

# THIRD ORDER

## news



Issue 36

March 2009

### REPORT FROM PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

I have just taken over from Alan Williams as Provincial Communications Coordinator and attended my first Chapter meeting in Ely on 27 and 28 February. Chapter members made me feel very welcome.

This is a brief summary of the notes about communication matters that I made during the meeting.

*Clusters:* Just because some Areas are very scattered, does not mean they cannot find ways to be united. Wales have their own newsletter to which all local groups contribute. Cluster meetings are another means of bringing dispersed communities together and we heard about two that are being planned for 2010.

*TONews:* "Cascading" or the communication method that has been adopted for distributing *TONews* is starting to work, but it is taking time. Each Area has been asked to provide an "e-person" or "Area Communications Coordinator" to receive *TONews* electronically. This receiver then sends it to every area member as an e-mail attachment or as a print copy. Area Communications Coordinators, who open their e-mails less frequently, say once a week, are being encouraged to open them more regularly so that the distribution process does not slow down.

Many members will continue to need hard copies of *TONews* and every effort is being made to ensure that everyone receives their copy in good time.

*Website:* This is an important communication channel for the Order: it is attracting a lot of positive comment and helping to raise awareness of the Order. The number of enquiries across all channels is currently averaging 3 - 4 per week, or 150 per year.

*Bishop Protector:* Discussion at area level of Bishop Michael's paper: "What does the Church expect of the TSSF" is encouraging. He has agreed to write a pastoral letter every Francistide.

*First Order:* More communication and cooperation between the First and Third Orders is helpful, such as joint study programmes and the activities that are being organised as part of the Hilfield Project.

*Goodbye:* In a moving end to Chapter we prayed our farewells and thanked Alan Williams for all that he has achieved over the last 6 years

Brian Berry  
Communications Coordinator

### Minister Provincial?

#### Who needs one ?

In a definition extracted from Provincial Review, Consultation Document, October 1998 we read that:

"The Minister Provincial has a series of tasks to perform, some of these are to do with the admission and withdrawal of the professed, some are representative and are undertaken on behalf of all those in the Order, while others are administrative. The over-arching concept is that of episcopate or pastoral oversight and of a person who both 'holds' the vision for the moment and who re-creates a renewed vision by shared debate."

So the role of Minister Provincial is -  
to be **Representative** – to represent all Tertiaries  
- to the First and Second Orders  
- and world-wide to the Ministers Provincial of the other four TSSF Provinces  
to be **Administrative** – to chair Provincial Chapter meetings three times each year  
to hold **Oversight** – to 'hold and recreate the vision'  
– to develop further our dispersed 'Community under discipline'  
- and to discern, how the Order might be risk-takers for Christ in our service of the Church and of the World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

In all this it is crucial that the Minister Provincial is in close touch with individual Tertiaries and with Areas Teams – so that we can learn from each other.

As your Minister Provincial -  
I cannot represent you unless I know your mind.  
I cannot ensure that Chapter decisions are relevant – unless I know your mind.  
I cannot hold and recreate the vision - unless I know your mind.

**So it's up to you** - it seems that the Order does need a Minister Provincial – but even more important – your Minister Provincial needs you – so I look forward to meeting you, and to hearing from you.

Pax et Bonum  
Joanna

joanna.coney@gmail.com or  
ministertssf@franciscans.org.uk  
01865 556456  
4 Rowland Close, Wolvercote, Oxford, OX2 8PW

### **Alan Williams writes**

I spent some time wondering what it was like being Provincial Communications Coordinator. Almost eight years ago I accepted John Fox's invitation to join the Communications Team, as a member without portfolio. I looked at this wise man who seemed so full of energy and enthusiasm for how we could communicate well within the Order; I could only guess at what he was doing between Team meetings. John was the Chronicle Editor at that time.

When it came to replace him, you could say it took two people to do so. Andrew Dotchin rather liked the idea of editing our journal, and I was quite happy to attend Chapter meetings and do my bit that way. And that, my sisters and brothers, is how it has been for the past six very enjoyable years, and I found out what it was all about.

Members of the Team changed as each reached their six years of service. New members arrived, and over the years we have shaped the means of communication into the form that you see them today. Under Brian Berry's leadership, and through his work on Provincial Chapter, communications will continually evolve, always holding in mind the good of the entire Order, not just the technically-minded.

I have had a most enjoyable six years in the communications chair, and it has been a privilege to serve. Thanks to the Team who have made it a joy, and to members of Chapter who have been gentle.

### **Alex Calveley**

Alex Calveley was employed by the Province between 25 November 1999 and 31 August 2008. He held the position of Provincial Administrator. He was the first point of contact for enquirers and covered a range of duties including the maintenance of the Provincial database and sending out key Provincial documents to all members. He attended the Chapter of the Charity with the Trustees three times a year, furnishing a report of the Province's administrative activities.

It was with considerable regret that the Trustees of the Province were compelled to make Alex redundant after consultation and negotiation. Chapter commends Alex for all that he achieved during his time in post and we wish him well in his future.

John Morrison (Provincial Secretary)

## **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION COURSES**

Both courses, Alnmouth and Compton Durville, are now fully booked. However, there will probably be further courses in 2010 and anyone interested is asked to contact the

Provincial Formation Guardian.  
Adrian Noble, Chandlers Court House, Church Street,  
Tewkesbury,  
GL20 5RZ  
adrian.chandlers@care4free.net

### **What does it mean to be a Franciscan in my local Church?**

My local church is 40 feet from our back door. My wife and I open and shut it every day, and I hoist and lower the flag at the top of the tower for the 40 Great Days after Christmas and Easter and on other occasions, and pay for a new one when it wears out. I have also led a campaign to fit clock chimes to the two bells which is close to success. I see the flag and the clock chimes as visible and audible signs of God's presence in the village.

It means nothing, however, to be a Franciscan in my local church as I only worship there when attendance is unavoidable, which (not counting funerals) is roughly three times a year. Since the parish was grouped with the two adjoining villages the churchmanship has plummeted from being comfortably, intelligently, middle-of-the-road to being Evangelical of the most rudimentary sort.

For the last 15 years the aumbry has been empty and the sacrament lamp unlit. Two Evangelical Readers, neither of whom lives in the parish, have appeared. In their eyes, and those of the vicar, the world is doomed. Their long sermons assume on every occasion that we are hearing the news of salvation for the first time and, into the bargain, that their listeners have the mental age of a child of five. The ancient hymns have become mere ditties, sung from a book where they are arranged alphabetically, not according to the seasons of the Christian Year. Magic and mystery are absent. Incense is unknown.

My last attempt to go to the local church was for the Harvest Festival where we had been led to expect our lovely Rural Dean. I arrived to find, to my dismay, the Archdeacon who, in an address devoid of any mention of God's bounty, produced from a box on the pulpit a tin of baked beans, a dried-up bean, two packets of jelly beans and a runner bean – the message being that we should run with patience the race that is set before us. It is over 50 years since most people in the congregation have run anywhere.

When I was at Alnmouth 18 months ago Brother Angelo told me to try to find just one thing in the whole 60 minutes to fasten on to, but this has proved impossible. Instead, I have become a nomad, a wanderer of no fixed abode, when I can justify the travelling involved. On most Sundays I stay at home,

reading. The Eucharist remains central in my life, but more often as a sacrament to be fondly remembered from the past, or looked forward to hopefully at some future date.

My Franciscanism means nothing in my local church, but a lot in my house, and in the houses of others. The anchors of my life as a Tertiary are: (1) saying the Community Obedience daily and remembering the First, Second and Third Orders and everyone in the N and E Yorks Area on the three intercession lists; (2) caring for my two splendid novices; (3) meeting my fellow Tertiaries at Area and Local Group meetings; and (4) dealing as efficiently as I can with the varied tasks my post as Area Minister and now as acting Area Novice Guardian involves.

Andrew Anderson

### **Brother Bernard SSF: 'My God, my All'**

Brother Samuel, John Phillips and Fr Terry Tastard have put together the most wonderful book about Bernard, his writings and his musings, together with personal recollections from a huge number of his friends. I read the book on retreat recently, and he really came alive again for me, with a sparkle in his eye and spiced by his jocular/serious comments - it is an inspirational volume. Copies can be obtained from Sara Whistance at Hilfield by writing or e-mailing her at [samspassf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:samspassf@franciscans.org.uk) or writing. The price is £7.99 plus postage.

I would also recommend 'The Challenge of the Gospel' written by Brother Geoffrey before he died in 2007. It is a fascinating account of the expansion of SSF during the period 1970 to 1985, and it is astonishing what was achieved at that time. Of particular interest are the papers from the 'Gospel Now' Conference in 1981 - really surprisingly relevant at the present time. Price is £5 plus postage, also from Sara.

John Fox

### **The Pilgrims of St. Francis**

The Pilgrims of St Francis, the British branch of a Christian, international, peace and social justice movement is hosting the 2009 Annual Pilgrimage. Around 200 members of all ages and denomination from at least 7 European countries will be gathering in Stratford-upon-Avon on July 29 2009 to walk in small groups towards Coventry, ending in a final service in Coventry Cathedral on August 6. Pilgrimage life is simple, carrying bedding and personal items in a rucksack, sleeping in church and village halls en route. There will also be some provision for those unable to participate in the walking routes. Newcomers are welcome.

Please contact:  
Gill Myall,  
25 Drayton Road,

March 2009

Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7LP  
Tel: 0121 443 5198  
E-mail: [gillmyall@hotmail.com](mailto:gillmyall@hotmail.com)  
Web: [www.cdsf.org](http://www.cdsf.org)

### **Study and Prayer (Third Order Studies)**

We continue to consolidate and expand TSSF study activities. Please see the separate newsletter issued with this TONews.

We thank Chapter for its continuing support, and in particular we're grateful to John Morrison who has now left our steering group after several invaluable years. We welcome in John's place Lance Housely, the librarian at the Franciscan International Study Centre in Canterbury, who connects us directly to that important study resource.

Enquiries? Please contact John Wiltshire (details at the end of the newsletter).

### **PILGRIMAGES AND RETREATS**

#### **Pilgrimage to Bishops House, Iona**

March 17 - 24 2009

2 nights Oban

4 nights Bishops House

1 night Mull

£520

Arranged by Lesley Cunningham (for contact details - see below)

#### **Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne and Alnmouth**

Oct 12 - Oct 19 2009

Cost: £575 approx.

Staying at Marygate House 4 nights and a small hotel in Alnmouth 3 nights

Contact: Lesley Cunningham

Tel: 023 80774566

#### **Pilgrimage to Rome/Assisi**

27 April - 5 May 2009

£720 plus personal insurance

Lesley Cunningham from Winchester Diocese has also arranged this pilgrimage.

4 nights in Rome at Casa per Ferie (guest house) of St Emilia de Vialar (see Discovering Peter and Francis in Rome/Chronicle Summer 2008). Hopefully there will be an opportunity to visit the Christian Catacombs. 4 nights Assisi Third order (guest house). Further details can be obtained from Lesley e-mail: [les.cunn@talktalk.net](mailto:les.cunn@talktalk.net) or tel: 02380774566

#### **Pilgrimage to Walsingham- change of dates: now 28 June - 3 July 2009**

Trevor Boycott says that bookings are going well. There are still places available. Further information and booking forms can be obtained from Trevor at 17 Brook Street, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, NE26 1AF, or by email on [trevortssf@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:trevortssf@tiscali.co.uk)

**Third Order Web Site address:** [www.tssf.org.uk](http://www.tssf.org.uk) 3

Early booking is advised. Contact details as below.

## **FREELAND RETREATS**

### **June 2009**

Friday 26 – Monday 29  
The Old Parsonage, Freeland, Oxford  
*Silent Retreat – The Beatitudes*

**Conductor:** Fr Gerry Reilly

**Cost:** £105 + Conductor's expenses

### **October 2009**

Monday 19 – Thursday 22  
The Old Parsonage, Freeland, Oxford  
*Silent Retreat*

**Conductor:** Rev Andrew McKearney TSSF

**Cost:** £105 + Conductor's expenses

### **Bookings:**

Lesley Sutton, 12 Hill Top Road, Oxford OX4 1PB  
Tel: 01865 248847  
e-mail: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

## **TSSF RETREATS**

**Community of the Resurrection, Mirfield,  
West Yorkshire**

Friday 1 May - Sunday 3 May  
Leader: Brother Philip  
Cost: £100 approx.

### **Bookings:**

Sue Baines-MacNeill  
Tel: 01423-888954  
Mbl: 07912-573261  
e-mail: Susie.baines@ntlworld.com

### **Ladywell Retreat Centre**

Ashtead Road  
Godalming GU7 1ST  
Weekend 29/31 May 2009  
Leader: Brother Angelo  
Subject to be announced  
Cost; £115

Applications, with deposit cheque for £15 payable to  
'TSSF Guildford Area' should be sent to:-  
Mollie Kingham  
12 Buckingham Gardens  
East Molesey KT8 1TH

## **HILFIELD RETREATS,**

### **May 2009**

#### **Tues 12- Fri 15**

The Friary, Hilfield,  
Dorchester, Dorset  
DT2 7BE  
Tel: 01300 341345

Suggested donation: £30 per day

Sharing the life of the Friary

*Periods of silence and discussion, but NOT a silent  
retreat*

### **September 2009**

#### **Tues 1- Fri 4**

The Friary, Hilfield,  
Dorchester, Dorset  
DT2 7BE  
Tel: 01300 341345

Suggested donation: £30 per day + conductor's  
expenses

Silent Retreat, led by a brother, SSF  
Numbers are limited, so early booking is advised

Mrs Sue Rawlinson,  
Magnolia Cottage,  
Blandford Rd,  
Shillingstone, Dorset DT110SF  
Tel: 01258 860066

## **ALNMOUTH RETREAT**

### **August 2009**

Monday 3 - Friday 7  
Alnmouth Friary  
Leader: Rev Professor Jeff Astley  
Cost: £110

### **Bookings:**

Mary Goundry,  
Tel: 01388 661985  
e-mail: marygoundry@hotmail.co.uk

## **Third Order Retreat at**

### **St Francis Convent Compton Durville**

Friday 11 Sept 09 – Sunday 13 Sept 09.  
Conductor – The Rev'd Charles Hadley.  
Silent Retreat with addresses given by the Conductor.  
Cost £56 + Conductor's Travel Expenses.  
St Francis Convent has ground floor rooms and wash  
rooms.  
There is no wheelchair access to any bedrooms.  
Contact details - Dr Pauline Primrose  
Corrach  
105 Dundry Lane  
Dundry  
BRISTOL BS41 8JE  
Tel - 0117 9465066  
pauline@corrach.demon.co.uk

## **PUBLICITY FOR RETREATS**

In 2010 the Third Order will publish a booklet  
containing the details of ALL Third order Retreats,  
which will go out with the Winter Chronicle. If you are  
organising a Third Order Retreat, even if it is purely  
for a Local Group or an Area would you please send  
the usual details and whether there are still spaces or  
not to the Retreats Secretary:-

Mrs Virginia Ruddock,  
15 Winchester Close,  
Banbury,  
Oxon OX16 4FU  
e-mail: michael.ruddock@btinternet.com

Adrian Noble (Provincial Formation Guardian)

## SPRING EVENTS AT HILFIELD

### 6 - 8 March 2009 Ecopenance - too late to change?

This weekend takes the Lenten theme of repentance and applies it to ecology - the way we housekeep our planet. We'll be looking at the scriptures and at the various areas of our lives where we might be being called to change. There will be some practice too - walking, gardening etc.

Suggested residential donation - £85.00

### Saturday 21 March

Official opening of a walk around the Friary developed with the help of the County Ranger Service. Come and join us at 2.30pm

### 17 - 19 April

#### Muslim and Christian sharing in caring for the Environment

An exploration into Islamic and Christian perspectives on ecology; sharing personal story, food and physical work. A chance to nurture understanding and respect amongst us.

Suggested residential donation - £85.00

Sarah Hargreaves  
The Friary of St Francis  
Hilfield  
Dorchester DT2 7BE  
Tel: 01300 341741  
e-mail: hilfieldproject@franciscans.org.uk

## FRANCISCAN AID - NEWS!

For good reasons, both Sue and Leslie – former Secretary and Treasurer respectively – have stepped down as Trustees of the Franciscan Aid Fund (FAF). I am grateful to both of them for their commitment to our work in their time in office and also most thankful to those who have stepped up to take their places:

**Helen Mossop** becomes our new Secretary and **Philippa Bird** our Treasurer.

Please could all of those who support our work note these changes and re-direct your giving in future to **Philippa** and enquiries to **Helen**. (See addresses opposite).

This particularly applies to those who are moved to begin paying a contribution by Bankers Order – as on p60 of the recently-distributed Winter 2008 Chronicle. That form has the former Treasurer's address on it. Please use our new Treasurer's address to send it. Existing arrangements do not need to be changed. Thanks to all of you who have supported our work in the past.

As an indication of how much our work is appreciated, here is an extract from a very recent letter of thanks we have received from a secondary March 2009

school in Beit Jala – just above Bethlehem – where equipment is double the price in the UK. This grant will allow the school to continue its vital teaching work.

*"Thank you for the check for £5,500 to be used for Hope School. We have purchased computers with them and this week they were installed. We will be sending a letter and some pictures in the next days of this wonderful accomplishment. We thank you for your generous support and for the faith you have in us. The students will benefit in so many ways. Blessings to you.*

Yvonne Turner  
Sponsorship Office, Hope School"

Richard Scott, FAF Chairman

## Donations to Franciscan Aid

Treasurer is:-  
Philippa Bird,  
42 Ridley Avenue,  
Ealing,  
LONDON W13 9XW

Secretary is:-  
Helen Mossop,  
The Vicarage,  
2"B" Margery Park Road,  
Forest Gate  
LONDON E7 9JY

## ROOTS AND SHOOTS

### Conference on Formation held at Hilfield Friary 8-12 January 2009

On the Third Order website [www.tssf.org.uk](http://www.tssf.org.uk) there is an excellent reflective article by Anne Spalding which is to be recommended to all Tertiaries.

## BOOKS FOR LOAN

Beryl Johnson of the Cambridge Clare group has a large selection of Books available for loan to any Tertiary interested. She will deliver locally (or make suitable arrangements), or post (if a contribution to postage could be made). The full list is quite extensive, but here is a selection:

Francis - A Call to conversion	Arnold & Fry
The soul's journey into God	Bonaventure
St Francis of Assisi	Chesterton G.K.
John Moorman	Leopold Raymond
Deeper into God	Brother Ramon SSF
Fullness of Joy	Brother Ramon SSF
Francis of Assisi	Sansom Clive
A Testament of Thanksgiving	Winslow Jack C

Beryl can be contacted on:-  
01223-243409  
Her address is:-  
33 Beaumont Road

Third Order Web Site address: [www.tssf.org.uk](http://www.tssf.org.uk) 5

## FUTURE MEETING DATES OF PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

### 2009

19/20 June All Chapter.

16/18 October All Chapter, First and Second Order  
representatives.

### 2010

11/13 February

18/19 June

5/17 October

**The following members of the Order were  
submitted to and joyfully accepted by Chapter  
for the rite of Profession:**

#### PROFESSED (27)

Steve Brown	Cornwall
Gill Burfitt	Wales
Micael Carlström	Sweden
Teresa Chatfield	Sussex
Gun-Brith Ericson	Sweden
Margaret Evans	Wessex
Angie Greenwood	Cumbria & Lancs
Olavi Heino	Canterbury
Riita Heino	Canterbury
Cynthia Kelly	Beds & Herts
Dee King	E. London & S. Essex
Christine Lidgley	Cornwall
Nicklas Lüning	Sweden
Jonathan McNabb	E. Anglia
Rina Miles	Wessex
Jackie Naumann	Solent
William(Bill) Page	N. & E. Yorks
Alison Parris	Blackmore Vale
Michael Perlhede	Sweden
Margaret Pullen	Cumbria & Lancs.
Margaret Richardson	Cumbria & Lancs.
Jane Scriven	Devon
Lisa Temperley-Barne	Notts.
Ted Thorngren	Sweden
Gillian Webster	Cornwall
John Wotherspoon	Mersey Valley
Alison Wotherspoon	Mersey Valley

## WHO TO SEND THINGS TO

**Changes in address, telephone number, TSSF Officer  
role, e-mail address to John Morrison**, Provincial  
Secretary TSSF, Foxdown, Neals Place Yard, Rough  
Common, CANTERBURY CT2 8HX. Tel: 01227 464854 e-  
mail: october3\_1226@btinternet.com

**Information for the Chronicle to Andrew Dotchin**,  
Editor, 176 Fircroft Road, Ipswich IP1 6PS  
Tel.: 01473 741389 Mobile: 0781 4949 828  
e-mail: andrew.dotchin@ntlworld.com

**Contributions for TONews to Roger Marks**, Editor,  
7 Garton, Drive, Eccleshill, BRADFORD. BD10 8AU.  
Tel: 01274 637468 Mobile: 07779-239950  
e-mail: marks.roger@gmail.com

**For all other matters to do with communication within  
the Order to Brian Berry**, Provincial Communications  
Coordinator, Birch Knoll, 2 Mulberry Close, Crowthorne,  
Berks., RG45 7LG.  
Tel: 01344 762784  
e-mail: brianberry43@aol.com

**Contributions, TSSF expense claims and letters about  
finance to Anne Lindley**, Provincial Treasurer, 92  
Burnthwaite Road, Fulham, London, SW6 5BG.  
Tel: 020 7385 850  
e-mail: anne.lindley@zetnet.co.uk

#### Donations to Franciscan Aid

The Treasurer of Franciscan Aid is Leslie Johnson, 15  
Breton House, Barbican, London. EC2Y 8DQ and the  
Secretary is Sue Green, 4 Elm Close, Witney, Oxon. OX28  
5BT.

***The Third Order, Society of Saint Francis holds  
no corporate opinion on any matter religious or  
secular, and therefore all opinions expressed in  
this publication are those of the authors and  
contributors, and not of the Third Order SSF.***

**Copy date for TONews 37: 1 July 2009**

**The following were submitted to and regretfully  
accepted by Chapter for release from vows:**

#### RELEASED FROM VOWS (10)

Phillip Barrett	Wales
Gregory Clifton-Smith	Solent
Ray Hunt	Solent
Michael Johnston	Solent
Malcolm Knowles	W. Midlands
Jane Nicole	Guildford
Patricia Pell-Walpole	W. Midlands
Cheryl Powell	W. Midlands
Ian Robertson	Cumbria & Lancs.
Carol Smith	Mercia