are called to serve the Order in either of these Offices or whether they know of anyone (willing) whom they would like to nominate when the time comes. More information can be obtained from Jackie or Chris, or from other members of Chapter.

Long-lasting Tertiaries

Normally announcements of deaths are put on a web page when we are told of them and listed annually in TON after Chapter has remembered them in prayer.

Here we mark the passing of two who died this March with many years of service behind them:

Francis Charles, of the Canterbury Area, aged 102, was professed in 1974.

Hannah-Maria Coxhead, of the Avon Vale Area, aged 93, was professed in 1950.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

TSSF records do not have ages of Tertiaries, but there are 5 who were professed in the 1940s and 10 in the 1950s. We cherish them.

Future Chapter Dates

2014	13-14 June
	17-19 October
2015	19-21 February
	12-13 June
	16-18 October
2016	11-13 February
	16-18 June
	14-16 October

Election of the following Novices to Profession was ratified by Chapter, with prayer (28)

Tony Mitchell-Innes	West Kent
Leslie Rogers	London East and South Essex
Ruth Williams	London West
Ursula Sonnewald	London West
Leena Kristola	London West
Sari Kontinen-Koski	London West
Anne Lindell	London West
Asmo Koskinen	London West
Grace Bates	Guildford
Paul Daish Miller	Solent
Mary Hallett	Sussex
Beresford Moyle	Sussex
Tania Donaldson	Winchester
Anne Watson	Winchester
Esme Hopkinson	Devon
Malcolm Joyce	Devon
Nynka Arthur	Oxford
Meg Roberts	Oxford
Jane McNabb	East Anglia
Valerie Robinson	Durham
Kristin Bakkevig	Sweden
Johan Boy Garde	Sweden
Niclas Ember	Sweden
Henrik Kristing Heldal	Sweden
May Kristing Heldal	Sweden
Gunnvor Hovland	Sweden
Ake Lundqvist	Sweden
Bo Nordqvist	Sweden

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
Copy to Chris Petrie, E: comms@tssf.org.uk

Information for Little Portion

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

Contributions for TON

Roger Marks, Editor, 7 Garton, Drive,
Eccleshill, Bradford BD10 8AU
T: 01274 637468 M: 07779-239950
E: ton@tssf.org.uk

All other matters to do with communication

Chris Petrie, Provincial Communications
Coordinator, 55 Briardene Crescent,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4RX
T: 0191 2855131 E: comms@tssf.org.uk

Contributions, TSSF expense claims and letters about finance

John Reynolds, Provincial Treasurer,
The Friary, Hilfield, Dorchester, DT72 7BE
T: 01300 342312 E: treasurer@tssf.org.uk

Enquirers interested in joining the Order

Philippa Bird, Provincial Novice Guardian
T: 020 8932 1518 (ansaphone)
E: novguard@tssf.org.uk

All other enquiries about the Order

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

Disability Advisor Team (alternative formats, access, support)

Margaret Armstrong, Cridlands Barn,
Brompton Ralph, Taunton, TA4 2RU
T: 01984 623918
E: disabilityadvisor@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.

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.

Copy date for TON 52: 1 July 2014
--