

## **CSF to Move from Somerset**

The Community of St. Francis will end its ministry of hospitality in Compton Durville at Pentecost, prior to closing the house. This decision has been made reluctantly, as part of a wider process of reviewing the whole province, and seeking to discern the ministries to which we are being called now. Running a house of residential hospitality has become increasingly demanding over the last few years, with fewer sisters physically able to deal with the work involved. In addition the increasing demands of official regulation (fire risk, health and hygiene and so on) have become more and more onerous both financially and in terms of workload.

The buildings at Compton Durville do not belong to CSF but to the Number 1 Trust. It is the Trust who will decide what happens to the buildings once CSF has left.

We have explored options with a number of dioceses, and visited several properties. The redundant vicarage in Metheringham seemed to fit our requirements almost perfectly, and we are purchasing it. It is in Lincoln diocese which has no other religious communities, and is a part of the country where CSF has never lived, so along with our sadness at leaving Compton Durville and the Diocese of Bath and Wells is excitement at the prospect of bringing the Franciscan religious life to a new part of the country.

CSF's existing houses in Birmingham, Leicester and London will continue their present ministries. The sisters presently at Compton Durville will be dispersed around the province and a new group will begin life in the new house.

The Community knows that many of our friends, those who have worshipped with us, visited us, and stayed with us, will be very sorry to hear this news. We will miss this place, which has been a community house for nearly 50 years, but we believe that this decision is necessary in order to maintain the life of CSF as a Franciscan religious community into the future. We hope that our friends here will want to go on supporting us in our other houses and ministries.

The Sisters are grateful for the kindness and encouragement we have received since our news became public. Through the summer we shall be busy sorting and dispersing the contents of the house at Compton, and moving to our various new homes. We are part way through a long and challenging process of change involving uncertainty, loss, upheaval and exciting new beginnings.

Please keep praying!