Is God calling you to be a Franciscan brother or sister within the Anglican church?
Find out more inside ....
All Franciscans seek to follow Christ, in the particular way shown by St Francis and St Clare of Assisi. These saints lived in Italy in the thirteenth century, and heard the call of Christ to a radical living of the Gospel. Giving away all his possessions, Francis cared for lepers, preached the Good News and greeted people with the peace of Christ. Clare was inspired by him to embrace a life of radical poverty and prayer. Others began to join both Francis and Clare, and the church approved their simple rules of life. The Franciscan movement grew rapidly and is now found in both Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, as well as being a source of inspiration for many in other churches. The communities which make up the Anglican Franciscan family were founded in the twentieth century.

All Franciscans share a concern for justice and peace, seeing all people and all of creation, after the example of Francis, as brother and sister. This concern leads to a care for the created world, a deep respect for all life, a simple life style, and a desire to share what God has given them with others.
First Order brothers (SSF) and sisters (CSF) live in community houses of various sizes, in urban and rural settings. They make life vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and seek to live balanced lives of prayer, study and work, in a spirit of humility, love and joy.

The common life is expressed in prayer, working together, and fellowship around the altar and the meal table. They aim to build one another up in love by the grace of God, and to bear one another’s burdens. Community houses welcome all as brothers and sisters and fellow pilgrims on the path to God, with the hospitality of Christ.

Work includes the ordinary tasks of life – cooking, cleaning, gardening – as well as a wide range of ministries, drawing on the gifts of each sister and brother, including preaching, leading retreats, offering spiritual direction, various forms of chaplaincy, nursing, work with refugees, and writing.

Belonging to an international order with Provinces in other parts of the world is an enrichment, and an encouragement to concern for the whole world.

www.franciscans.org.uk
Second Order sisters (OSC) live a contemplative life in a large converted house in an Oxfordshire village. They try to combine traditional vowed religious life with a certain informality and simplicity of community living.

Prayer, both corporate and private, is their main service, and everything else is intended to support, maintain and encourage this life. They work in various ways to earn their living, including running a Guest House, making communion wafers, and undertaking printing.

The skills of individual sisters are used in painting, writing, translating, and various handcrafts. A large garden supplies much of the fruit and vegetables for both convent and guest house, and is also home for the community’s hens.

There are close (though informal) ties with the Roman Catholic Poor Clare communities, both in Britain and further afield.
Third Order sisters and brothers (TSSF) are a dispersed community who live in the world following the ordinary professions of life. They make life vows to live in the spirit of poverty, chastity and obedience in their everyday lives. They seek to serve Christ through prayer study and work and to live in humility, love and joy.

The aims of the Order are

· to spread the knowledge and love of Christ
· to promote the way of love and unity with all creation
· to live joyfully a life of humble service

Members are lay and ordained, married and single, young and old, of varying ethnic and educational backgrounds.

The life of the Order is rooted in Eucharistic worship and personal prayer, and members are called to serve within the church and the world enriched and strengthened by a personal Rule of Life, and by periods of contemplation and retreat, as they follow this particular way of living out their commitment as baptised Christians.
Getting in touch

Each order has its own process of discernment and training for prospective members. For more information please contact:

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For Anglican Franciscans in other parts of the world:
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