

Our new Lay Director, Jan Watts, writes.

We had a lovely day at St. Mary's for our AGM, followed by an Ultreya with a most moving Action Talk from Gail Card and sensitive and detailed Spiritual Response from Rev. Shelagh Jones (her last one before standing down). After a healthy lunch of delicious local fish and chips we shared a Eucharist together. During the Eucharist Shelagh and Trevor were decommissioned as Spiritual and Lay Director for York Cursillo and myself and Rev. Jonathan Couper were commissioned in their place.

I was interested in the wording of this simple but moving part of the service, which begins with the words "One of the gifts of Cursillo that we have is that it has two parts. The first is the opportunity of forwarding the Mission of God in Apostolic Action; which for some of us, means responding to the call to leadership in particular environments. The second is the assurance that no one is called to carry the responsibility of leadership without limit, so that the time comes when that responsibility is ended and they are decommissioned."



We are all equal in God's sight within Cursillo and I have always thought that one of its strengths is the time limit set on all posts. For 5 years I held a national post, planning and leading Cursillo Leaders Workshops all over the country. When that work was finished I stepped back to the grass roots of Cursillo. Some of you in the future may take on a leadership role, perhaps a post on the Secretariat or the call to lead a Cursillo week-end. You can say yes to those opportunities (after prayerful consideration of course), knowing that your post is time limited and you will be able to let go when the work is done.

For Trevor however things are slightly different. He has responded to God's call to lead Cursillo nationally as the National Lay Director. I was close to a couple of National Lay Directors during my CLW time and I know how demanding and time consuming this role will be. It is a matter of immense pride for us that Trevor has been called to that role, but he will need our constant prayers and support. And we are all immensely pleased that he was there at the perfect time to lead us through hosting the National Ultreya last September. As I said in my report at the AGM, none of us there will forget parading through the streets of York or hearing the magnificent singing within York Minster. So a very big thank you Trevor and to Shelagh who masterminded the service and dealt so unflappably with the confusing world of Minster life - thank you so much too.

So it is an immense and slightly scary privilege to follow in Trevor's footprints. But these are exciting times for Cursillo in the York Diocese. There has been much work done behind the scenes by Shelagh and her predecessors to take our vision out into the Diocese. The Diocese itself is asking for greater Lay involvement and we now have a leaflet which links our values and practice into those of "Generous Churches, Making and Nurturing Disciples." Cursillo has always been a tool of the church. We pray that more and more we shall be seen as a tool of the Diocese.

Cursillo has been a huge part of my faith journey over the last 15 years and "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers" (Ephesians 1 v.16) that together we may continue our Christian journeys with the help of all that Cursillo has to offer.

Jan Watts. ULTREYA !!

The Palanca list for York 25 is on page 4.

A letter from our new SD, Jonathan Couper

Dear All,

At the start of my term as York diocesan Cursillo spiritual director, I want to say "Thank you" to God for His call and to you for allowing me to work alongside you in Cursillo.

First a paragraph about me. I have been married to Anne for forty years and we have four children who are all married and now we have seven (shortly to be eight) grandchildren. I have been until recently vicar of Christ Church Bridlington and during those 35 years was also involved in Spring Harvest and New Wine. I have spoken in prophetic conferences, taught at Bible schools, encouraged prayer and led healing meetings. At first sight such a pedigree does not seem to match with Cursillo – a movement which started amongst Roman Catholic priests. What is the connection? Simply the presence and call of God. The Kingdom of God is manifest in changed lives in Cursillo.



I have witnessed this in some of my church members who attended Cursillo and when Anne and I attended our first Cursillo weekend in 2009 we were both struck by the sincere friendships combined with a climate of encouragement and respect which were all set in a context of spiritual renewal. We were impressed that Cursillo, which has such local expressions in a small group (reunion group) or in Ultreyas, should also be a national and global phenomenon providing encouragement in the Christian gospel far and wide. What we later discovered was that Cursillo disciplines and strengthens the faith and ministries of those who join its ranks. There are plenty of opportunities to serve others and this is the way many grow in confidence in their faith. I am excited to be part of such a movement of God.

My next paragraph starts with a reminder that we all need goodness. We are made body, soul and spirit (I Thessalonians 5:23). Our souls are our inner life where our values, our will, our inner thoughts and our feelings reside; where our priorities are made and our memories are treasured. Psalm 107:9 states God satisfies the hungry soul. Our souls can be hungry but we may not always realise this. Sometimes soul hunger can feel a bit like discontent bordering on guilt or anxiety. Soul hunger is closely related to feeling weak or not good enough. King Solomon saw that getting our material needs answered does not satisfy the soul (Ecclesiastes 5:10); it is goodness which satisfies the soul (Ecclesiastes 6:3 – see also Psalm 107:9; Jeremiah 31:14, Psalm 65:4). God who wants your inner life to be satisfied will cause us to experience goodness so our souls can be satisfied. Cursillo is one way God can bring goodness to you and others. "Taste and see that the Lord is good" Psalm 34:8.

Let God be good to you and you be good to others.

In Christ

Jonathan

Trevor's Commissioning as Anglican Cursillo National President

Trevor will be commissioned at a Eucharist Service following the BACC AGM at **St Oswald's Church**, Church St, **Durham**, DH1 3DQ at approx. **2.30pm on Saturday 20th May**. It's a 20 min, 1 mile walk from the railway station. Alternatively there's on-street parking available nearby. If you would like to attend you'll be most welcome.

BACC Pages

The Winter 2017 edition is available on the BACC website. We will also have some copies available at Ultreyas or go to <http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/bacc-pages.php>

Publicity leaflets & posters

Supplies of Cursillo publicity leaflets and posters for your church notice board will be available at Ultreyas or ring Jan.

Your Secretariat

It was a mark of so many people's commitment to Cursillo that we had people volunteering for all the vacant posts this year. We have a strong Secretariat and here is a little of what everyone does.

Revd. Jonathan Couper: *Spiritual Director.*

Jan Watts: *Lay Director.*

Elizabeth Charlton: *Secretary.* Elizabeth has understandably had some time off since the sudden death of her husband Paul, but we look forward to welcoming her back when she is ready. Thank you so much to Cheryl Taylor and Margaret Price who have held the fort in the meantime.

Janet Green: *Treasurer.* Janet has been shadowing Nick Nightingale since Christmas.

Margaret Price: *Pre-Cursillo Rep.* Everything to do with new pilgrims, sponsorship and Wydale bookings

Ruth Bannister: *4th Day Rep.* Everything to do with Group Reunions and Ultreyas.

Di Davis: *Week-end Rep.* Overseeing the week-ends and working with the Lay Rector to make sure that everything is prepared.

Rosie Roberts: *Resources Rep.* Checking and sorting resources after each week-end.

Kay Burn: *Palanca Secretary.* Advertising our own week-ends on the National website and sending palanca from York Diocese to the week-ends of other Dioceses.

Joy Hadley: *BACC Rep.* Attending BACC full council meetings and acting as a go between for York Diocese and the National Standing Committee

Lynn Stephenson: *Membership Secretary.* She will maintain the York Cursillo database and will be our first port of call in all communications.

Please remember the Secretariat in your prayers.

Dates for your diary

May 11-14 **York 25** at Wydale Hall. Please come along at **3pm on Sunday 14th May** to the **Closing Service** and support the new Cursillistas as we welcome them into the wider Cursillo community.

June 3 **Ultreya**, Christ Church, Redcar. A Welcome Ultreya for all of us to meet the new Cursillistas.

July 22 **Day of Deeper Understanding. 10.30 till 4.00** Christ Church, Bridlington. Lots of fun, different speakers, and a chance to ask questions (more details nearer the time).

September 30 **Ultreya.** St Mary's, Strensall, York.

October 26-29 **York 26** at Wydale Hall.

November 11 **Ultreya.** St Augustine's, Hedon, Hull.

*All Ultreyas are on Saturdays and run from 11.00 till about 1.30. Coffee is served from 10.30 and bring your lunch. **The Ultreyas are a really good way of introducing newcomers to Cursillo. Do try to come along; you'll enjoy it!***

Contact details.

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Rev. Jonathan Couper: 07710 257550 spiritualdirector@yorkcursillo.org



YORK ANGLICAN CURSILLO®

YORK 25 - Thursday 11th – Sunday 14th May 2017

Please pray for the participants and staff on York Anglican Cursillo Weekend 25. If you wish to send Palanca for the first, third or fourth days, place it in separate envelopes for each day and send it by Monday 8TH May to: **Mrs. Dianne Davies 8 Well Court, Church Street, Whitby. YO22 4AT**

Pilgrim	From	Sponsored by
Mrs. Paula Burbidge	Bridlington	Mary Hart
Mrs. Avis Hutchinson	Redcar	Jane Barrow
Mrs. Wanda Maciuszko	Scarborough	Trevor King
Mrs. Lesley Tasker	Bridlington	Jim Gillespie
Ms. Sharon Taylor	Cayton	Ian Hall
Mrs. Caroline Wilson	Bridlington	Rosemary Gillespie

Please send some unnamed palanca for a male pilgrim we believe will also be attending.

Role	Staff	Talk
Lay Rector	Mary Hart	Ultreya!
Observing Lay Rector	Tracy Bowers	Group Reunion
Spiritual Advisor	Revd Jonathan Couper	Faith, Sacraments, Christian Life
Spiritual Advisor	Revd Sue Nightingale	Grace, Obstacles to Grace
Lay Rector's Gofor	Anne Couper	Piety
Music Gofor	Bruce Harrison	Study of the Environments
Chapel Gofor	Helen Aistrop	
Chapel Gofor	Syd Taylor	
Palanca Gofor	Di Davies	Action
Palanca Gofor	Gail Card	
Conference Room Gofor	Karen Earl	
Table Leader	Graham Davies	Leaders
Table Leader	Shirley Mc Andrew	Laity
Table Leader	Jan Watts	Ideal
Table Leader	Nona Laughton	
Table Leader	David Thompson	Christian Community in Action
Table Leader	Cheryl Taylor	Study
Prayer Partner	Kath Westland	

palanca is Prayer