

Our Lay Director, Jan Watts, writes.

As you receive this newsletter we shall be keenly anticipating York 26, from 26th – 29th. October. There are three really valuable ways in which you can support the pilgrims and staff team.

Most importantly you can pray for the week-end. Those on e mail will receive a copy of the prayer vigil with their allotted prayer time and we ask that you try to swap with some other Cursillista if you're not able to do that time. We shan't be sending the prayer vigil through the post because of the expense, but of course we would hope that those not on e mail would choose a time to pray or perhaps pray daily. And if you are wakeful in the night then please turn your thoughts to those on the week-end and pray for them to have peaceful nights in their new surroundings.

I'm sure, like me, you can remember the power of the palanca you received and prayerfully write some to send. How much is up to you – anything from just one piece for each pilgrim to a daily piece of palanca for everyone. That's entirely up to you. It's a great privilege to pray over the palanca you're writing and you can use the names on the palanca list to help you in your prayers over the week-end.

You can attend the Closing Service on Sunday, 29th October at 3pm. This service is a welcome to all the new pilgrims by the wider Cursillo community. This particular service is very special as it will be Bishop Alison, Bishop of Hull preaching – the very first time we have had a Cursillista Bishop at our closing service. We want to show her how strong and effective Cursillo is in our Diocese so please do try to get along.

I wish every blessing on those attending York 26.

Love in Christ,
Jan Watts, Ultreya!

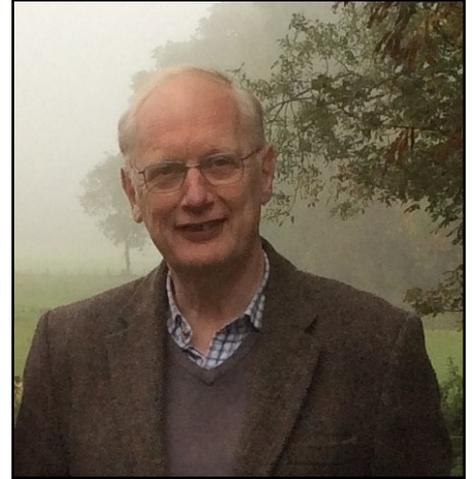


From our Spiritual Director, Jonathan Couper

A time to look again at Cursillo.

We are called to love God with all our heart as well as our mind. Everything we do involves both heart and mind. Some things we do as a local church or diocese lean more to the mind; other things to the heart. Cursillo is more to do with the heart, and as such has a contribution to make.

Church life in the parish needs our minds to work through issues, debating and finding agreement in synod or PCC. Similarly on an extra-parish level, training clergy or lay readers as well as top-down management of diocese, parishes or deaneries deal with criteria perceived and evaluated by the mind.



The ministry of Cursillo is set in a heart to heart context, providing confidence and encouraging faith relationally. As a movement it does not have to face many of the difficult decisions and judgement calls of either local church or central diocese. Cursillo works from the grass roots up, and provides an encouragement as only Cursillo can to any wishing to press forward in God and/or ministry.

For many in our diocese, Cursillo, is either unknown or - if known - parodied as weird, to be avoided or welcome as a hobby for the few. But Cursillo could be just for you and your church! The time has come for churches to look again at Cursillo, especially in its role of support to church members and the spiritual refreshment it can bring.

Why not encourage church members, including the clergy or lay readers, to experience a Cursillo weekend for themselves? There is one at the end of this month (where some places might still be available). The next one after that is May 31 - June 3rd (plenty of room at the moment). They are held at Wydale Hall.

Each weekend follows themes from the Passion of Jesus to the Resurrection of Jesus set within a context of personal renewal. One of the facts that impressed me when I first came across Cursillo at a weekend was the sheer numbers involved in Cursillo. When we hold a Cursillo weekend, those who are attending that weekend are being prayed for literally 24 hours a day by hundreds around the world. This is no small back shop operation. I found recently in the Roman Catholic diocese of San Juan in Puerto Rico, each year they hold 2000 Cursillo weekends with 50 on average attending each one! In York we are a long way from that. We hold one or two weekends a year and we do not get fifty attending, but if we include the large staff team who sacrificially serve those who come it will be over 30 (larger than some church congregations!).

Cursillo stands at the cross roads of all spiritualities from every strata of Anglican life. Many have had through Cursillo a life-transforming encounter with Jesus at one of our weekends. We would love more to join us! If you want to find out more about Cursillo come to the next "Ultreya" (Spanish for "onward") and bring others with you if you wish. The more the merrier. We are meeting on Remembrance Day (Nov 11th) for the morning, starting at 10:30am at St Augustine's, Hedon. You would be most welcome.

Jonathan Couper



GIVING A TALK!

You may feel that giving a talk on a Cursillo weekend is something you could never do! However, are you aware of how much help is available? If you agree to do a talk then you'll be given a talk workbook which has the full structure of your talk in quite a lot of detail, with all the relevant biblical quotes suggested. All you need to do is insert one or two bits from your own experience and hey presto! The talk, when it's complete, goes to one of the Spiritual Advisors on the week-end. They will read it and maybe make suggestions or you are perfectly at liberty to contact them and say "I'm stuck – I need some help". Delivering a talk can also be an ordeal for some but you get a chance to practice in front of the rest of the team at the second staff training day. And when the day comes everyone, including your prayer partner, will be praying for you and willing you on. Cursillo is partly about enabling us to do things outside our comfort zone in God's strength. Some of the most compelling and memorable weekend talks have been given by some of the most nervous and inexperienced Cursillistas. So if the phone rings and you're invited to staff on a week-end maybe you won't say straight away – as long as I don't have to do a talk!!

Dates for your Diary in 2018



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|----------|------------------------------------|---|
| 27 Jan | Ultreya | St Chad's, York |
| 3 March | Ultreya | St Andrew's Sutton Bank, Hull |
| 7 April | AGM | St Mary's, Scarborough |
| 31 May - | | |
| 3 June | York 27 | Wydale |
| 23 June | Taster Day | Beverley Minster (Peter Harrison Room) (This will start a little earlier than usual) |
| 28 July | Ultreya | St Bartholemew's, Whitby |
| 1 Sept | GB18 | Chelmsford |
| 29 Sept | Ultreya | St Mark's, Bessingby, Bridlington |
| 10 Nov | Day of Deeper Understanding | venue to be confirmed |

FINANCING OUR WEEK-ENDS

For York 27 in May 2018 we are going to pilot a different method of paying for our Cursillo week-ends. The Secretariat are aware that many sponsors find it difficult to broach the question of the cost of a weekend with a prospective pilgrim. And some pilgrims simply don't come because they dislike having to ask for financial help.

So for York 27 there will be no mention of the cost on the application forms. If a pilgrim asks about the cost we shall tell them that the most important thing is that we want them to come to the weekend. At the end of the weekend they will be able to give an anonymous gift towards the cost of their weekend should they wish. They will be reminded about this in the Lay Rector's final letter to them before the weekend and on the Sunday they will be told what the weekend costs and invited to contribute anonymously to that cost if they wish. If they haven't got cash or a cheque book with them then the letter welcoming them back to their fourth day will also give another opportunity to support the ongoing work of Cursillo by helping someone else to attend a weekend. The same procedure will also be followed by the staff team.

When all money is in we shall see if there is any shortfall and compare this to the amount that at the moment we are giving out in bursaries. We shall then take a decision as to whether to continue in this way. This is really an act of faith and we should appreciate both your prayers and your comments.

Publicity leaflets & posters

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



Follow York Cursillo on Facebook at [yorkdioceseanglicancursillo](https://www.facebook.com/yorkdioceseanglicancursillo)

Or visit our website at www.yorkcursillo.org and the national website at

www.anglicancursillo.co.uk

Your Secretariat

Here is a little of what everyone does.

Revd Jonathan Couper: *Spiritual Director.*

Jan Watts: *Lay Director.*

Elizabeth Charlton: *Secretary.*

Janet Green: *Treasurer.*

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 weekends on the National website and sending palanca from York Diocese to the weekends 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.* Maintaining the York Cursillo database and being our first port of call in all communications.

Please remember the Secretariat in your prayers.

Remaining Dates for your diary in 2017

October 26—29 **York 26** at Wydale Hall. Please come along at **3pm on Sunday 29th October** to the **Closing Service** and support the new Cursillistas as we welcome them into the wider Cursillo community.

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. Bring a packed lunch. **The Ultreyas are a really good way of introducing newcomers to Cursillo. Do try to come along; you'll enjoy it!**



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