



Electoral Address – Provincial Secretary

Garry Ward – Vicar of Claverley & Tuck Hill

Professed Tertiary: 2012

Wyvern Area / Kidderminster Group

- I was ordained in 2003 and have ministered in an urban multi-faith background until taking up my current post within Hereford Diocese (2011). I am Vicar of two small rural parishes on the edge of the Shropshire countryside. I have a Master's degree in Jewish-Christian Relations and a Diploma in Applied Theological Studies. Before ordination I was a Registered Nurse and then trained as a Midwife, working on busy Labour Wards for ten years until ordination training. I was also in the Prison Service (Healthcare) for five years. I have been married to Vera (also a Midwife) for twenty-six years and we have two grown up daughters Hollie & Leah.
- I have been a professed tertiary for four years, following a very long and searching noviciate. I have taken an active part in my local group and the area meetings. I have not held a formal role, but have endeavoured to support those in formal positions whenever I could.
- I became a Franciscan after ordination to assist my own journey of faith, whilst hopefully helping others with theirs. The Tenets of the Franciscan Order and my rule of life help me to connect with God, as working in the church institution can sometimes be a drain on my own spiritual wellbeing. I also find that meeting different people in a different context, based around the principles of the order, to be fulfilling, refreshing and uplifting. It is also good to meet God with others completely as yourself and not as part of the clergy.
- I am very proficient with computer and network technology. I am a bit of a geek when it comes to electronic gadgets and IT. I have been on an extensive church management course (over 12 months) and have taken the Spiritual Directors course. I currently see an ordinand, a reader and an ordination candidate for spiritual direction. I was the Bishop of Hereford's Safeguarding Advisor for Vulnerable Adults for 4 years, until the post was amalgamated with child protection last year. However, I am still a trainer for the Diocesan Safeguarding Training and sit on the Safeguarding Management Board. I am also the Pastoral Care Network chair for the Diocese. I have extensive experience in chairing meetings / groups and have been secretary for various committees over the years. I have also been a trustee for various charitable housing groups, mental health organisations and have been a school governor for over 15 years (Primary & Secondary).
- I think the experience I have will enable me to tackle the position of Provincial Secretary efficiently and managing my own parish diary allows me to factor time and space to fulfil this role. I have felt God calling me to do more in the Franciscan Third order and this feels like a post I could fulfil that call.

G Ward – August 2016