

Electoral Address, Jamie Hacker Hughes

Following prayer, and after consultation with a number of friends and colleagues throughout the Order, I believe that I have the combination of experience, skills and vision to enable me to serve the Order effectively as Minister Provincial.

My first encounter with SSF was just under fifty years ago, when Brother Donald came to Llandaff Cathedral to lead Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Twenty years later I learned of the Third Order from a fellow parishioner tertiary at our church in inner city London. Ten years later I made my profession, with Brother Donald celebrating the Eucharist. Since then I have had the privilege of acting as Novice Guardian to several novices and served as Area Novice Guardian for the East London and South Essex Area (2012-14) before our move to our South London parish.

I have been married for 27 years to Katy, an Anglican priest, and we have a son at university. Since our move back from Essex to South London Area three years ago, I have led young people's work in the vibrant and diverse community in our church at the Elephant and Castle. Professionally, I am a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist. A former army officer and business person, I was head of healthcare psychology for the MoD and then followed an academic career. During the last three years I have served as President of the British Psychological Society and chair of trustees of an organisation of nearly 60,000 members and with a turnover of over £13 million. This role comes to an end at the beginning of May and my main work now is in therapy with refugees, asylum seekers and migrants, and supervision of staff members in organisations and charities working with them.

I have a simple Christian faith and my vision for our Order is simple too. If we are to fulfil the first aim of our Order, to make the name of our Lord Jesus Christ known and loved everywhere, we need to be visible and to be recognised as being distinctive, both individually and collectively. If we are to spread a spirit of love and harmony, we need, in so many different ways and according to each member's calling, to be active, and to be seen to be active, in the causes of social justice, peace, conservation and environmental work. These are all actions which St Francis espoused. But we do really need to work on simplicity - in our structures, our meetings, our documentation, our communications - unfettering ourselves as far as possible from any unnecessary bureaucracy. At the same time, we have to ensure that we have the best possible systems for governance, safeguarding and pastoral care. We are members of a religious order and bound by its objects, aims and principles and we also have a fourth duty - to our Order, caring for all our members, supporting and sustaining older Tertiaries and also encouraging, stimulating and continually seeking to renew and reinvigorate the Order by attracting and drawing in new, especially younger, members. New Monasticism is a growing movement within the Church and this presents us, as an Order, with a real opportunity.

I believe the role of Minister Provincial to be fourfold: 1) Servant leadership - guarding the vision; 2) Efficient management - ensuring that the Order serves all its members and enables them to serve the Order as well as possible; 3) Pastoral care - in the many ways in which it may be required, and 4) Representative – serving the Order. This is what I feel called to offer the Order if it is your will and the will of God.

Jamie TSSF December 2016