

# THIRD ORDER T

## news

Issue 53

November 2014

### Provincial Chapter October 2014



Provincial Chapter each October welcomes the participation and contributions of the Ministers Provincial of the First and Second Orders. At the end of the meetings they commented on the amount of business done successfully, but also on its intensity. As a result Chapter will look at ways of improving the balance between “busy-ness” and reflectiveness and prayerful silence.

As the steering group reports elsewhere in this TON, initial consultation on options for a General Chapter will close on 15 December.

We considered at length two requests from a meeting last year of Area Formation Guardians. The AFGs had asked for advice on engaging Tertiaries who have repeatedly missed renewing their pledge and appear to have withdrawn. They also wanted more flexibility in the format of Tertiaries’ Annual Reports. Chapter agreed new guidance on both issues, which will be sent to AFGs so that they can inform their area teams and gather their feedback.

We have established a Finance Subgroup to support the Treasurer but also to work on financial planning that reflects our Franciscan Rule and convictions. The subgroup will initially consist of John Reynolds (Provincial Treasurer) and Rona Duncan (Link Tertiary), and they will be able to co-opt others.

Chapter’s non-decision-making discussion evening considered the place of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation issues within the Third Order. A variety of views and possibilities emerged. The JPIC Steering Group is closely involved with these discussions. Tertiaries are reminded that they can use Day 31 to pray about a JPIC-related topic, as highlighted by the JPIC steering group.

Tertiaries are reminded that the only authorised ‘uniform’ of the Third Order Tertiary is his or her ‘Profession Cross’. We are NOT entitled to wear a brown habit or anything that might lead to the misconception that we are members of the First or Second Order. Neither should we use the titles Brother or Sister.

Chapter reaffirmed the need for novices to understand the importance of the commitment to service to the Order, as they proceed to profession.

The full minutes of Provincial Chapter will be posted on the TSSF website.

## New Link Tertiaries



Rona Duncan, South West England (on the left), and Carole Selby, Central and Eastern England (on the right), are pictured here at their first Provincial Chapter meeting.

## Towards the next General Chapter

*An update from the steering group for General Chapter by Freda Alexander and Chris Blackwell.*

+ The Steering Group has now been formed and had its first face-to-face meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. It has a telephone conference in November and its next face-to-face *meeting* will be in January 2015.

+ The members are: Paul Bodenham (East Midlands and Yorkshire), Freda Alexander (Scotland and Ireland), Francis Rothery (South West England), Hilary Healey (Central South England), Carolyn Tovey (Wales, Severn, West Midlands & The Marches), Christopher Blackwell (North East and North West England) and Anne-Marie Organ (London and South East England). There is a vacancy for a member from Central and East England, and volunteers are invited. Membership will be reviewed in mid-2015. The Group will want from time to time to co-opt other people with particular interests or skills.

+ Names and addresses (postal and email) of these members will be publicised widely. The Steering Group will be added to the Provincial Intercessions List.

+ It was agreed that the first priority of this Steering Group is to harvest the suggestions for the ongoing formation of

TSSF in our time coming as responses from **individuals** to the articles in 'Little Portion' and **collective** responses based on discussions 'in community' in the local Groups and in the Networks. Members of the Steering Group will have their own approaches to this but will all work closely with Link Tertiaries and Area Ministers. Responses may be sent in via the TSSF website, or in writing to the member of the Steering Group or Link Tertiary for your cluster.

+ A discussion document based on the responses received since February 2014 and a qualitative analysis of them will be produced, and discussed by the Steering Group at their January 2015 meeting. Individuals and groups are therefore encouraged to submit responses by 15 December 2014. A report about these grass-roots deliberations and the Steering Group discussion will be published in 'Little Portion'.

+ We noted that the European Province of the Third Order has about 2,000 members. There are 42 Areas and about 200 local Groups. There are also important Networks: the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group; the Study and Prayer Group; and the Contemplatives Group.

+ The two most recent General Chapters were discussed – in 1999 and in 2006 (in York). It was agreed that the structural changes decided on in 1999 had been implemented but the spirit of that General Chapter remained to be followed through. The York General Chapter in 2006 had been a great time of fellowship but had not sought to complete this task.

+ We agreed to recommend that the central event of the next General Chapter should be held in 2016, (exactly when in 2016 to be decided in due course). However it was agreed that General Chapter would be best seen as a process rather than a single event. This process has already begun with initial eliciting of grass-roots responses to the 'Little Portion' article. The next step is

collating and analysing these responses. This will lead to an agreed agenda and format for a small General Chapter meeting in 2016, followed by dissemination of its report (written with the aid of an Independent Facilitator) and further grass-roots discussion. The hope is that all these steps will lead to a much larger General Chapter in 2022 which would have decision-making powers and contribute to the renewal of both TSSF and our Christian community whilst remaining faithful to the basic call of Saint Francis to Gospel-life.

+ It was agreed that General Chapter and preparation for it should be about listening to and trying to discern the promptings of the Holy Spirit within the 2,000 members of our Order knit together in community and prayer, rather than merely an organisational process.

+ The Steering Group will record all expenses incurred by its members whether claimed from the Treasurer or not. It requests that some central funding from TSSF central reserves should be made available for General Chapter.

Comments are very welcome on our ideas so far – please contact your cluster representative or Link Tertiary, or email [gc@tssf.org.uk](mailto:gc@tssf.org.uk).



This chalice and paten are a gift to Chapter from retiring Link Tertiary, Jackie Alexander.

## **PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR (PCC)**

After two calls for nominations, no-one has offered her- or himself for the office of **PCC** and we are trying again! We are considering ways of structuring the job, with an assistant to take on some of the tasks. If you can feel a faint call to serve the Order in the Comms Team, do get in touch with your Area Team, look on the web or contact me directly. Chris Petrie ([comms@tssf.org.uk](mailto:comms@tssf.org.uk))

## **PROVINCIAL TREASURER**

An election is under way. Voting papers have been sent to Areas and are also on the web site. All Professed Tertiaries are **strongly encouraged to vote** after prayerful consideration of the candidates' election addresses. Voting, by post or email, closes on 5th January, but do vote early!

## **TSSF RETREATS AND OTHER EVENTS**

### **RETREATS AT THE OLD PARSONAGE, FREELAND**

**Date: 6 - 9 March 2015**

*Silent retreat: "Mirror of Eternity" – a retreat with St Clare of Assisi.*

**Conductor:** Sister Sue, CSF

**Cost:** £145 including conductor's expenses

**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: theme to be decided*

**Conductor:** Sister Joyce, CSF

**Cost:** £145 including conductor's expenses

**Date: 5 - 8 October 2015**

*Silent retreat: theme to be decided*

**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](mailto:oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk)*

**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.*

*Please email [jeremypiano@me.com](mailto: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](mailto:knoxdick@tssf.org.uk)

**SPONSORED PARACHUTE JUMP FOR**  
**FRANCISCAN AID.**

For details contact Chiltern Area secretary,  
Elizabeth Nickless

E: [cnickless@btinternet.com](mailto:cnickless@btinternet.com)

**FUTURE CHAPTER DATES**

**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 (14)**

Heston Groenwald	London South
Neil Dalley	London West
Gerald Beattie	Solent
Sue Turner	Blackmore Vale
Jan Doyle	Avon
Denise Flanders	Avon
Valerie Fenton	Lincolnshire
Kate Ralston	Lincolnshire
Melissa Vickers	Lincolnshire
Richard Vickers	Lincolnshire
Kathryn Debelle	Mersey Valley
Doreen MacKarel	Mersey Valley
Stephen Crosby	Durham
Lynne Garnham-King	Durham

**Sad news just received**

Our Minister General, Ken Norian, received the following unexpected news from the African Province on 8 November.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with great sadness that I must advise that our beloved Minister Provincial, Nolan Tobias, passed away an hour ago. We have no further details at present but I will keep everyone informed once more details are available.

May his soul rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Verena Mary Rogers tssf  
Provincial Secretary  
African Province

Ken Norian added:

Nolan was a wonderful person. Please keep the Province in your prayers as they work through this.



The following are the names of Tertiaries who have died during the twelve months to Francistide 2014. They were remembered with prayer at the final Eucharist held at Chapter (36)

Catherine Bryant	Guildford
Francis Charles	Canterbury
Roy Coates	Yorks South & North Derby
Hannah- Maria Coxhead	Avon Vale
Peter Dendy	Midlands West
John Durnell	Wales
David Fitter	Devon
Basil French	Devon
Jennifer Gordon Clark	Newcastle
Jane Goupillon	Wales
Bennie Gregory	East Anglia
Jerry Hall	London South
Priscilla Hamel-Cooke	Devon
Martin Hussey	Guildford
Connie Karfoot	Midlands West
Tim Kimberley	Midlands West
Ean Kinmont	Wyevern
Sheila Luxon	Beds & Herts
Mary Maynard	Yorks West & Skipton
Pamela Middleton	Scotland
Marion Mort	Solent
Elvina Plested	Somerset
Val Povey	Notts & South Derby
Kate Purches	Newcastle
Gilbert Ramsey	Cornwall
Jenefer Randolph	Kent West
Marjorie Ratcliffe	Mersey Valley
Martin Reed	Severn
Irene Richards	Wessex
Betty Side	Notts & South Derby
Pauline Taperell	Notts & South Derby
Ann Tilley	Midlands West
Steve Veazey	Beds & Herts
Jim Warner	London West
Val Wodehouse	Cornwall
Jean Woodford	Blackmore Vale

### **Franciscan Christmas cards**

Good quality A5 cards showing two film-related images are available to all (not just TSSF) in packs of 20 for £9.99, from: <http://www.the-inspirations-store.com/gifts/francis.html>

An alternative to online purchasing (for tertiaries only) is that **until the end of November** you can contact: Denise Mumford (TSSF) 4 Victoria Mews, London SW18 3PY. Cards are in packs of 10 at £5 per pack. Please say how many packs you want, and include £3.50p for postage and packing. Make cheques to "The Little Portion Films Company Ltd".

### **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](mailto:memsec@tssf.org.uk)  
Copy to Chris Petrie, E: [comms@tssf.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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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