



# SOUTHERN IGNATIAN NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009



On the Worldwide Web:  
[www.signuk.net](http://www.signuk.net)



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The Southern Ignatian Network is on the Web.  
You can find us on [www.signuk.net](http://www.signuk.net)

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## SIgN Spring Gathering and Annual General Meeting 11am on Saturday March 14th 2009

**Damian Howard SJ:-**

### ‘Resurrection as Mission: the Graces of the Fourth Week’



Damian Howard SJ is an English Jesuit priest. He has worked in a variety of contexts, school, parish, retreat house, social centre and is now is involved in the formation of the Jesuit novices of North Western

Europe. He is also undertaking doctoral research into contemporary Islamic thought. He regularly gives the *Spiritual Exercises* and has been involved giving spiritual direction in the UK, France and Chile.

### Resurrection as Mission: the Graces of the Fourth Week.

*Ignatius homes in on the central eschatological symbol of the Gospel, the Resurrection, to bring his Exercises to a close. There is much debate about the kind of spirituality into which the exercitant is being invited here. Using recent theological work on the Resurrection, we will explore the theme of mission in the exercises of the Fourth Week and reflect on our experience of apostolic prayer.*



**The Spring Gathering on March 14th is at the London Centre for Spirituality - St. Edmund's, Lombard St. Doors open at 10.30am. The Nearest Tube - Bank Exit 6**

The Gathering is from 11 am until 4.00 pm Please bring a packed lunch; coffee and tea will be provided. Donation\* for the day is £10 for members and £15 for non—members.

\* The cost of the Gathering is to cover materials and expenses. It is important that no one is prevented from coming because of financial hardship therefore a donation that is less (or in some cases more!) is acceptable. Please pay whatever you can afford!



## The 2009 Autumn Gathering

Saturday October 10th  
2009  
at Mount Street Jesuit Centre.

‘Living out the Resurrection’



The accounts will be available at the AGM. If you are not able to come and would like to see the Accounts, please contact the Secretary who will send you a copy





## THE CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT THE GROWTH OF OUR NETWORK FOR 2009

At first it was Kilobytes, then it became Megabytes, then Gigabytes, now its Terabytes. These terms which we normally associate with 'storage' means that the micro world is getting bigger and bigger which for the squirrels among us like me, means we can hoard files that go back years. However, it can mean that the file we knew would one day come in useful, pops up such as the *Job Description for Members of the Core Group*:

**When you become a member of the Core Group you join other people who:**

- *pray together; share some of their story; offer each other support; discern creative future directions for SIGN; work in ways that try to live out the insights of the Ignatian tradition*

**As a member of the Core Group you will be asked to:**

- *be a discerning, reflective member of SIGN and desire to grow with it as a Core Group member; commit to attend and contribute to two Gatherings and two Core Group meetings each year; be willing to belong to one of three sub-groups: Membership, Communications or Gatherings and attend two meetings each year; be a Trustee of the Charity; be available to respond to queries about SIGN; encourage people to join the Network*

**According to their skills and preferences,** members of the Core Group currently carry out, among others, the following tasks: book keeping, minute taking, keeping membership records, newsletter production and distribution.

The terms of service aren't onerous—6 years on the Core Group a maximum of 3 years if elected Chair. I find it a privilege and a joy to chair a Core Group who tirelessly and resolutely facilitate and organise our annual programme with seemingly little effort and with great aplomb. They have steadfastly guided us to our penultimate year in our movement through the Spiritual Exercises.

Your Core Group make the life of the Chair a dream as together we have developed our learning's from our Conference '*Something New Every Day*'. As a result there were three Quiet Days in 2008. These Quiet Days create the opportunity for space and silence in the midst of daily life to reflect on the presence of God in that life in the Spirit of St. Ignatius. They also encourage and further the Southern Ignatian Network within local areas. I look forward to hearing about more Quiet Days at our AGM.

We are getting on with our planning of our next conference which will focus on '*Scripture and Spirituality*' and we are hoping to attract an eclectic group of speakers. The conference is scheduled for 12th—14th October 2010 at the High Leigh Conference Centre. Part of the aim of this conference is to not only consolidate on our journey so far, but to plan the journey ahead for SIGN.

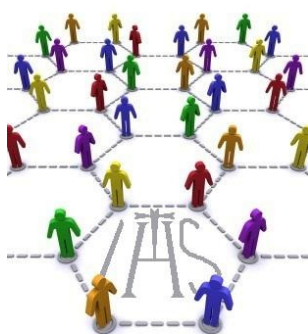
**Your Core Group currently** has four vacancies and I hope and trust you will pray about these and perhaps offer yourself for nomination.

**Strengthening the Network and Pooling resources.** When I was researching for a new logo for SIGN I plagiarised an existing image and created the one alongside. It is a symbol of how a network can really 'work.' Weeks of Guided prayer always hearten me as a sign that networking works. I'm sure many of you have taken part in such a week at one time or another. A friend sent me a copy of the Tablet (13th Sep 08) in which

there are two articles that give a great insight into why restorative and spiritually liberating programmes are so much more effective in reducing re-offending than retribution. But there are other aspects of networking I personally would like to see and one in particular is an exploration of something akin to an '*Open Door Retreat in a Prison Setting*.' I am going to give Jill Hetherington's initiative a shot too! Maybe more initiatives like these can grow out of our increased networking.

**I would like to thank** my fellow Core Group members and indeed all of you who live under the patronage of Saint Ignatius whose prayers strengthen our work for the Greater Glory of God.

*Alan Hodgetts, SIGN Core Group Chair.*



**'WANTED' - NEWSLETTER ARTICLES.** We would like articles for our Autumn publication by the end of July 2009. Please send them by email to: [editor@signuk.net](mailto:editor@signuk.net) or send them to the

**SUMMARY OF THE TALK GIVEN BY DR SHEILA CASSIDY  
at our Autumn Gathering on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008  
"Living out a vocation in the Third Week"**



To summarize three short sessions given to us by Sheila is almost as difficult as it was for her to reduce her life long journey into the space given. Called a cradle Catholic: born to Catholic parents and educated by nuns, to use her own comment – she speaks of her journey as being "undertaken by a rather idiosyncratic woman!" In that sense Sheila challenged us by her willingness to be open, unashamed and explicit about her own inner world and the exterior world that had its impact on her salvation history with its highlight on spiritual things. From the age of 15 years when as an untidy teenager, living on a farm in Australia she wanted to be a designer/artist, and a qualifying comment made to her father "If I'd been a man I'd like to have been a doctor." His reply that she did not need to be a man led her to pursue a career in medicine.

Alongside that choice came the struggle to discern whether she should be in religious orders. The thought of ever becoming a nun filled her with horror and a short attempt, later in her life, to test that calling, confirmed for her that it was not to be.

Her friendship with a shy, Chilean doctor called Consuelo Silva, a devoted socialist, enlightened Sheila as to the degree of poverty in South America helping her to make the decision to work in Chile.

Life there under military dictatorship with its degree of torture and subsequent imprisonment was to find her living out the passion, with a constant desire to be given up to her Lord, so that her prayer whilst in prison came to be "Grant that I may love Thee always, do with me what thou wilt!" Giving herself "mass" with bread and tea became a deeply spiritual thing to do. This act of abandonment to God sustained her until her release. She was able to find a role even in prison to work with the poor and suffering. Finding herself in a kind of cloister with 120 young women who had been arrested because of their political persuasion she got to know them very well. In spite of being Marxist they were very protective of Sheila and when they requested a worship service but there was no priest to conduct it Sheila filled the gap and speaks of never having been in such a community of love.

Sheila described her return to England with its adjustment and its moments of consolation and deep desolation, of being misunderstood and discarded but she always seemed to retain her vision and was led to some deeply challenging and new experiences.

Anyone wishing to know more about this remarkable woman would do well to read her books. For those of us able to share the day it was a privilege.

*(Iona Rainer)*

**Quiet Days -  
Strengthening  
the  
Ignatian  
Network**

**To arrange a  
Quiet Day –  
contact  
Eugenia via  
the  
Secretary.**

**Days are from  
10am until  
4pm and  
donations  
are invited.**

**SIgN Quiet Days ...**

Give those who attend the opportunity to take space and silence in the midst of daily life to reflect on the presence of God in that life.

Encourage and develop the SIgN network within the local area

If you would like details of Quiet Days contact the Secretary of SIgN or alanhodgetts@f2s.com.

**"JUST AS IF YOU WERE THERE"**

**New Audio Series 3 of**

**GUIDED CONTEMPLATIONS FROM THE  
GOSPELS IN THE IGNATIAN TRADITION**

A unique resource for prayer guides and spiritual directors, for individuals and groups, those in hospital or prison, for the visually impaired and for anyone who might prefer to use their gifts of listening and imagination than read from the gospel page. Each CD lasts one hour & offers an experience of Centring & Awareness, with 5 Guided narratives, each closing with points for Reflection & Response. They invite each person to participate in the events of Jesus' life – the sights & sounds, moods & feelings "just as if you were there" – and to share with Him a felt experience in their own life and situation today. *Devised & presented by Jill Hetherington, & available from 17 John Spencer Square, London N1 2LZ email: jilleheter@waitrose.com, & the London Centre for Spirituality Bookshop, Lombard Street, London EC3V 9EA Price: £ 8.99. (packaging & postage free) All series on audio tape or CD.*



# SigN Annual General Meeting 11am on Saturday, March 14th 2009

## SigN Core Group 2007 / 8

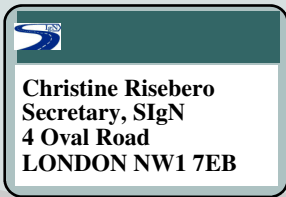
Members were elected at the AGM in 2008. The Chair and Vice Chair were elected by the Core Group in 2008

- Chair Alan Hodgetts
- Vice Chair Eugenia Geraghty
- Treasurer Laurence Benkhabebe
- Secretary Christine Risbero
- Jesuit representative Gero McLoughlin sj
- Membership Margaret Palladino
- Other Members
- Sheila Kerr
- David Formosa (resigned autumn 2008)
- Iona Rainer
- Nicole Paice
- Malcolm Rothwell
- Diana Tear

To contact Core Group members by email please do so via Alan Hodgetts

**Membership Secretary:  
Margaret Palladino**

A Core Group has existed since the beginning of SigN in 1994 in one form or another. It meets twice a year, in February and September. In between times, members serve on small sub-groups to prepare Gatherings, produce the newsletter, consider matters relating to the membership, and to monitor financial matters. Currently the Core Group is aiming to help engage afresh with the materials of the Spiritual Exercises.



**Christine Risebero**  
Secretary, SigN  
4 Oval Road  
LONDON NW1 7EB

### AGENDA:

- ❖ Minutes of the 2008 AGM
- ❖ Matters arising
- ❖ Chair's report
- ❖ Treasurer's report
- ❖ Membership secretary's report
- ❖ Appointments to the Executive Committee/ Core Group (ballot if needed)
- ❖ Any other business

### NOMINATIONS FOR 4 PLACES ON THE SIGN CORE GROUP to be received by Saturday February 21st 2009

Nominations are invited for 4 places on the Core Group. Any member of SigN may make nominations and is eligible for nomination. Please ensure that those nominated are willing to serve if elected, and ask them to provide the Secretary with a brief biography of up to 100 words. We are moving into an exciting chapter of SigN as the 2010 Conference is planned and we continue to build on the 2006 Conference. Please give the work of your Core Group committed prayer and for members to hear the Lord's call to join this grace filled Ignatian fellowship of devoted people.

The remaining members of the Core Group for the next year are: Alan Hodgetts; Eugenia Geraghty; Laurence Benkhabebe; Gero McLoughlin sj; Iona Rainer; Nicole Paice; Sheila Kerr; Margaret Palladino

Three vacancies have resulted due to the retirement of Malcolm Rothwell and Diana Tear who have both served for 6 years and the resignation of David Formosa. The fourth vacancy is caused by Christine Risebero (Secretary) having to retire by rotation, having served for 3 years. She is willing to serve for another 3 years if nominated. We owe them a great sense of gratitude and thanks for all they have contributed to the Core Group over the past years.

**Please send nomination on the slip below to the Secretary**

### NOMINATION FORM

Please cut off the form below and send to:  
The Secretary of SigN, 4 Oval Road, London NW1 7EB

### NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF NOMINEES

1).....  
.....  
.....

2).....  
.....  
.....

3).....  
.....  
.....

Name and address of sender:  
.....  
.....

Are the nominees willing to stand for election?

Have you asked them to send a short biography?

Signed .....