

## Martin F C Allen Electoral address

I have not held any role in either Area or Provincial

Until recently I owned my bookkeeping business and also advised clients on how to increase their current business and look for growth in various appropriate areas.

I have also been treasurer of several local charities and organisations at different times.

I have a good grasp of office procedures and am computer literate

I have in the past worked in the HR department of a large company.

Without having experience of the current methods of carrying out the responsibilities of Provincial Secretary my initial response would be to follow the systems as they are and then to review those with a view to making any changes that would be approved by Chapter.

To then establish aims and objectives for the TSSF and to ask questions about

How to move forward into a changing future. If the responsibilities are being carried out in the best possible way I think I would want to temporarily leave well alone but also that we cannot be complacent and sit back on our laurels.

I have been married for forty seven years and have two children, a daughter with three children and a son who has two children. I enjoy my grandchildren and we spend some leisure time with them. The children range from 13 to 2 years old. I could say much more about my family but I only have one page.

When I heard about this role of secretary I took very little notice of it at first, it then kept coming into my mind and I began to pray about it and see if this was God calling me in a different direction. I then did not pray about it for a while; I suppose it is my way of testing to see if this is what I wanted or what God wanted for me.

After more prayer and thought I decided to complete this nomination and let my thoughts and prayers take their course. I should also say that I have a licence as a Reader in the Church of Holy Saviour in the Parish of Hitchin and as a Spiritual Director in the Diocese of St Albans.

Why I am a member of the TSSF is a story that belongs to long ago, so I will try to be brief.

I have always attended church but found it did not offer me the rule of life that being a Franciscan does. That helps me to be more structured in my prayer life but also leaves me to pray more freely. I was inspired by the life of St Francis and the way in which he gave up everything so that he could follow in the way of Jesus.

If we were all able to follow more closely his life and rule we would be living in a much better world. I endeavour to follow my own rule; there are times when I fall by the wayside but with God's forgiveness I can continue to try and be the person that God wants me to be.

The above does not look like the perfect candidate, but it is a part of who I am and I leave it with you to discern God's will in this.