

## **TSSF Provincial Chapter 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012 Report to South West Cluster**

The new Minister General, Ken Norian, the Area Minister from Sweden, Christer Sall, the new Provincial Formation Guardian, Paul Bodenham, and the new Communications Co-ordinator, Chris Petrie were welcomed to Chapter.

### **Correspondence**

An offer of help to Chapter had been received from Martin Shaw and the Devon Area Team.

The Provincial Secretary, Howard McFadyon had discovered an anomaly in 'The Charitable Trust objects', after correspondence with the Independent Examiners he was taking the issue forward with them and the Charity Commission.

Gloucester Area had been in contact with the Bishop Protector Bishop Michael, who had agreed to be present at a 'Regional Day' in Gloucester Cathedral in 2013.

Denise Mumford is preparing a biography of Dorothy Swayne. Chapter gave permission for her to search the archives of the Order

Chapter noted a complaint from Nigel Heriot that there were too many acronyms in TON.

Andrew Mayes of Sussex Area is writing a book about Palestine.

Tim Daplyn had written about a prison inmate who wishes to explore a possible vocation to the Third Order. The matter had been referred back to the relevant Area Team, pointing out that it was not really possible for formation to happen in isolation.

### **Minister General – address to Chapter**

Ken Norian read out his role description and spoke of the common Principles and Constitution to which all the Provinces adhere. This Chapter of the European Province is the first which he has attended, although it is his intention to visit each of the Provinces in turn. He asked Chapter always to have in mind that 'the fullness of truth seldom resides in one point of view'. He said that any fracture in the Anglican Communion was not likely to affect the Third Order and urged Chapter to carry on doing what it does.

### **Reports from Link Tertiaries and Office Holders**

#### **Report from Link Tertiaries Discussion**

The local groups hold a key role in the Order.

The difficulty of finding Spiritual Directors was discussed Philippa Bird felt that rather than training our own directors, the Order would make better use of financial resources if it were to teach existing non-Franciscan directors about the 'Franciscan Charism'. It was then generally agreed that, in response to the question, 'What can tertiaries offer the church?' the Order as a whole would be able to reply 'spiritual direction'.

Feedback on points from the 1999 Review: a few Areas had sent in their views, but the general feeling was that insufficient notice had been given for the submission of comments.

Link Tertiaries were asked to explain to their Areas that they could continue to submit their opinions.

### **Reports from Clusters**

London South have organised a pilgrimage for 12 young people walking across Dartmoor and staying at Bullaven Church and farm for retreat exploring the story of Francis and Franciscan spirituality.

Also they are proposing to hold 'pan London' meetings not necessarily every year.

In the South West the celebration for Clarice Dunn's 50th anniversary of her profession was described.

Wales, Severn, West Midlands and the Marches are holding a Cluster Day in May. Brother Sam will be present.

A question had been asked about ways of making the rite of profession more elaborate. It was agreed that it was up to each Area to think more creatively about it.

Members of East Midlands and Yorkshire Cluster were glad to have contact with the sisters at Metheringham.

Christer showed the first edition of their New Swedish Franciscan pamphlet.

### **Minister Provincial's Report**

In presenting her report Joanna spoke about the situation in Assisi (Br Tom will be leaving and it is hoped that a Franciscan presence can be maintained) Any involvement by members of TSSF must be done through Br Sam SSF and a commitment of a minimum of three months would be necessary. It would be difficult for a woman priest to be there at the present time. Chapter agreed that the T.O.'s financial help to SSF for Assisi should be continued at the present level, but be regularly reviewed. The need for people to serve there as chaplain can be mentioned to all Tertiaries. Someone will be needed there in 2014.

All pre-1980 archives are now deposited at Lambeth Palace. Those relating to the period after 1980 are with the archivist Will Capel in Oxford. Chris Petrie is looking into the possibility of creating an electronic archive.

### **Provincial Formation Guardian's report**

The contemplative group of Tertiaries is in the process of producing an explanatory leaflet

### **Provincial Novice Guardian's report**

Philippa has visited nearly all the Areas. She is waiting for invitations from those few Areas which have not been visited.

### **Provincial Communications Coordinator's report**

A new format and name, 'Little Portion' was agreed for the Chronicle. Articles will be sought from all Tertiaries, including news of what is happening in the Areas accompanied by photographs.

Nancy Adams, editor of the present Chronicle will cover the first issue of Little Portion, but then we will need to find a new editor

The Greenbelt flyer will be amended.

Mike Farley is the new webmaster.

### **Provincial Treasurer's report**

It was agreed that the mileage allowance paid to Tertiaries should be increased to 40p a mile with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May

A legacy of £ 500 has been received from the estate of Barbara Frith with the request that it be used in the furtherance of spiritual direction in the Third Order.

It was agreed to contribute £300 towards the financing of the Young Franciscans Initiative.

Anne Lindley has offered to continue in office slightly over her 6 year term in order to present the annual accounts at the October Chapter, Chapter accepted this generous offer.

### **Development of Chapter Procedures and Statutes.**

Chapter approved a working group of John Wiltshire, Martin Gilham, Chris Petrie and Nancy Adams to review Statutes and Procedures, and to create a 'procedural handbook'.

Two new Link Tertiaries and Minister Provincial need to be elected and nomination forms will be sent out.

### **Election to profession with prayer, for South West**

Molly Brown Cornwall

Peter Bonsey Cornwall

Elizabeth Corner Somerset

Patricia (Pat) Curtis Somerset

Keith Chambers Blackmore Vale (retrospective)

Linda Chambers Blackmore Vale (retrospective)

### **JPIC Issues**

Philippa Bird said that the JPIC weekend at Hilfield was fully booked. It promised to be a very worthwhile event.

### **Study and Prayer report**

Paul Bodenham had met with Lesley Anne de Marco who is now the coordinator of the S & B group.

### **Franciscan Aid**

Philippa Bird reported that Franciscan Aid was in good heart. The committee had met recently and had been happy that they were able to disburse between £20 000 and £30 000 on deserving groups in many parts of the world.

### **Future Chapter Dates**

2012 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> October

2013 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> June, 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October

2014 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October

Thank you for your help to Jacky Alexander with your thoughts on Local Groups. We had a useful discussion about the importance to all of us of our membership of our Local groups. The importance that each member should be encouraged to contribute with ideas, and with

leading activities and prayer. A place of formation so that it is with confidence that members can take office when asked. A place where pastoral care is exercised to all members. A place where vision is received and shared.

As you can see from this report some other clusters are organising cluster days. Do we have anyone in our cluster who is beginning to get some ideas about what we could do? Could we have a day in one of our cathedrals? What theme would be good? Who would we invite?

I hope this report is not too full to take in. I have underlined points which I have been asked particularly to bring to your notice. I have sent the bullet point summary of Chapter which will be appearing in TON.

Nomination Forms have been sent out for a new Minister Provincial. Please pray for discernment that the right people may be approached and that those who are approached may know God's will.

Thank you for your invitations to visit you. I look forward to receiving more!  
May God bless you in all that you do.

Hazel