

SARAH CAWDELL

I have known Sarah since 2004 when I joined the Wyvern Area of the Third Order. She succeeded me in becoming the Formation Guardian of the Area. She carries out this duty with great skill as a listener, enabler and encourager of all our members. She is a very good team leader, carries authority well, and takes people with her as she leads. She has clear vision, the ability to listen attentively to each person's views, and to put her finger on the central point. Having done that, she is good at arriving at a consensual decision, and then making sure that it is carried out. I am impressed by the way that her contemplative Franciscan prayer life influences the way that she undertakes her duties as Formation Guardian, and I know that the Retreats and Quiet Days she set up and ran were greatly appreciated. As a priest she has strong pastoral gifts and a passion for nurturing a community of faith. She has developed a ministry of listening and support to many people. Sarah is a good communicator with different types of people. In a group or one to one she has a calm and focussed presence. Her primary attitude is to be of service.

For three years Sarah was the Bishop's Officer for Continuing Ministerial Development in the Diocese of Hereford, and the programmes that she set up were challenging and informative. Many of her training days were ecumenically appreciated and supported. She used her considerable gifts as a creative thinker, and proved to be an excellent teacher, especially to those in training as Curates. Sarah is a member of the Governing Body of Wolverhampton Grammar School, where her children attended. There she used her skills as an administrator and manager. She has the ability to guide ways forward for all those with whom she works. Sarah has done research towards a PhD on the Mission of the Rural Church, and has a real vision for the future. She is very well organised and also practical, seeing what is appropriate and what is right.

Sarah is young (in her early fifties) and does not currently have a full time job, so she has the time, energy and experience as a Tertiary (professed in 1991) to give to being Provincial Minister. Along with qualities of strong leadership, the ability to listen attentively to others and to make consensual decisions, she is also a person of honesty and integrity. I am sure that she would bring to the post of Provincial Minister a truly Franciscan vision directed to building the Church in a new and exciting way.

John Hall-Matthews
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