

THIRD ORDER

news



Issue 54

March 2015

NOTES FROM PROVINCIAL CHAPTER, FEBRUARY 2015

It seems fitting that, after my last Chapter as Communications Coordinator, I should attempt both to communicate what Chapter decided at its meeting on 20-21 Feb and to give a flavour of the way Chapter works. The discussions reported here include six topics which Chapter agreed were important to communicate through TON, but the wording is mine and I have added one topic to the agreed list. That does not sound quite like “obedience”.

The spring Chapter is preceded by a full day at which the Link Tertiaries shared the concerns of the Areas in their Clusters; the fruits of this are taken to the full Chapter which meets over 24 hours, with business sessions, worship and the odd free moment. The first two business sessions were devoted to a full discussion on finances and the way ahead; this addresses the responsibility of Chapter (as Trustees) to all Tertiaries, whose money we use to further the aims of the Order.

The following items come from the Areas. We carefully considered ratification of recommendations for professions (names listed below), releases from vows and leaves of absence; all those involved were held in prayer.

We discussed informally the size and viability of Areas. This is **not** determined by Chapter but by consultation with Areas. Similar discussion of membership of local groups is recommended to Areas. By way of a contrast, we heard about the number of enthusiastic Tertiaries in Finland, and of more enquirers than they can cope with. We expect a new Area when the Finns are ready, with help and support, particularly from London West. Arising from the positive experience of the representatives of Finland and London West Area, attending Chapter as visitors, Chapter proposes to invite Area Ministers to attend a Chapter as visitors to see how we do business and then write about their impressions for TON.

Chapter agreed that issues of TON may be put on the TSSF website, after checking that no inappropriate personal information is there. An Assisi booklet is proposed on the topic of Managing Age and Tertiaries Growing Older. The Formation Guardian and Team are considering this. At 75, with knees wearing out, this can't come too soon for me.

Finally I want to express my personal gratitude for the privilege of serving for 3 years on Chapter. I have felt that it has been a good place to be, with worship balancing business and real friendships developing in shared prayer and robust argument.

There are two issues in my mind that we shall never completely solve: the balance between the necessary conduct of "business" (Brother Elias) and the holding of our communal vision (Brother Francis) and the communication that is necessary to assure the common purpose of office-holders and those they serve - **you** - the Tertiary in the Local Group.

As ever, I close with the offer of my love and prayers for each one of you - especially for my successor, Chris Jenkins. And I am so grateful that the praying of my farewell in the final Eucharist did not involve any kneeling.

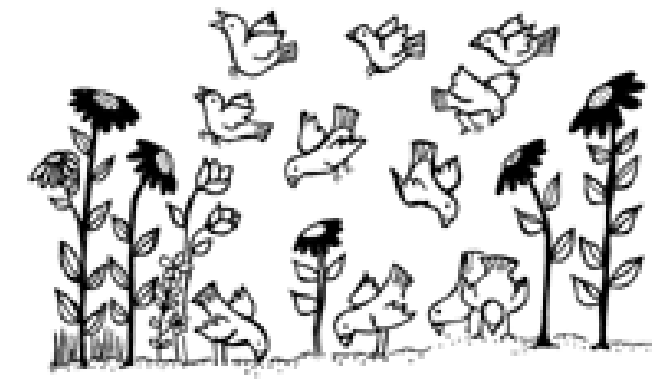
Chris Petrie

*A photo of the meeting appears on p28 of
Little Portion, Issue 6*

ELECTIONS

The call for nominations for two Link Tertiaries has been sent to the 5 Areas in the East Midlands and Yorkshire Cluster (Yorkshire N & E, Yorkshire W & Skipton, Yorkshire S & N Derbyshire, Nottingham & S Derbyshire and Lincoln) and the 6 Areas in the Central South England Cluster (Sussex, Guildford, Channel Islands, Solent, Berkshire and Winchester). Nominations close on 11 April. If you haven't heard, ask your Area Team. Voting is planned from mid-April till 23 May.

Chris Petrie (returning officer)



TSSF Province of the Pacific CONVOCATION 2015: “REBUILD MY CHURCH”

The role of peace, reconciliation and justice for Franciscans today

Date: 15-18 October 2015

Venue: Vaughan Park, Long Bay 1043 Beach Road, Long Bay, Auckland, New Zealand

“We would welcome Tertiaries from overseas.”

Te pai me te rangimārie (peace and all good)

Anne Moody, Formation Director,

TSSF, Province of the Pacific

Information from Anne Moody, annefdtsf@gmail.com or from Chris.Petrie@Newcastle.ac.uk (retired PCC) or on the tssf.org.uk website.

Bookings: emcolgan@xtra.co.nz

CHANGES AT CHAPTER

There is a new Provincial Communications Coordinator, but you don't need to learn a new name and the email address comms@tssf.org.uk now forwards to Chris Jenkins (Wells, Somerset Area). There was only the one nomination so you did not have to vote.



A pair of PCCs (Chris Petrie and Chris Jenkins)
[Photo by the Treasurer elect]

A new Provincial Treasurer has been elected, John Lovatt (Stoke on Trent, Mercia Area); he will be commissioned at the end of June Chapter. The email address treasurer@tssf.org.uk will forward to the appropriate person. With such changes, the email addresses linked to the office-holder is worth using rather than the personal email address. One other change to report is that we have a new Bishop Protector (for all three orders in SSF), +Stephen Cottrell (Chelmsford Diocese).

The election to Profession by their Areas of 21 Novices was ratified by TSSF Provincial Chapter after prayerful consideration on 20 February 2015.

Ruth Faber	London E & S Essex (Brussels)	Ian Jackson	West Midlands
Floris Faber	London E & S Essex (Brussels)	Dan Muthuveoe	West Midlands
Frank Sauer	London E & S Essex (Vienna)	Richard Woodfin	West Midlands
Jane Lovick	Canterbury	David Austin	W Yorkshire with Skipton
Katherine Mary Plank	Berkshire	Jan Betts	W Yorkshire with Skipton
Robert Hughes	Winchester	Jenny Fox Eades	Mersey Valley
Liz Lang	Wessex	Gill Lyons	Borders
Isobel Brazil	Severn	Susan McLachlan	Scotland
Millie Dews	West Midlands	Mark McDade	Scotland
Kay Dyer	West Midlands	Katrin Sörbris	Sweden
Ian Grantham	West Midlands		

TSSF NETWORKS

Within TSSF there are three networks which connect Tertiaries with particular interests. All three report to Provincial Chapter, which supports them, and each has a steering or enabling group for which we pray on Days 22 to 24. This note is a simple introduction aimed at the question “How do I get involved and what would that mean for me?”

The **Contemplatives** network is for anyone drawn to contemplative prayer and looking for support and sharing through a regular newsletter. The obligation on members is to pray for one another. There are 156 members of the network.

The **JPIC** (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation) network aims to have a designated contact in each Area (there are 19 named in the intercessions leaflet). Information on activities and events, which often involve other organizations, is shared widely in the Order. A specific concern is highlighted for prayer on 31st of the month.

The **Study & Prayer** network sends regular emails to 109 Tertiaries and organizes events - a week at Alnmouth and a weekend at Freeland have been held annually on specific themes. Participants present papers or join in work together, but newcomers can dip a toe in the water without being obliged to do more than they feel comfortable with.

You can be a wonderful Tertiary without belonging to any of these networks, but you can find ways of sharing enthusiasms, working together and supporting each other by becoming involved.

The networks have pages on the TSSF website. To take things further, use the contact email addresses at the end of TON. Anyone who wants to follow this up but who does not use email or the internet should make contact via the PCC (now Chris Jenkins, contact details at the end of TON).

Chris Petrie (retired PCC)

APPEAL FOR HELP WITH AUDIO VERSIONS of INTERCESSIONS, TON and LITTLE PORTION

The help the disability team has had from Sara Whistance, like all good things, has to come to an end. We are extremely grateful to Sara and invite anyone who might be able to find time to help in reading the text aloud for audio versions to contact Margaret Armstrong (contact details on end page). We hope to put more information on the website soon.

GENERAL CHAPTER – NOVEMBER 2016 GOSPEL LIFE & FRATERNITY

The General Chapter Steering Group is moving at a pace and some key decisions have been made as a result of Freda Alexander's analysis of your responses (see Little Portion 6) and the discussions that resulted.

First of all, as 2021 is the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Third Order, and bearing in mind your responses to the original Little Portion article, we decided we wanted an every member gathering for that. We feel, too, that it makes sense on that anniversary to focus on issues to do with guardianship – guardianship of our legacy, our vocations and of the Order going forward.

We are overdue a General Chapter (GC), so we are proposing one for two days in November 2016 (venue tbc). Everyone will be invited to the first day which will include a Eucharist, discussion groups/workshops plus a peace walk which we hope will be a visible sign of gospel community in action.

Day 2 will have a decision making element that will involve representatives, as first mooted in Little Portion a year ago. Each local group will be invited to appoint a delegate to share in prayerful discernment and voting on issues the groups will have explored in advance. We have identified two themes which are rooted in the Life of St. Francis - Gospel Life (the three Aims of the Order), and Fraternity (being sisters and brothers today).

We will therefore invite local groups to reflect on how we are called to live gospel lives as sisters and brothers today. The representative element of GC will be help us to identify what we can celebrate and what can be renewed. That in turn will help us in 2021 to review and reform our guardianship for the 800th anniversary.

We are still considering how local groups might want to engage, but in the first instance hope to identify some questions for discussion based on questions you have raised in your responses, such as “How does being a Tertiary help you live a gospel life, and how does it inhibit you?” and ‘Do you find a contradiction between personal freedom to grow in our Christian life and obedience to the Order?’

Each local group will be asked to contribute to their delegate’s costs and we will also be asking Provincial Chapter for a contribution.

What could it mean for you?

First of all we invite you to volunteer as a champion for the 2016 General Chapter. We are a small steering group and if General Chapter is to energise, enthuse and inspire our Province we need more people who are willing to speak to groups and individuals about its aims and objectives.

We are also asking that Areas set aside some time at their 2015 Francistide meeting to create a platform for someone (possibly a Champion) to talk briefly about the 2016 General Chapter.

We are asking that each local group gives time in its 2015/16 programme so you can have your say at General Chapter. Each group should set aside 3 meetings between September 2015 and June 2016 to discuss the material and then give us your responses. A further meeting will be needed between September 2016 and early November 2016 to discuss how other groups have responded and brief your delegate.

Please keep up to date by reading *TON* and *Little Portion*.

Finally, if anyone has any questions please feel free to email gc@tssf.org.uk or write to General Chapter TSSF c/o Flat 4, 11 Richmond Road, Exeter EX4 4JA

Pax et Bonum

Anne-Marie Organ

The steering group representatives are:

Anne-Marie Organ (London & SE England), Freda Alexander (Scotland & Ireland), Paul Bodenham (East Midlands and Yorkshire), Francis Rothery (South West England), Hilary Healey (Central South England) and Christopher Blackwell (North East & North West England) there is a vacancy for Wales, West Midlands and the Marches at the time of going to print.

COULD YOU GIVE SOME SPECIALIST HELP TO THE FRANCIS FILM?

<http://www.littleportionfilms.com>

The film heads towards completion over coming weeks, so in no time we'll have much to do to get it seen and sold. We're now hoping for help from tertiaryies with experience of:

- marketing and / or distribution
- commercial law
- Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French or other languages

If your experience in the first two areas is media-related, so much the better - but all offers of expertise are welcome. Helping us may just mean occasional advice, but maybe more or even much more!

If this interests you, please contact John Wiltshire TSSF - chair of the film steering group

Email katherine.wiltshire1@ntlworld.com mobile 07717 547672 - ignore CQC work message)

THE CENTRAL SOUTH ENGLAND AND CHANNEL ISLANDS CLUSTER DAY

The Central South England and Channel Islands Cluster Day is being held on
27 June 2015 in Winchester.

TSSF RETREATS AND OTHER EVENTS

RETREATS AT THE OLD PARSONAGE, FREELAND

Date: 8-11 June 2015

Silent retreat: Swedish Spirituality

Conductor: Revd Dr Hugh White

Cost: £145 including conductor's expenses

Date: 24-27 July 2015

Silent retreat: 'Images of God'

Conductor: Sister Joyce, CSF

Cost: £145 including conductor's expenses

Date: 5-8 October 2015

Silent retreat: 'Franciscan Essentials'

Conductor: SSF Brother

Cost: £145 including conductor's expenses

Bookings: Lesley Sutton,

12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB

T: 01865 248847

E: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

TSSF CAMBRIDGE AREA ANNUAL RETREAT 2015

(Silent Retreat)

Date: 10-12 July 2015

Venue: Bishop Woodford House, Ely

Conductor: Sister Maureen CSF

Cost: £131.50 + Conductor's expenses –
standard room

£146.60 + Conductor's expenses –
en-suite room

Deposit: £40

Please contact: Judy Nightingale

11 Mill Lane

Linton

Cambridge

CB21 4JY

T 01223 891806

E nightingale41@greenbee.net

TSSF GUILDFORD
AREA ANNUAL RETREAT 2015

(Silent Retreat)

Date: 22-24 May 2015

Venue: - Ladywell Convent, Godalming. GU7 1ST

Conductor: Brother Nicholas Alan Guardian of Glasshampton
Monastery

Cost: £150

Deposit: - £25

Please contact:

Stella Tassell

3 Parkgate Court

Constitution Hill

Woking GU22 7RW

T: 01483 755481

E: stellatassell@googlemail.com

TSSF IRELAND
ANNUAL RETREAT 2015

‘BROTHER SUN AND SISTER MOON
- A SPIRITUALITY OF PRESENCE’

(Silent Retreat)

Date: 1- 3 May 2015 (teatime Friday – after lunch on Sunday)

Venue: Drumalis Retreat and Conference Centre, Larne, N.
Ireland.

Conductor: Rev Grace Clunie, Director of Celtic Spirituality at
Armagh Cathedral

Cost: £120 including conductor’s expenses

Deposit: £20 / €25

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

Mrs Shelagh Norton,

Ard na Cree, Church Hill, Wicklow,

Co Wicklow, Republic of Ireland

E: Shelagh.norton@gmail.com

TSSF WALES ANNUAL RETREAT 2015
'A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEART
WITH ST. FRANCIS AND
THE CARMELITE SAINTS'
(Silent Retreat)

Date: 25- 28 June 2015

Venue: Noddfa Retreat Centre, Penmaenmawr, North Wales

Conductor: Br. Nicholas Alan SSF

Cost: £150 plus conductor's expenses

Deposit: £30

Bookings (with £30 deposit) or enquiries to: Ian Anderson TSSF,

Flat 4, Old Llangunnor Rd, Carmarthen, Wales SA3 12BD

T: 07815 964085

E: ian.anderson44@gmail.com

OFFERING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION IN THE THIRD ORDER: A SHORT COURSE

Date: 18- 20 September 2015

Venue: Alnmouth Friary

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. This weekend is open to Professed members of TSSF & those approaching Profession this year. At present there are a few places offered but not yet taken up. The closing date for those offers is 31st March. Please contact me if you are either interested in one of those places, or would, in principle, be interested in a course at Freeland sometime after Easter 2016

Please email jeremypiano@me.com for further details.

Jeremy Plummer

(Member of the Provincial Formation Team)

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

SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP FOR FRANCISCAN AID.

For details contact Chiltern Area secretary, Elizabeth Nickless
E: cnickless@btinternet.com

FUTURE CHAPTER DATES

2015 12-13 June
16-18 October
2016 11-13 February
16-18 June
14-16 October

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, Little Portion
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, SE9 5PE
T: 0208 850 0189 E: ton@tssf.org.uk

All other matters to do with communication

Chris Jenkins, Provincial Communications Coordinator, 26 North Road, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2TL
T: 01749 673 731 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

Peter Dixon, Provincial Novice Guardian

Dove House, 4 New Road,

Uttoxeter, ST14 7DB

T: 01889 569722

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.

One new item for sale is the biography of Dorothy Swayne, lay founder of TSSF.

This booklet, costs £6, which includes

a discussion paper and P&P.

Website comments and enquiries

E: webmaster@tssf.org.uk

It may also be of interest, for those who are young or wise in the ways of the Internet, to report that TSSF is establishing presences on Facebook and Twitter. For more information go to the website, given below.

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.

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