

THIRD ORDER



news

Issue 61

July 2017

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PROVINCIAL CHAPTER, JUNE 2017

The last Chapter meeting began with an evening in reflective mood. It was Averil Swanton's last meeting as Minister Provincial, with Jamie Hacker Hughes taking up the reins; and the recent Convocation was fresh in the mind.

We were delighted with the energy and vision that the Convocation let loose. With the help of Nicholas Henshall, the facilitator at Swanwick, we devoted a big chunk of time to doing the outcomes justice. As you will hopefully have seen, Jamie's recent letter to everyone has since called for volunteers to a 'Way Forward' group.

We thanked the many individuals who helped to make the Convocation a success. But we have every Tertiary to thank for their work and wisdom over the last 18 months. The prophetic purpose which we have discovered together will surely inspire us for years to come. By timely coincidence, we also heard back from a group reviewing our working practices, which will help Chapter play its part.

As ever, there was plenty of other business. With the help of Jan Le Billon, Provincial Safeguarding Officer, we continued work towards a safeguarding policy to help Areas care for vulnerable members. There is currently a significant number of cases involving abuse or allegations of abuse being handled by our Safeguarding team. Jan is always available for advice (at safe@tssf.org.uk or on 01481 234283).

Katherine Ames-Lewis, our hard-working Minutes Secretary, has handed on her role

to Angela Alexander. However there remain several crucial vacancies:

- Editor of *Little Portion* to succeed Verena Tschudin (perhaps on a job-share basis), and also new members of the editorial team which helps her
- Editor of this publication, *Third Order News*, to follow Sue Charles
- Membership Secretary, who will inherit a top-notch database from Mollie Kingham.

Our thanks to all these people for their generous service. Could you take any of the vacant roles on? They enjoy the support of a friendly Communications team, so you will not be alone! Contact Chris Jenkins (comms@tssf.org.uk) if you would like to know more.

Two new publications will soon be launched, thanks to the efforts of their editors and contributors: reflections on the TSSF Principles will be sent to novices, and copies of an Assisi Booklet on ageing in the Third Order will go to Area Teams.

An updated Area Team Handbook is also to be launched on the website, offering more advice for the diverse questions which crop up locally. For instance, it suggests how to enable ex-pat Tertiaries to keep in touch and renew their pledge. It also seeks to help Area teams balance the call to meet regularly (which goes back to Francis' own vision for the Third Order) with the pressures that many members face. The new handbook makes clear that when times get tough and prevent attendance, we need only explain our absence. That's not just about accountability; it ensures that the support of fellow Tertiaries is there for you.

Our agenda always begins with the election of novices to profession. At this point there is usually a bit of confusion, either because names have come in after deadline, or details supplied for the membership database are incomplete, or the novitiate has not actually finished. Novice formation lasts between two and four years, and it would be unfair to rush it. We'd be grateful if Area Teams could ensure that at least two years have been completed, and membership details are up-to-date, before a candidate's name goes forward.

We ended by praying thanksgivings and farewells with Averil, and blessings on Jamie. They have both found Jamie's five-month 'apprenticeship' invaluable. This period of overlap will hopefully become standard practice throughout TSSF, and it now comes heartily recommended!

Paul Bodenham TSSF

TO PROFESSION (WITH PRAYER)

The following were elected to profession, with prayer:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Toni Ribbens | West Kent |
| Rebecca Halkes | Cornwall |
| Helen Armstrong | Durham |
| Stephen Adesanya | Cumbria and Lancs |
| Norman Dawson | Cumbria and Lancs |
| Alf Mossop | Cumbria and Lancs |
| Michael Speight | Cumbria and Lancs |
| Robert Lawrance | Newcastle |
| Vivienne Sommerville | Newcastle |
| Barbara Driver | South London |
| Rob Evans | South London |
| Christopher Oladuji | East London and South East Essex |
| Jasbinder Nijjar | Wales and the Marches |
| Gareth Thomas | Wales and the Marches |
| Apollon Leontas | Beds and Herts |
| Beryl Clements | Oxford |
| Steve Bacon | Lincoln |
| Patricia Tudor Sandahl | Sweden |
| Elizabeth Bengtsson | Sweden |

July 2017

The full minutes of Chapter are available on the website

THE WAY FORWARD

I'd like to thank everybody for sending me their replies to my request for input to this exciting initiative. I'll be writing individually to everyone who has responded as we take this forward and will keep all informed about this through TON and through another individual letter in the autumn. Thank you and God bless

*Jamie TSSF
Minister Provincial*

FORMING FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY PETERBOROUGH, 4 NOVEMBER 2017

Bookings are being taken for the fourth in this popular series of gatherings. *Forming Franciscan community* is open to all Tertiaries - particularly Local Group convenors who will find it a valuable source of practical help and inspiration.

With a new vision for the order emerging from the Convocation process over the last two years, the day will also give you an opportunity to help that vision become reality.

Register today - please see the flyer circulated with this edition of TON, or follow the link from www.tssf.org.uk.

Paul Bodenham TSSF

FUTURE CHAPTER DATES

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| <u>2017</u> | 13-15 October |
| <u>2018</u> | 8-10 February |
| | 14-16 June |
| | 12-14 October |

MINISTER PROVINCIAL'S EMAIL ADDRESS

There have been some changes to Society email addresses, all complete now, and the new 'generic' address for the Minister Provincial is ministertssf@tssf.org.uk. Many apologies to all who may have experienced any difficulties in getting to the last address.

'GOD, EACH OTHER AND THE WORLD' LEE ABBEY 4TH-7TH JULY

Eight tertiaries (Anne Spalding, Debby and Jeremy Plummer, Fran Wakefield, Jo Hamblin, Tim Higgins, Jamie Hacker Hughes and Bishop David Walker) spent three days at Lee Abbey, Devon, for this conference organised by ARC, the Association of Religious Communities. Around 100 of us were there in total, including 6 CSF sisters, Beverley, Chris, Gina, Joyce, Maureen and Sue and a SSF brother, Brother Martin John from Glasshampton.

The conference aimed to facilitate conversations between the many different types of religious community, traditional, modern, and emerging, and all of these were represented including sisters from the Community of All Hallows, Ditchingham, the Community of Saint Mary the Virgin at Wantage, the Community of the Holy Name in Derby, Benedictine sisters from Malling Abbey, The Sisters of Jesus Way from West Kirby, Liverpool, the Sisters of the Church from Gerard's Cross, (formerly Ham Common), Benedictine monks, Mirfield Fathers from the Community of the Resurrection, and others. Recent years have seen a significant fall in those entering traditional religious life with the number of Anglican religious being around 380, as compared to the 900 or so in religious life in 1998. Numbers of vocations to traditional communities are dropping too and the number of those living in traditional communities is decreasing.

On the other hand, the numbers of those in new monastic and emerging communities are growing apace. Modern and emerging communities represented at the conference

included the Northumbria Community, the Community of Saint Aidan and Saint Chad, CMS, Chemin Neuf, the Community of Hopeweavers from Southampton, the Community of Saint Anselm from Lambeth, and some new emerging communities including Moot, the community of Saint Margaret the Queen in Streatham and the Wellspring community in Peckham, South London. All in all, over 40 communities, traditional, modern, traditional, and emerging. It was a truly wonderful gathering.

And it was a truly beautiful place to gather too. Lee Abbey is situated in beautiful surroundings on the North Devon coast and the community there were amazingly hospitable to us all. The sun shone ceaselessly throughout the three days that we were all there enabling us to walk down to the seaside and shore, through the woods and up to the three crosses on the hill and we were accompanied throughout by the gentle lowing of beautiful Devon cattle. All thoroughly Franciscan.

In our sessions, both plenary and in small groups, we had talks, discussion and conversation on how all of our very different but all Anglican communities relate to God, to each other and to the world and we also learned more about ARC and the Advisory Council on Religious Communities. It was a pretty packed programme and one had to be creative to fit in the other things.

The worship was memorable with morning and evening prayer and compline being led according to the traditions of some of the various communities represented. Thus we had Franciscan night prayer, but also morning prayer following the Benedictine pattern and that of the Northumbria Community. The main Eucharist was celebrated by the Bishop of Exeter and there was a video contribution from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A few days of fellowship with many kindred spirits from many traditions. Shared worship, shared meals, shared time and memories together, shared laughter and, yes, many shared conversations.

*Jamie TSSF
Minister Provincial*

STUDY & PRAYER NETWORK

The **Study & Prayer Network** exists to support and facilitate the study and prayer to which all members of the Third Order are called, as part of our life-long formation. If you would like to be kept informed of events and issues particularly relevant to study and prayer, and/or to share news and requests with an interested group, please email studyprayer@tssf.org.uk and ask to be added to our mailing list.

There are usually at least three emails a year, one following up each meeting of our Study & Prayer Enabling Group. But the freedom of this kind of communication means that, within reason, we can quickly circulate information, adverts etc as seems appropriate. Please do let us know of any events you are organising or have held in your Local Group or Area which might be of interest to other groups of Tertiaries, either to attend (if you're planning ahead and would like to advertise), or to use ideas for their own events. We're also happy to publish extended book reviews in our emails. (Please remember *Little Portion* welcomes short recommendations of good books).

Our apologies that we cannot extend this service to Tertiaries who do not use email, but perhaps you could link with someone who would be prepared to be in contact on your behalf. Meantime, we will continue to publish all essential information here in TON.

Invitation to Submit Additional Study & Prayer Week 2017 Papers

The Alnmouth Study & Prayer Week in October this year, on the theme of *The Writings of Francis and Clare*, is fully booked, but we are still open to receive additional papers from Tertiaries unable to participate personally. One paper has already been received!

If you would like to write about one or more of *The Writings of Francis and Clare*, please send a paper no longer than 6 A4 pages to studyprayer@tssf.org.uk (or phone Helen for a postal address) to arrive by latest Friday 15 September. This will allow time for the participants at Alnmouth to consider

any additional papers, which may subsequently be added to the Study & Prayer papers on the website.

2018 Study & Prayer Events

Freeland Study & Prayer Weekend: Friday 27 to Sunday 29 April 2018

Old Parsonage guest house of the Community of St Clare, Freeland, Oxfordshire: arrivals late afternoon Friday, departures after lunch on Sunday. Inclusive cost £120.

Leader: Br Kevin SSF

Title: *What if St Francis had known about Haiku?*

A weekend exploring Haiku as a spiritual path/discipline and including meditation prayer and an openness to nature and the present moment.

The Freeland Study & Prayer Weekend is led on a chosen theme. Participants are not particularly expected to prepare in advance, but the knowledge, wisdom and experience they bring contribute significantly to the success of the weekend.

To register interest and receive more information as soon as it is available, please email studyprayer@tssf.org.uk putting 'Freeland 2018' in the subject line. If you do not have access to email, please phone Andrew Baker on 07850 572869.

October Study & Prayer: Monday 1 to Friday 5 October 2018

Theme: *Francis for the 21st Century*

The Friary, Hilfield, Dorchester, Dorset: arrivals late afternoon Monday, departures after breakfast on Friday. Estimated inclusive cost £180.

The October Study & Prayer event brings together contributions from all the participants, each leading a session on his or her chosen topic.

The Brothers at Alnmouth will not know until after the end of 2017 whether they could host a full-size Study & Prayer group in October 2018, so for this year we have been fortunate to be able to book the week of Francistide at Hilfield Friary.

To register interest and receive more information as soon as it is available, please email studyprayer@tssf.org.uk putting 'October S&P 2018' in the subject line. If you do not have access to email, please phone Helen Hood on 0131 447 6469.

A YEAR'S ADVENTURE IN VOCATION

Do you long to integrate prayer and action in your life? The JPIC Network is developing a 12-month programme to help Tertiaries reflect on their own Franciscan calling and its impact in the world.

The year will begin with a weekend in September 2018 and end with another in July 2019. As a group, we will accompany each other through the year, with the support of an experienced facilitator. We will reflect together on our roots in the gospel, on our Franciscan vocation, and on our engagement the world. We will maintain regular contact for mutual encouragement.

The programme supports the renewed commitment which is emerging from the Convocation to become visible as Franciscans in the world. It is about to be piloted. If you would like to find out more about what taking part next year would involve, please contact Tim Higgins: email tim.tssf@gmail.com or call 01758 770303.

TON Editor

Sue Charles will soon have served three years in this post and TSSF needs a volunteer to replace her. Tertiaries who have suitable skills (the ability to edit a document, turn it into a file in PDF format and email this to Areas) are invited to contact Chris Jenkins (Communications Coordinator). The Editor is appointed by Chapter after a recommendation from him. More information can be obtained from Chris or Sue.

POSSIBLE TERTIARY HELP AT CSF'S HOUSE IN METHERINGHAM

Our recent CSF Chapter has authorised Sr Liz to move from Metheringham to explore a new opportunity for community and ministry which is clearly opening up in a small town in Leicestershire. It seems very evident that this vision and call are of God, and so we are responding. However Liz's going will leave our Metheringham house in need of extra help and support, as there will be only Maureen, and Judith Ann who has significant health issues which limit her participation in the life and work of the house. We are looking to see how some support might be offered from time to time by sisters from other houses.

However we would also very much welcome contact from tertiaries who might be interested to come to stay for a time at Metheringham as helpers/working guests, to share in the life of prayer, to help make community and to participate in the work of the house. The practical tasks would be mainly housework, cooking, hospitality to resident guests (only one at a time), day visitors and day groups, and perhaps some gardening. We believe this could be a mutually beneficial experience, enabling the tertiary to share in a resident Franciscan community during their stay.

Metheringham is a large village in Lincolnshire, between Lincoln and Sleaford, and is served by buses and a railway station. It has a range of shops and other necessary facilities.

Anyone interested in exploring this possibility should contact Sr Maureen - maureencsf@franciscans.org.uk 01526 321115.

Sue CSF

OUTLINES FOR INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION IN TON

At a recent Comms Team Meeting, it was decided to make the inclusion criteria available in TON, as it was felt that TON had started to move away from its remit of giving dates and urgent news.

To this end, the following was decided (and will be used as of the next edition of TON):

Inclusions are:

- Notes from Provincial Chapter
- Election of Profession
- Names of Tertiaries who have died in the past twelve months to Francistide (in November TON)
- Retreats and Events being held by Areas, Networks or Franciscan Houses
- Chapter dates
- Changes at Chapter
- Appeals when jobs become vacant/ call for nominations

Exclusions are:

TON will no longer contain:

- Any articles (including those from TSSF Networks)
- Retreats or events that are not from an Area or from a Franciscan House
- Leaflets sent out with TON
- Sponsored events (unless these are specifically TSSF events)
- Information about available resources

Articles are to be sent directly the Editor of *Little Portion*.

Obituaries are to be sent directly to the website team (as they are only published on the website).

We hope that this will clear up any misunderstandings, and make the job of the new Editor of TON easier.

Sue Charles, Editor, TON

COPY DATE FOR FORTHCOMING ISSUES OF TON

TON 62: 27 October 2017

TSSF RETREATS AND OTHER EVENTS

RETREATS AT THE OLD PARSONAGE, FREELAND

Dates: Friday 13 – Monday 16 October 2017

The sun and moon over Assisi'

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Revd David Norwood, TSSF

Cost: £150 including conductor's expenses

Dates: Friday 2 – Monday 5 March 2018

Perfectly messing it up: A perspective from 14th century English poetry

Silent Retreat

Conductor: Revd Dr Hugh White

Cost: TBC

Bookings: Lesley Sutton,

12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB

T: 01865 248847

E: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

HERTS AND BEDS THIRD ORDER RETREAT

**Dates: Monday 23 – Wednesday 25
October 2017 (Mon 5pm - Wed 2pm)**

Conductor: The Rev'd Dr David Munchin

Cost: £146 + share of conductor's expenses

Location: Chelmsford Diocesan House of Retreat, Pleshey, Essex

There are a few places left.

Contact: Nigel Bridger

E: n.bridger@btinternet.com

Area Officers should be asked explicitly to consent to their names appearing on the Intercessions List and to be made aware that this is available publicly on the TSSF and Community Obedience website as well as in the printed list.

All opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and contributors and not necessarily those of the European Province of the Third Order, Society of Saint Francis.

WHO TO SEND THINGS TO

Changes in address, telephone number, e-mail address, TSSF Office held

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Membership Secretary
12 Buckingham Gardens,
West Molesey KT8 1TH
T: 020 8979 8053 E: memsec@tssf.org.uk
E-mail copy to Chris Jenkins (PCC):
E: comms@tssf.org.uk

All other matters relating to communication

Chris Jenkins,
Provincial Communications Coordinator
T: 07860 712354 E: comms@tssf.org.uk

Contributions, TSSF expense claims and letters about finance

John Lovatt,
Provincial Treasurer
Lower Stonehouse Farm, Brown Edge,
Stoke on Trent ST6 8TF
T: 01782 503090 E: treasurer@tssf.org.uk

Enquirers interested in joining the Order

Peter Dixon,
T: 01889 569722 E: novguard@tssf.org.uk

Training and Development

Paul Bodenham,
T: 01949 861516 E: formation@tssf.org.uk

All other enquiries about the Order

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Matters Concerning *Little Portion*

Verena Tschudin, Editor
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Contributions for *TON*

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Disability Advice Team (alternative formats, access, support)

Margaret Armstrong,
Cridlands Barn, Brompton Ralph,
Taunton, TA4 2RU
T: 01984 623918
E: disabilityadvisor@tssf.org.uk
Audio, CD and large print copies of various publications are available.

Knox Dick Fund Administrator

Jane Gillbe, Administrator
T: 01483 562571 E: knoxdick@tssf.org.uk

Third Order Resource Material

Third Order Distribution,
The Old Parsonage, 168 Wroslyn Road,
Freeland, Witney, OX29 8AQ.
E: distribution@tssf.org.uk
Payment should be made by Direct Bank Transfer to Lloyds Bank:
Account name:
The Third Order of Society of St Francis
Sort Code: 30 97 16
Account No: 00334910
Reference: TOD

Cheques should be made payable to:
Third Order Society of St Francis

Franciscan Aid

W: www.franciscanaid.co.uk

Website comments and enquiries

E: webmaster@tssf.org.uk

Contact Details for TSSF Networks

Study and Prayer:
studyprayer@tssf.org.uk

Contemplatives:
contemplatives@tssf.org.uk

Justice Peace Integrity of Creation:
jplic@tssf.org.uk