

THE SOCIETY OF SAINT FRANCIS ~ EUROPEAN PROVINCE

The Communication ~ November 2019

1. Events

Clark Berge writes: You are invited to a Book Launch of my new book 'Running to Resurrection: a soul-making chronicle', on December 8, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at Hilfield Friary.

The book may be purchased at the launch or ordered from

<https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781786222169/running-to-resurrection>

Liz will be licensed as Rector of the Upper Soar Benefice by Bishop Guli, Bishop of Loughborough, on Wednesday January 8th at 7.30pm at St Peter's Claybrooke Parva LE17 5AE.

We are planning to arrange transport from Leicester – contact Chris James to book a seat.

Please also let Liz know if you intend to come.

2. People

Helen Julian writes: Could you please pray for my mother Anne as one of the relatives in sickness please? She isn't especially ill, just gently getting less able to manage, and it's difficult for her and for both myself and my sister Janet.

Bishop **Peter Selby** writes:

I want you to know give you news about **Bishop Ronnie Bowlby** [a long-term friend of the SSF]. He is in a care home in Shrewsbury where he has lived for some years, well cared for and with enormous support from his family. I saw him in early October and found him conscious, well able to take in what was being said to him though finding speaking difficult. He is very weak and although nobody can ever predict timescales it is clear that he does not have much longer with us and in all he says it is clear he is ready. So far as he is able I have passed to him and his family the warm wishes and assurance of prayer from those who already know this news; he and they are happy that you should share this news as you feel appropriate.

3. News from the Province

Benedict writes: Brother David was asked to be the Assistant Novice Guardian a few months ago. However, in view of his new appointment as Provincial Secretary from Pentecost of next year, I have consulted with Joseph Emmanuel, the Novice Guardian, and we have approached **Martin John** asking him if he could take on the task of **Assistant Novice Guardian**. He has agreed! Martin John, with Nicholas Alan, does a lot of pastoral work with the novices when they go to Glasshampton so it seemed a good thing to build on that, and it will be also be good, with Joe living in the North at Alnmouth, to have his Assistant based in a house further south particularly as novices are doing placements at Plaistow and Hilfield and potentially in Birmingham. Also, it will be a great help when enquirers from the South approach the Novice Guardian. This appointment takes immediate effect.

Martin John has been the **Coordinator for the First Professed**, and with his new appointment it is better that I find someone else to take on this role/job. It is important that we take good pastoral and other care of our First Professed. The first Professed currently meet twice a year, usually in July at Freeland and again in December at Arkley. **Jason Robert** is going to organise these meetings and be present at them: he has exercised this role in the past and he was recommended for the job when I was looking for a substitute for Martin John. The First Professed Conference this December at Arkley has already been arranged and so Martin John will attend that, and Jason will take over at the end of December.

Joyce writes: The next prayer leaflet to go out with the Franciscan magazine is for engagements from January 1 to mid May 2020. The deadline for getting items to me to be included is November 26th. Many thanks.

Christopher Martin writes: SSF Income Tithe Fund

We are looking at updating the Income Tithe Policy at the next ABC and wanted feedback or opinions from any brothers and community members about the Fund and how we can best use it.

We currently set aside either £20,000 or 10% of our earned income (whichever is greater) to give to charities and those in need.

Half the money is split between USPG and Christian Aid in a 2:1 ratio.

The remaining half is divided between charities and individuals.

An individual can have a grant of up to £250 (though discretion sometimes allows this to go slightly over if needed for a certain item) and can be applied for by any two community members - one of whom must be a brother.

A charity can have a grant of up to £1,000 and can be recommended to the Finance Group by any community member. There must be a strong link between the community member and the charity, and we are looking at requiring to be sent copies of their Safeguarding policy if relevant.

4. News from overseas provinces:

5. Itineraries

Benedict	Sue	Christopher John	Helen Julian
<u>November</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>November</u>
1 – 3 Leeds 4 Birmingham 5 – 6 Leeds	1 - 3 Southwark 4 Darlington PV 5 – 7 Durham Franciscan Conference	1 - 15: Stroud	1 – 30 Darlington
7 Durham 8 – 10 Leeds	8 - 16 Southwark	16 – 27: London (staying at St Alpheges) for Central Fund Trustees and Lambeth Conference preparation meetings	
11 – 14/15 Plaistow	17 – 25 Glasshampton retreat	Nov 29 – Dec 9: Stroud	
16 – 30 Leeds	26 – 3/12 Metherringham	Dec 9 – 14: On retreat (contactable via SMS in case of emergency) Dec 14 – 28?: Stroud	

Please send material for the December issue to **Nicholas Alan at Glasshampton** to arrive by 12.00 noon on **27th November** either by email (secretaryssf@franciscans.org.uk) or by post (St Mary at the Cross, Glasshampton, Shrawley, Worcester, WR6 6TQ). Thank you.