

# THIRD ORDER

## news



Issue 37

July 2009

### Letter from the Minister Provincial

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
May I thank all those Areas who have invited me to join you at one of your meetings, for both your warm welcome and your generosity. It is a great privilege to meet so many of you and to share some time and worship with you. (Any Areas where I have not yet been – please, if you would like to, do invite me. My dream is to visit you all as soon as possible!) In all my visits I am constantly humbled and encouraged by all the amazing things that are going on in the Order – in the Areas, Local Groups and by individual Tertiaries.

But your help is needed. Many of you, I know, have been discussing Bishop Michael's paper 'What does the Church expect from the Third Order?\*' and have found it stimulating and inspiring. May I beg you to just drop me an email, or note, summing up what you discovered in your conversations?

Both Chapter and myself want to listen to you – in order to enable us to serve you effectively – but we do need to hear from you to do that. We long to know how you see both the present, and the future, of the Order – what needs repair, and what is to be celebrated. So I look forward to hearing from you.

Pax et Bonum  
Joanna

Joanna.coney@gmail.com  
4 Rowland Close, Wolvercote, Oxford. OX2 8PW  
\* *Bishop Michael's paper can be found on our website. [tssf.org.uk](http://tssf.org.uk)*

### TSSF Database

All changes for the TSSF database: changes of contact details, of novicings, professions, deaths, changes of Areas, which have been going to John Morrison, should, with immediate effect, now be sent direct to Fran Childs, the Membership Secretary, with a copy to Brian Berry, Communications Coordinator: [brianberry43@aol.com](mailto:brianberry43@aol.com)

[Fran.childs@btinternet.com](mailto:Fran.childs@btinternet.com)  
Or by post to:  
Fran Childs,  
3 South Park Avenue,  
Didcot,  
Oxon. OX11 8NB

### Franciscans International (FI)

In January I was appointed to the Board of Franciscans International, a Roman Catholic Non-Governmental Organisation. My first Board meeting took place in Geneva at the end of March and I was welcomed with great warmth and much talk of my 'making history' as the first Anglican. The first day was given over to induction. We were given a brief history of Franciscans International; its relationship with the United Nations; its structure and the increasing importance of its work. Great emphasis was laid on the fact that the work for justice, peace and the environment is an essential part of the Franciscan charism not just an optional extra, but requiring a whole-hearted commitment.

We were then given a briefing on the roles and responsibilities of the Board. I have certainly never been a part of so international a body. Members come from Singapore, Germany, Colombia, Mexico, Mauritius, Canada, North America, Ireland and the UK, covering all the main Franciscan Orders, including the Seculars and now SSF. We were introduced to the heads of departments from the Geneva office and informed about the work of the New York and Bangkok offices. Since the purpose of FI is to work with the United Nations, their offices are located in the places where the UN works. I had had the privilege on a previous visit of attending the meetings of the Council of Human Rights and had seen for myself how FI works with lobbying the diplomats, arranging fringe meetings as well as bringing forward human rights issues from its vast experience at grassroots level.

This kind of work does not have the immediate appeal of famine relief or frontline medical care; it takes immense patience to change the minds of governments, but the effects of tackling the abuse of human rights can be lifesaving in the literal sense and also in the vast improvement of living conditions. The enormous advantage that FI has is that the Roman Church has Brothers and Sisters working all over the world, with the most vulnerable on the margins.

Another and vital part of their work is to provide training so that people can express their needs to those in authority and FI can and does bring people over to address the UN on specific issues. One recent achievement was to draw to the attention of the UN in Geneva the grave issue of the infanticide of so-called 'child witches' in northern Benin.

For me the two and a half days were life-affirming, with a lot of laughter and a deep level of sharing of our faith. At times I think that we as Tertiaries, and probably the Roman Seculars too, take ourselves too seriously; it was the Friars and Sisters who had us roaring with laughter. Yes FI and Franciscans in general are dealing with matters of serious and vital importance, but we lose something fundamental to our calling if we cannot laugh or share our joy.

Averil Swanton

*NB: To read the full article, please visit:  
[http://jpc-sec.org.uk/TSSF\\_JPIC/jpic\\_news.html](http://jpc-sec.org.uk/TSSF_JPIC/jpic_news.html)  
For more JPIC news and information, please visit the JPIC website: <http://www.jpic.tssf.org.uk>.*

### ***franciscan for all***

It has been agreed by Chapter that from January 2010 all Tertiaries and Novices will receive a free copy of *franciscan*. The cost of this bulk subscription will be paid from central funds. If you are already a subscriber and pay by direct debit, you need do nothing because the SSF will stop your subscription payment. If you pay by standing order, you will need to request your bank to cancel your standing order.

Brian Berry

### **Speaking Truth to Power**

This was the theme of this year's Conference of Religious' JPIC Links weekend, and we had three remarkable people inspire us with their perspectives on this issue. Peter Barnett (Pilsdon at West Malling) spoke of the Pilsdon communities and their radical hospitality, before moving on to examples of 'speaking to power'. These were "mostly in the particulars", such as challenging changes in housing benefit and gaining acceptance in legislation for 'intentional communities'.

He stressed the importance of both working with and challenging the language used in meetings, and of knowing where the power lies in a place or situation; he has long been active in 'Community / Citizens Organising'. One of his questions for discussion: how could we 'do Pilsdon' in the city, especially as working with the land/produce/animals is central to the life?

Martin Newell (Catholic Worker Community, London) outlined the roles of Catholic Worker Communities in works of mercy, as houses of hospitality and as bases from which to organise. The community in London shares its house with destitute asylum seekers, and has a cafe and an 'Open Table' soup kitchen; it also organises non-violent action on justice issues. Martin spoke about the local context, in Dalston and in London (close to the power of government and commercial head offices) and the wider context of our privileges and riches. Amongst his examples, he spoke of police reaction to praying a Litany of Resistance in a park alongside the recent G20 Meeting, and also of times he's been in prison and his experience of reading the gospels there 'from

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the margins'. He challenged us to work out our discipleship in our wider context: 'how can we be faithful at the heart of the 'empire', what could a British, European, First World liberation theology look like?'

It seems that Pilsdon and the Catholic Worker House have much in common, in terms of hospitality, a prophetic dimension to their life and practical active challenge. All three speakers drew explicitly on Jesus' practice.

Robert Kaggwa (Missionary of Africa from Uganda, theologian & RC Chaplain at Roehampton University) spoke about justice in the church, which he believes is just as important as in other areas; we should not be afraid to be self-critical. The church is marginalised in society and, at its most institutional, can be hierarchical and not demonstrating justice, inclusion and empowerment. Some of the church statements and practices he quoted brought strong responses from the group! He found that Religious tend to be more democratic than the church (RC?) as a whole, and found encouragement in his own order being multi-national/racial.

We were about 35 delegates, many of whom have been justice and peace activists for many years. There were few men, and the only Anglicans this year were Franciscans: Hugh SSF, Jenny Tee CSF, Nancy Adams, Pauline Thomas, and Denise Yeldham from the TSSF. This was the first year that a general invitation went out to Tertiaries and Associates, a good development that will probably grow. As the Justice and Peace Link for TSSF, Nancy keeps news flowing via e-mail and the [jpc-sec.org.uk](http://jpc-sec.org.uk) website, a link to which is on [Franciscans.org.uk](http://Franciscans.org.uk)

Jenny Tee CSF

### **Study and Prayer**

#### **New Chair for Study and Prayer**

We're delighted that Tom Keighley is now not only our Provincial Formation Guardian, but also S+P's new Chairperson.

#### **Two Richard Rohr OFM-related events**

Growing numbers of Tertiaries are becoming aware of this distinctive Franciscan voice and so we are moving ahead with our conviction, supported by Chapter, that Richard Rohr's work has much to offer us in TSSF. The very name of Rohr's community in New Mexico: "The Centre for Action and Contemplation" (CAC) suggests a potential programme of formation and renewal.

If you would like an introduction to Richard Rohr's writings and teachings, try the papers from our recent successful weekend event at Freeland at the end of May. Most of these papers are still on the way to the S+P webpage, but you can already see the report on the weekend that went to the recent meeting of Chapter:

[http://www.tssf.org.uk/Members/TSSF\\_Studies.html](http://www.tssf.org.uk/Members/TSSF_Studies.html)

**Third Order Web Site address:** [www.tssf.org.uk](http://www.tssf.org.uk) 2

### **“RR2010”: a major TSSF event next year**

We have confirmed that Richard Rohr will speak at a TSSF-led event at St James Piccadilly on the 3 to 4 September 2010. We're now in touch with the CAC to plan the details. We expect this to be a very popular event indeed, as many others in the UK will be interested.

The two-day event will be priced at £40, but Tertiaries will be able to obtain a *discounted rate of only £30*. Booking forms will be cascaded to all Tertiaries. Please try to book promptly to avoid disappointment.

Please also help us to publicise this event by telling non-TSSF friends and organisations about it. They can register their own advance interest at a website at St James Piccadilly:

<http://www.st-james-piccadilly.org/rohrintro.html>

This link also offers a video interview with Richard Rohr about spiritual direction. Try it, and you'll soon know if “RR2010” is for you!

### **Weekend event for young Franciscans**

We still need your help to contact young enquirers or Tertiaries who may be interested in this new initiative at Alnmouth (30<sup>th</sup> October to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009). Please try hard to encourage interest (16-30 years) in this event, contacting David Swain on 01865 767068 if you have anyone in mind.

### **Franciscans and the global economic crisis**

A day event is planned in London on Thursday 10 September. Contact John Fox on 01702 472634 if you would like to be involved.

### **The Franciscan International Study Centre (FISC)**

<http://www.franciscans.ac.uk>

“FISC” is the international centre for anyone studying Franciscan history or theology. It offers a range of courses and opportunities from private study through short courses to degrees and post-graduate studies. Several members of TSSF and SSF have enjoyed visiting FISC, and studied there. It is a vital part of the Franciscan family in the UK and beyond.

S+P has long had a friendly relationship with FISC but we now have a new partnership too, including an agreement enabling Tertiaries to borrow books from FISC's excellent library at a discounted rate when pursuing study connected with any S+P event or programme.

The cost to you will only be that of packing and posting - but remember that you will have to pay the return postage as well! For non-S+P related study, personal postal FISC membership costs £20 per year.

Do consider enhancing your studies with FISC's help, making enquiries to fellow TSSF Tertiary and FISC librarian Lance Housley

01277 769349 or at [library@franciscans.ac.uk](mailto:library@franciscans.ac.uk)

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Help is needed with blue links/questions/comments/suggestions or indeed offers to help us with “Study and Prayer”? For more information, please contact:

John Wiltshire (S+P Coordinator)

E-mail: [katherine.wiltshire1@ntlworld.com](mailto:katherine.wiltshire1@ntlworld.com)

Tel: 020 8527 5148

### **SSF Trustee - Could this be you?**

The Society of St Francis Central Fund (Registered Charity No 280238) is looking for a new Trustee to join the board. The Fund defrays the costs of the central administration of the SSF and the expenses of its Ministers General and First Order General Secretaries and makes grants for the work of the Society of St Francis throughout the world.

The Trustees meet twice a year. Tertiaries or Companions with experience in the financial or voluntary sectors would be particularly welcome.

If you are interested and would like to know more, please contact the Chair of the Trustees:

Maggie Stirling Troy TSSF

E-mail: [mstirling1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mstirling1@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 01483 428733

### **Franciscan Gold**

In July, at the General Chapter and Conference in Sydney, Denis Woodbridge's history of the TSSF in this Province was launched. *Franciscan Gold* reveals a significant tension between the spirit of our movement and the need for more organisation as the membership grew in number. It is a story about people, and how they tried to respond to God's love in the spirit of St. Francis.

The Author, Denis Woodbridge, grew up in suburban Melbourne and was educated at Camberwell and Melbourne Grammar Schools before completing a BA(Hons) in Classical Studies from Melbourne University. He was ordained Priest in 1960. His connection to St. Francis began through a group led by Bob Butterss, resulting in profession in The Third Order in 1972. Through membership of The Third Order SSF Denis has found the shape of Christian discipleship.

Copies of *Franciscan Gold* are now available:

E-mail orders: [provincial.secretary@tssf.org.au](mailto:provincial.secretary@tssf.org.au)

Online orders: <http://tssf.org.au/resources>

### **Pilgrimage to Walsingham**

Thirty nine Tertiaries and friends attended this pilgrimage from 27 June to 3 July and have returned home with some very special memories and experiences. The week revolved around services arranged by the shrine including a concelebrated Mass, Sprinkling, healing service, procession of Our Lady of Walsingham, Stations of the Cross and

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Benediction. Brothers Pascal and Maximillian, who are resident at the shrine, led several sessions and also were on hand to share in fellowship.

Outside visits took in the R.C. Slipper Chapel, a guided walk round the village by a local historian and a day visit to Norwich Cathedral and the Julian Shrine nearby. A forum led by Br Pascal gave people the opportunity to put names to faces, discuss current Third Order doings and for a potted history of Walsingham by Pascal. Bishop Lindsay, the shrine administrator, addressed the group one afternoon and was most warmly received. Free time gave a much welcomed time for fellowship, catching up on local area activities with others and much more. The shrine boasts up to date accommodation with ensuite facilities, first class catering, a new welcome centre incorporating a potted history of development over the years and extensive grounds to sit or wander round in. The village has several churches, shops, cafes and pubs to visit during a stay and provides a most welcoming atmosphere.

The pilgrimage was such a success that I have booked a date to run a similar pilgrimage in 2010 from Sunday 27 June until Friday 2 July. The stay will be on a half-board basis so put this in your diaries and let me know if you are interested please. Watch this space for more details.

Trevor Boycott

## **Pilgrimages and Retreats**

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

12 - 19 October 2009

Cost: £575 approx.

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

Contact: Lesley Cunningham

Tel: 023 80774566

### **TSSF Retreats at Freeland**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, 22 October 2009

*Silent retreat*

Conductor: Revd. Andrew McKearney TSSF

Cost: £105 plus conductor's expenses

Bookings: Lesley Sutton, 12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB

Tel: 01865 248847

email: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010

*Silent retreat: At a confluence..... - praying with St Clare*

Conductor: Helen Stanton

Cost: £105 plus Conductor's expenses

Bookings: Lesley Sutton, 12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB

Tel: 01865 248847

email: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> to Monday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

*Silent retreat: Francis - A Fool for Christ's Sake*

July 2009

Conductor: Revd John Whitwell TSSF

Cost: £105 plus conductor's expenses

Bookings: Lesley Sutton, 12 Hill Top Road, Oxford, OX4 1PB

Tel: 01865 248847

email: oxfordretreat@yahoo.co.uk

### **Hilfield Retreats**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009

The Friary, Hilfield,

Dorchester, Dorset

DT2 7BE

Tel: 01300 341345

Suggested donation: £30 per day

Plus Conductor's expenses

*Silent Retreat* led by an SSF Brother

Numbers are limited, so early booking is advised

Mrs Sue Rawlinson,

Magnolia Cottage,

Blandford Rd,

Shillingstone, Dorset DT110SF

Tel: 01258 860066

### **TO retreat at St Francis Convent**

#### **Compton Durville**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009

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

washrooms. There is no wheelchair access to any bedrooms.

Contact:

Dr Pauline Primrose, Corrach, 105 Dundry Lane

Dundry, Bristol

Tel: 0117 9465066

E-mail: 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, 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

### **Ann Tilley Library**

St James Church in Wulfstan Way, Cambridge has agreed to 'house' the books donated by Anne Tilley, who has moved to another Area. They have a fairly extensive library and shelf room for our books. Books can be obtained from the Library on Mondays and Thursdays when the Office is open from 9.30 - 13.30.

The Office telephone no. is 01223-246491. Anyone unable to visit the Library who has special requests may contact me; a catalogue is available on request. St James' Church is also willing to display any Franciscan news items that may be of interest to their Church and local community.

Beryl Johnson  
Tel: 01223 243409

### Bonaventure Fund

Provincial Chapter has recently approved an initiative of the Study and Prayer Steering Group to set up a donation-based fund. This is to provide some financial support for those Tertiaries wishing to go on a Study and Prayer Event who would find it difficult to afford such an expense. The principle is to 'top up' rather than cover all costs. Letters of application, outlining why help is required, should be addressed to:

The Revd David Swain,  
9 Stephen Court,  
Stephen Road,  
Headingon,  
Oxford, OX3 9AY.  
Email: swain936@btinternet.com

Applications will be treated in strict confidence. We wish to encourage those applying for the first time for such an event at Alnmouth, Freeland or Hilfield. Novices or Tertiaries recently professed seeking Formation study would be welcomed, as would any Tertiary making a study which they can share.

### Do you enjoy cooking?

We are looking for a volunteer to cook for Sisters and resident guests – an average of 12 up to a maximum of 24 – while living alongside the Community of St Francis at Compton Durville. We usually refer to such people as Sojourners.

For more information about Sojourners, look at our website and click the sojourners link:  
<http://www.franciscans.org.uk/Page33.htm#Compton>

Please contact us for more information:  
The Guardian,  
The Community of St Francis,  
Compton Durville, Somerset, TA13 5ES.  
Telephone: 01460 240473  
e-mail: [comptondurvillecsf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:comptondurvillecsf@franciscans.org.uk)

### Provincial Chapter dates

#### 2009

16/18 October: all Chapter, First and Second Order representatives

#### 2010

12/13 February

18/19 June

15/18 October

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

#### PROFESSED (15)

Barrie Briggs	N Derbys & S Yorks
Thalia Carr	Oxford
Christine Eastmund	Blackmore Vale
Elwyn Evans	Wales
Penny Jones	Kent West
Josie Martin	Chiltern
Pat Miller	E Anglia
Ann Mitchell	Newcastle
Ann Nugent	Newcastle
William Peters	Scotland
Ann Scott	Cambridge
Wendy Scott	Notts & S Derbys
Christopher Smith	Avon Vale
Pat Thomas	Devon
Graham Whittlesea	Canterbury

### The following members of the Order were submitted to Chapter for leave of absence for one year:

Carole Ingram	Cambridge
(From Easter 2009 - Easter 2010)	
Tricia Hall-Matthews	Malvern
(After a year's leave of absence wishes to remain in the Order)	

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

#### RELEASED FROM VOWS (2)

Elizabeth Carver	Sussex
Deborah Newbound	Solent

#### RIP (22)

Dr Ladie Adenrele	Cambridge	RIP
Anne Attewell	Berkshire	RIP
Jenny King	Berkshire	RIP
Benjamin Bakuradze	Yks W & Skipton	RIP
Beryl Bradshaw	Mersey Valley	RIP
Audrey Capon	E Anglia	RIP
Revd Ken Cook	Cambridge	RIP
Joan Copsey	Ldn E & Essex S	RIP
Margaret Kellett	Yks W & Skipton	RIP
Bob Lilley	Cambridge	RIP
Muriel McDonald	Severn	RIP
Hazel Newton	Notts & S Derby	RIP
Geoffrey Paget	Devon	RIP
Emma Peat	Durham	RIP
Revd John Plumtre	Notts & S Derby	RIP
Revd Elizabeth Roe	Midlands W	RIP
Evelyn Slade	Sussex	RIP
Diana Spencer	Oxford	RIP
Stella Tanner	Cambridge	RIP
Pam Tennant	E Anglia	RIP
Barbara Jean Wallace	Ldn E & Essex S	RIP
Barbara Tostevin	Guernsey	RIP

### Who to send things to

#### Changes in address, telephone number, TSSF Officers, e-mail address:

Fran Childs, Membership Secretary,  
3 South Park Avenue, Didcot,  
Oxon. OX11 8NB  
e-mail: [fran.childs@btinternet.com](mailto:fran.childs@btinternet.com)  
with a copy to Brian Berry: [brianberry43@aol.com](mailto:brianberry43@aol.com)

**Information for the Chronicle:**

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**Contributions for TON:**

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e-mail: marks.roger@gmail.com

**All other matters to do with communication:**

Brian Berry, Provincial Communications Coordinator,  
2 Mulberry Close, Crowthorne, RG45 7LG  
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e-mail: brianberry43@aol.com

**Advice on alternative formats:**

Elizabeth Dixon, Provincial Disability Advisor,  
2 Swan Court, Banbury Road, Stratford upon Avon  
CV37 7HG  
Tel: 01789 263141

**Contributions, TSSF expense claims and letters about finance:**

Anne Lindley, Provincial Treasurer, 92 Burnthwaite Road, Fulham, London, SW6 5BG.  
Tel: 020 7385 8502  
e-mail: anne.lindley4@btinternet.com

**Enquirers interested in joining the Third Order:**

Philippa Bird, Provincial Novice Guardian  
Tel: 020 8932 1518 (ansaphone)  
e-mail: psbird@tiscali.co.uk

**All other enquiries relating to the Third Order:**

Joanna Coney, Minister Provincial  
4 Rowland Close, Wolvercote, Oxford OX2 8PW  
Tel: 01865 556456  
e-mail: ministertssf@franciscans.org.uk

**Donations to Franciscan Aid**

The Treasurer of Franciscan Aid is Philippa Bird, 42 Ridley Avenue, Ealing, London W13 9XW and the Secretary is Helen Mossop, The Vicarage, 2'B' Margery Park Road, Forest Gate, London E7 9JY.

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