



Our Lay Director, Jan Watts, writes

Firstly, the very warmest of New Year wishes to you. 2017 was a great year for York Cursillo as we moved back to having two weekends every other year and 2018 has a whole host of events in store for the Cursillo 4th Day community.

Following the success of our Day of Deeper Understanding last year we are having another one in November at a church (St Michael's in Cherry Burton) we have never been to before. We are also going to Beverley for an Ultreya in the Peter Harrison Room at the Minster. We have one Cursillista in Beverley and we want to support her and to grow Cursillo in that Deanery. Our AGM will again be at St. Mary's (my church in Scarborough) and we hope to persuade our local fish and chip shop to do the business again! In September we have booked Wydale for a Cursillo Quiet Day (see details elsewhere in this newsletter). Bringing along a potential Cursillista to any of the Ultreyas (except perhaps the AGM) or the Day of Deeper Understanding is a great way of introducing people to Cursillo.



And of course we can look forward to York 27, to be led by Rosemary Gillespie, from 31 May to 3 June. Now is the time to be talking to people about Cursillo and sharing openly and honestly all that goes on at the weekend. Our leaflets will help you by describing the weekend and Cursillo's place within the church. Both application forms and publicity leaflets are available at all Ultreyas or give me a ring or e mail (details elsewhere in the newsletter). We also have information should this be your first time sponsoring somebody.

At the AGM we shall be sending out membership forms to all Cursillistas. We have a small annual membership fee but it is not compulsory in any way. More importantly, we really want to know that we have your details correct on our database, whether you would like help finding a Group Reunion or whether you would like to be part of the staff team on some future week-end. Staffing can be a little scary the first time but there is an enormous amount of help and support and many people find that staffing is just as special and rewarding as being on your own Cursillo weekend.

Jonathan's letter this time is all about milestones – looking back but also looking forward to where God is leading us. I am very confident that in York Diocese, Cursillo is gradually becoming better known and active Cursillistas are spreading out and becoming incredibly valuable tools of the church. As we walk His path together may we be known for the love we have for each other.

Love in Christ,

Jan Watts
Ultreya!



From our Spiritual Director, Jonathan Couper



Dear All

In days of old, milestones were placed at the side of a main road telling the traveller where they were coming from and where they were going to. As each year passes we are reminded we are on a journey, and each one of us has milestones we pass linked to our age or significant events. Such milestones for many record only where we have come. Where we are going is left blank until we encounter God in our life. When we experience God's presence not only does where we have come from get clearer, our destiny and calling is affirmed. Our milestones begin to shine bright as they have our past, present and future in the care of God.

I am writing this after the latest Ultreya at St. Augustine's Hedon when God's presence drew near as we prayed at the beginning, accompanied by the clock strike of eleven and the sudden beam of light which illuminated us as we sat. Examples of God's presence can be found every time we meet, for He is there with us! In fact hearing in Group Reunions of God's intervention in our lives also encourages us on our journey. Many will also recall special times at Cursillo weekends when God has spoken to the depth of our heart or when we are aware of the atmosphere around us deepening with His glorious presence. None of these moments should be dismissed. When we see them and record them as examples of His love to us, they become milestones which strengthen our perseverance in the faith. In 2018 we hope to make many opportunities for milestone-making through Ultreyas and quiet days as well as the weekend in May.

Ultreya is a word used for a journey. The Spanish word means "Onward!", and comes from the original Latin meaning going beyond. It is all about "Upward and Onward". You can only go onward in hope by going upward at the same time! May God expand our hearts, engage our minds and lift our souls to engage with God more and walk with Him boldly throughout this coming year.

Ultreya!

Jonathan





Reflections on York 26 from Three Pilgrims

Prior to coming I felt rather nervous. However, I need not have been, the welcome was warm and loving and this was the precursor of an amazing weekend with an overwhelming and remarkable sense of love in bucket loads. The teaching was very relevant - especially on blind Bartimaeus being brought to Jesus by his friends, out of his normal setting and receiving healing in stages, also the Prodigal Son. This led me to meet with Jonathan Couper, one of the spiritual directors at the weekend, for a time of him listening and prayer on the Friday afternoon free time.

It was great to have Pat leading on our table and hearing her amazing story and all the other people assisting with the weekend. I was particularly helped by the Ideals talk and it's helping me in prayers for my family and others. To know we were being soaked in prayer from many around the world was so evident in the atmosphere of the weekend and since too. The dozens of cards and gifts with encouragements from so many was remarkable indeed.

The service of light on Saturday was another remarkable feature with a great sense of God's love amongst us and the faithful ministry of all. Sunday morning's early morning praise was another great blessing and the final service with a gallery of fellow Cursillistas opposite beaming at us was marvellous. It was a great venue with excellent food.

My relationships with our Father God and with those in my natural family and church family have improved no end since the weekend and I am generally feeling settled and more at peace. Talking to others about Cursillo since the weekend has been fruitful. Hopefully some will want to join in the next one. Thank you all so much!

David Fletcher



We both enjoyed our first experience of Cursillo. The welcome on our arrival was warm and genuine. Everyone was so helpful. We found the leadership to be extremely friendly and organised with just the right amount of humour. We felt relaxed and included throughout the whole weekend. The weekend was well presented. Having a leader on each table was very beneficial. The timings of each activity was just right. The love between all of the Cursillo members was obvious. The accommodation and catering facilities were excellent.

We have since made connections with other Cursillo members which we have really enjoyed also.

Diana and David Bould

A Quiet Day at Wydale

On Thursday September 20th this year we have booked Wydale for a Cursillo Quiet Day. It will begin with coffee at 10am, end with tea at 4pm and lunch will, of course, be included. During the day there will be 3 short meditations and time for walking in the grounds, reading or taking part in a craft activity. Before lunch there will be a Eucharist and before returning home there will be a closing service with an opportunity for anointing.

The practicalities are that the day will cost £28 and will need to be paid for in advance. At a previous Cursillo event lots of people expressed an interest and didn't actually make it on the day so we were very much out of pocket. If you're unable to afford this there are no actual bursaries but please, please let me know and I guarantee to find a Cursillista who will willingly pay for you, though you would of course remain anonymous. Equally, if you are needing a lift, then please let me know and I am sure we can sort something out. If you wish just to express an interest at this stage then either phone me on 01723 360410 or e mail me on janwatts2@btinternet.com. I will take your name and be in touch nearer the time to confirm details and explain about payment. I think it will be a wonderful day – what can be better than some spiritual food in the company of other Cursillistas in one of our favourite places!

Congratulations to Ian and Sharon!

It is not very often that we can boast a Cursillo wedding in York Diocese. However, I'm delighted to tell you that Ian Hall (who made his Cursillo in another Diocese even before York Cursillo began) and Sharon Taylor who was a pilgrim on York 25, are to be married in April 2018. Many congratulations and good wishes to both of them. We don't often crack open the champagne at our Group Reunion but we really had to on this occasion! Jan



Publicity leaflets & posters

Supplies of Cursillo publicity leaflets and posters for your church notice board will be available



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Be a friend,
Bring a friend to Christ.**

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Dates for Cursillo Events in 2018

27 Jan	Ultreya –	St Chad's on the Knavesmire, 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) <i>(please note that this will start 30 minutes earlier than usual)</i>
28 July	Ultreya	St Bartholemew's, Whitby
1 Sept	GB18	Chelmsford
20 Sept (Thurs)	Quiet Day	Wydale
29 Sept	Ultreya	St Mark's, Bessingby, Bridlington



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