



ANGELA GOBLE

My name is **Angela Goble**. I was born in Croydon in 1952 and had a happy childhood with my mother, father and older sister. We moved several times, due to my father's work in the bank. Both my parents converted to the Roman Catholic faith, my father as a child with his parents and my mother as an adult, during the war years. I was consequently brought up as a Catholic and attended convent schools. My secondary education was at a convent boarding school in Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

At the age of 18, I trained to be a nurse at The Middlesex Hospital in central London and then did Midwifery in Oxford. In the late 1970's I worked with The International Grenfell Association in Northern Newfoundland, returning to England in 1980. This was an interesting experience and ecumenical as the areas covered by the Priest were large and isolated, so the Christians denominations did support one another, although there were difficulties. On return I worked back in my training hospital and then moved on to be a ward sister at Roehampton.

In 1984 I married a Naval Officer, whom I had met at Greenwich and moved to Portsmouth, where I have worked as a nurse, in various roles, at Queen Alexandra Hospital. We have two girls, Katie and Lizzie, one now married and teaching and the other at University.

Until I married my faith journey had been varied in different parishes. Now, however I have been a member of St. Joseph's RC Church (*Corpus Christi with St. Joseph*) Portsmouth, for 27 years. I assist as a Eucharistic Minister and Reader and also help with Children's liturgy and the flower arranging. In the past I have helped with Confirmation.

The arrival of the FMDM Sisters at St. Joseph's Convent (now sadly closed) gave the parish support and really made a difference. It was suggested that I might like to become an FMDM Associate by Sr. Sheelagh, who is no longer with us. This was followed up by Sr. Josephine Lanigan and with her support and encouragement I finally made my first commitment in 2011 at St. Joseph's Convent.

The support of the sisters and the welcome received at Ladywell on the first visit and every visit since, is second to none. I personally have found support, understanding and spiritual guidance from being an associate which helps me carry on trying to follow the Gospel of Jesus. The FMDM Charism of giving birth to Christ in our life is beautiful and St. Francis simplicity with the message of God's love and His wonderful creation being for everyone is gentle, though following the Gospel and embracing poverty is not easy.

I retired from nursing on 31st March this year so, it's new beginnings for me!