

Penny Goddard TSSF  
16.08.1949 – 25.12.2014

Penny died on Christmas Day 2014. Her funeral took place at St Giles' Ludford. Her family, her friends and her brothers and sisters of the Third Order shared in a service which reflected the spirituality and lightness of touch that we had seen in her life and in her dying.

Penny grew up in rural Worcestershire in the house that had once been home to Frances Ridley Havergal and close to Glasshampton monastery. The sermon at her funeral was based on Frances Havergal's famous hymn and the service closed with the Servant King which expressed so well Penny's gospel life.

Penny grew up in a family that was not religious, but she somehow absorbed the spirituality and commitment of St Francis. She was married to Harold Goddard and brought up three children in parish life, a tremendous cook and a fantastic gardener. Later she trained as a pastoral counsellor. She took enormous pleasure in her grandchildren.

Penny was professed in 1990. She was a faithful member of her group and a sensitive Novice Guardian and Spiritual Director. She knew sadness and life had not always been easy, which gave her a deep sympathy for others in difficulty. She was quietly present at Franciscan gatherings and she had a great sense of fun. In recent years she discovered the delights of travelling with friends to Australia, New Zealand and China. An abiding memory is of her delight in our area pilgrimage to Assisi in 2009.

It was a great sadness for everyone who knew her when she became ill. It was typical of her that before her first chemo treatment she arranged a Haircut Party – her own hair and the hair of a dozen friends and family members was shaven or shorn. There was food and fun, and £3,000 was raised for cancer research, the beginning of much productive fundraising.

When the time came for her to leave us she made the opportunity to say good bye individually, serene and smiling. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Sally Jones, TSSF Wyevern Area Minister