



Our Lay Director, Jan Watts, writes.

Dear friends,

As you are reading this we are nearing York 27. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rosemary Gillespie as she prepares to lead the week-end, with her team who are a wonderfully diverse group and especially with our Pilgrims who we hope will truly encounter God on their week-end. Cursillo closing services are wonderfully uplifting experiences. It is great for the pilgrims to realise that they are part of a much bigger family than simply those they have met on the week-end. So do try to come to the closing service at Wydale at 3pm on Sunday 3rd June. It will be light as you drive home again and I guarantee you will feel uplifted and blessed.



On April 7th we met at St. Mary's Scarborough for our AGM, followed by an Ultreya and a wonderful Eucharist to give thanks for the last year of Cursillo in the York Diocese and pray for God's hand on us in the coming year.

York Cursillo is run by a Secretariat (or committee) on which people serve for no more than 3 years, 4 if there are exceptional circumstances. The constant turnover brings a freshness of vision to our discussions but it is dependent on Cursillistas, old or new, offering themselves to stand. Meetings are generally lively and always involve cake!. They begin with a message from Jonathan and a short Group Reunion so that we are in the right place to hear and receive God's plans for us.

Currently we are searching for three people to join the Secretariat.

Firstly we need **a pre-Cursillo rep** who deals with sponsorship and pilgrims before they go on their week-end. The rep prepares application forms for each new week-end. S/he receives applications and responds to both the sponsor and the pilgrim. She gives further details to the pilgrims nearer the time. So s/he is the first point of contact with the pilgrims and can also answer any queries they may have. S/he also books our week-ends at Wydale well in advance under the direction of the Secretariat. So you can see that it is not a particularly onerous job.

Secondly we need **a resources rep**. As you must be aware there are many resources needed for the week-end, from service sheets to comfort basket, from art materials to hymn books. Currently these are all stored at St. Mark's church Scarborough but they could easily be moved to a church hall or garage in any part of the Diocese. After the week-end they are usually in a bit of a mess but the Lay Director and Week-end Co-ordinator are happy to help sort them and between those three, new resources need to be ordered or photocopied. Do you have a church with a bit of spare storage or a spare bedroom or shelf or two in a dry garage? We should be so pleased to hear from you.



Finally we want to create a new Secretariat position to promote Cursillo within the Diocese. This would be largely up to the person appointed. Do you have Deanery or Diocesan contacts you can talk to? Are you good at creating posters or flyers we can give out? Can you get our name into church magazines or start a Twitter account or get more people using our Facebook account? This is not my strength but I'm sure someone out there must have the energy and enthusiasm to really put Cursillo on the map in the York Diocese. It astounds me that we still have people who say – Cursillo – never heard of it.

If you feel you want to talk further about any of those three posts please do contact me – janwatts2@btinternet.com , YOUR CURSILLO NEEDS YOU!

After the rather trying winter I pray that we shall all enjoy some Spring and Summer sunshine. But whatever the weather we have a full programme of Cursillo events where we can join with our Cursillo family and know the true warmth of Christian fellowship.

Every blessing,
Ultreya! Jan



Ministry Opportunities in Cursillo

Whom shall I send?

Pre-Cursillo Rep

Who will go for us?

Resources rep

Isaiah 6:8

Communication Rep



ULTREYA GB CHELMSFORD

Anglican Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share Gods love with everyone.

One of the pioneers of Cursillo was Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo. With help he developed a three day Cursillo structure which aimed to remedy the 'ignorance of faith, the superficiality of ritualism and the apathy of non-faith commitment in daily life'.

Cursillo is now all around the world. Once a year those in the UK gather together for a day. This year the Ultreya GB 2018 is at Chelmsford on 1st September. You are invited if you can go. More details can be found at http://www.chelmsfordcursillo.com/ultreya_18.html

A letter from our SD, Jonathan Couper

Dear All,

When Pentecost dawned a month after Jesus' death and resurrection, one hundred and twenty disciples of Jesus had already spent much time together in prayer and worship.

Making space to allow God to come close in a safe place can be life transforming, and we have found that Cursillo weekends can bring that transformation to everyone involved.

Weekends are not the end of the story – just the beginning- for we are still called to develop our faith more and more. But for you who have attended Cursillo weekends, you have rich treasured memories of what God did then and has continued to do since. You have also found through Ultreyas and group reunions a community of those who engage with God. This year we are introducing a further way—a quiet day on September 20th. There are more details in this newsletter. We hope others will also come to join us in the life we know in Cursillo and the day of deeper understanding and taster ultreays are a good way to find out more by personal experience .

Jesus once said, **“Where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst”** (Matthew 18:20) God abides with us relationally – in the relationships between the two or the three. We are knit together to form a temple in which he dwells by His Spirit. The more “at one” in mind and heart we become the deeper He dwells. Let us not neglect to meet together but rather let us encourage one another” (Hebrews 10:25).

What about encouraging someone who is not yet a Cursillo member to attend the next Cursillo weekend? Why not come with a friend to the Day of Deeper Understanding – a day you may never have experienced before. Who knows where this might lead!

In the words of Paul 2 Corinthians 13:11 **“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! (same word Philippians 4:1 etc) Come together** (same verb used in Mark 1:19 for mending nets), **encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.”** Great advice for us. The God of love and peace is with us more so when we rejoice, come together, encourage one another, are of one mind and live in peace. May the Lord richly fill our meetings together more and more – in Ultreyas to Days of Deeper Understanding, in Cursillo weekends to Group Reunions, in Secretariats to National events

With prayers

Rev Jonathan Couper



CURSILLO Statistics



Up to the AGM Membership fees already received = 38, totalling £891 of which £369 was extra donations. Thank you!!! In addition we have 7 regular donations totalling £90 month (annually £1080) already. We` can make such a difference by giving only a little each month so that others in our diocese can benefit from Cursillo.

Janet Green (Treasurer)

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.

NEWS UPDATE

Trevor Curtis sadly passed away on Wednesday March 21 after a long illness. He had been a good and faithful Christian servant. He was a founder member of Saint Andrew's Church on Sutton Park in Hull from 1971, was the treasurer of the church for over 20 years as well as being a school governor at Saint Andrew's C of E Primary School.

Trevor made his Cursillo on York 6 when Heather Fenwick was the Lay Rector. Later on Trevor was elected to serve on the Secretariat as the Treasurer for Cursillo. Over the years he and his wife Cynthia have served Cursillo well and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Trevor leaves behind Cynthia (his wife) and two daughters Andrea and Julia who are all in our continuing prayers.



The Team for York 27 is headed up by Rosemary Gillespie

The team is

Lay Rector

Observing Lay Rector

Spiritual Advisers

Lay Rectors Gofor

Music Gofor

Chapel Gofors

Palanca Gofors

Prayer Partner

Prayer Partner

Conference Room Gofor

Table Leaders

Rosemary Gillespie

Joy Hadley

Revd Jonathan Couper

Revd Shelagh Jones

Anne Couper

Jim Gillespie

Wanda Maciuszko

David Fletcher

Elizabeth Charlton

Anita Grandey

Mary Craggs

Margaret Jagger

Di Davies

Doreen Hyde

Maureen Andrew

Cheryl Taylor

Sharon Hall

Margaret Price

Paula Burbidge



Remember York 25?



Now it is York 27.... Is there anyone you could sponsor to come?

Sponsoring does not mean paying for those you invite. Everyone is invited as our guest. Whilst we hope that some who come will perhaps donate to the cost, we are more interested in everyone who comes having the opportunity to experience a Cursillo weekend and join with us in helping others also belong. Sponsoring is all about support—explaining what a weekend is all about, encouraging them to book and then supporting them in prayer as well as being their friend.



Just a thought.....

to aid our walk in the fullness of life when life gets tough

Emptiness in the soul is a terrible pain. It can be experienced when hopes are dashed; when life takes a turn for the worst or when we see the horror of some wrong we or others have done. When this happens, like Ruth's mother in law, Naomi of old, we who used to be full, can become empty (Ruth 1:21). Emptiness affects our well being, making us sad and unable to avoid weariness or depression in life. Jesus came that we should be full of life, and on this Easter season, I want to give some pointers so we walk in the fullness of life Jesus promised

Fullness in the soul does not come about by being good. It comes by receiving goodness. Our mindset can push goodness away – we can be too busy, defensive, or guilty. Be kind to yourself. Jesus is! (see Psalm 136; 103:17; Jeremiah 31:3). Don't condemn yourself. Jesus doesn't (see John 8:11; Luke 6:36; Ephesians 2:4). Good friends, Good landscapes, Good food all help, but a good rhythm in life is best.

Fullness in the soul needs hope. Hope is something beyond what you can do. To have hope involves turning our eyes upon Jesus, and putting our lives in the context of a rich eternity. It is the start of learning to live from the future hope rather than out of the past events or the present circumstances.. You are so much more important and significant than the environment you live in or the deeds you do. Your identity should not be confined to your present or past . You partner God as you journey to heaven.

Fullness of life in the soul and wounds in the soul cannot live together. Jesus died not only so we could be forgiven but so he could carry our griefs. Just as we can choose not to confess our sin, so we can choose to carry our griefs. Living in the fullness of the soul means we have to frequently dump our griefs on Him trusting God with the consequences so we can walk free of them.

Fullness in the soul needs nourishment. Feed your souls in group reunions, personal bible study. Attend quiet days and do things which nourish you. We all have tasks which we find draining. Try to look beyond them to things which will nourish you. Do everything with prayer in your heart and thanksgiving.

Jonathan



SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR CURSILLO AGM REPORT

The last year has been for me a year of introductions and good memories. I have attended the national AGM in Durham, the Cursillo leaders workshop in Staffordshire, two excellent weekends at Wydale under lay rectors Mary Hart and Tracy Bowers as well as a national Ultreya at Southall and countless number of Ultreyas plus my group reunion group in Bridlington.... throughout each I have valued the openness to the Lord and a deep devotion to him which resounds from the lives of those who were there. I have heard testimony of the life within Cursillo and seen how it blesses the local church; I have witnessed the wonder of weekends to transform and the encouragement of long standing members to those who are new, as well as those who are new encouraging the established members.

it has been great to see the increased attendance at our Ultreyas. Part of this may be because this year we introduced taster days and this seems to have encouraged Cursillistas to invite their friends to taste and experience Cursillo at Ultreyas. I have also been encouraged by the fact that most new pilgrims are attending Ultreyas as soon as they can. The more we have at these meetings the better.

In the diocese we can because of our lack of numbers be easily ignored as irrelevant. My own belief is that Cursillo is highly relevant. It is a movement of renewal which touches the heart. It operates relationally and has something unique to offer in the local church, and what it brings is across different spiritualities.

Cursillo is a lay movement (and we are grateful for Jan Watts for her leadership as lay director). The fact we are a lay movement means we are ideally placed to support lay ministry in the local parishes. Many churches especially towards the east of the diocese would not be the same without some of its key members belonging to Cursillo with the encouragement it can bring.

We're now pressing forward to expand our numbers. Much to the approval of the bishop of Hull we are seeking to make Cursillo open to everyone regardless as to whether they can afford it or not. This is a step of faith. We want to invite to a weekend everyone who God is calling. Our hope is that members support us financially so we can continue to do this. The more who come to weekends should increase the membership of Cursillo and as it does so, we will have finance to support others to join us. We want everyone to benefit from the ongoing life Cursillo can bring.

Cursillo grows relationally, so we are dependant for our growth on those who have been on weekends inviting their friends.

We would love also to grow quickly in parts of the diocese where Cursillo is weak, but because we operate relationally, it is likely that growth will be in the churches from where we come. If you move churches try to stay in your reunion group if you still live near enough to continue to go so your relationships remain to nourish you and others. If you are moving to a place where there is no Cursillo, let us discuss how best Cursillo can be introduced there.

.Every plant grows. Expansion needs strength in the centre. As well as expanding our ongoing spiritual life needs to be strong. for many the deep religious experience at a weekend has been encouraged to develop not only by Ultreyas but also by joining the team for a weekend. This year we want to also introduce quiet days where we have meditations and communion interspersed with craft or prayer activities as people choose. Our first one is in September this year.

Finally I want to thank all Cursillistas for your contribution to the life we experience as Cursillo in the York Diocese. I have mentioned already the lay rectors of the Cursillo weekends Mary Hart and Tracy Bowers who with their teams did such good work on this year's weekends. I wish to also thank the secretariat for their work – especially Margaret Price who is stepping down this year. As a movement we look forward together to all the Lord wants to do this next year

Jonathan

Thank you!

Thank you to all those who have already sent us your membership donation for Cursillo this year. Thank you to those who have given extra to Cursillo over and above the membership donation. We are also encouraged by those who have decided to support us each month. We really appreciate the opportunity this gives to expand the numbers of people who are able to benefit from Cursillo. Thank you also to those who have given us permission to apply for gift aid on each donation which increases the gift by 25%

Thank you so much

Janet Green (Treasurer) & Lynn Stephenson (Membership Secretary)

Cursillo Quiet Day

Thursday September 20th Wydale



Jonathan our Spiritual Director is hosting a quiet day designed to give us space to respond personally and privately to God and receive from Him at deep levels of our hearts.

What we do flows from our hearts. Jesus said it was from our hearts that our mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34): out of our inner being flows either good things or bad (Luke 6:45, Matthew 15:19). The root of what we say and do is in our hearts which are often hidden from view. Yet it is precisely our hearts that the Lord focuses on (Jeremiah 17:10; Psalm 14:2; Genesis 6:5). Our heart is the wellspring from which the Lord's life within us flows (Proverbs 4:23). How we think in our heart influences what we become (Proverbs 23:7) So in the words of Psalm 31 verse 24 **"Let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord"** (ESV)

Proposed Timetable

10:00 Coffee
10:30 First Meditation
11:00 There will be a quiet space or activities to choose from
12:30 Second Meditation
1:00 lunch
2:00 There will be a quiet space or activities to choose from
3:15 Third meditation + Communion
4:00 Tea

Activities include,

a knit and natter group if you wish to bring your own knitting.
Guided crafts – make something to take away from the day
A led walk (weather permitting)
Guidance on using the labyrinth for prayer
Bring your own book or devotional and seek out our quiet space
Just be quiet in the quiet space

Booking

Bookings are being taken by our **Treasurer, Janet Green**. The cost is £28 for the day.

You can e mail her with your name and **any special dietary** needs and pay through BACS Bank Transfer

York Anglican Cursillo details are:

YORK ANGLICAN CURSILLO

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Account: 00015722

You Need to Reference your payment with QUIET DAY – (followed by your name)

You can write to her with **any special dietary** needs and send a cheque for £28 made out to

"York Anglican Cursillo" and send to Janet Green, 9 Holbeck Mews, Filey Road, Scarborough, YO11 2YQ



Ian Hall and Sharon Taylor married

Ian and Sharon managed to find time to pop into the AGM on their way to their wedding reception. What a joy when, part way through our Ultreya at St. Mary's, Scarborough our newly weds, Ian Hall and Sharon Taylor (now Hall) appeared, en route from their wedding to their wedding breakfast.



They processed down the aisle to thunderous applause!, were blessed by Jonathan and then joined us as we sang together "I the Lord of Sea and Sky". Another trip back down the aisle, - a bit of a struggle for Sharon who had recently had her knee replaced – and they left us for the rest of their celebrations. We gave them a wedding card and small gift from all their Cursillo family. A first for York Anglican Cursillo!



Congratulations from all of us at Cursillo!!



HOWEVER, THOSE THE
FATHER HAS GIVEN ME WILL

COME TO ME, AND

I will never reject them.

JOHN 6:37

Cursillo corner

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible

A. Noah. He was floating his stock whilst everyone else was in liquidation

Q. Who was the smartest man in the Old Testament

A. Abraham.

For he knew a Lot.

oh

no!!



Dates for Cursillo Events in 2018

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 31 May—3 June | York 27 Wydale Hall |
| 3 June | 3pm Closing Service for York 27 at Wydale Hall |
| 23 June | Taster Day, Beverley Minster (Peter Harrison Room) |
| 28 July | Ultreya! St. Bartholomew's, Whitby |
| 1 Sept. | GB18 (National Ultreya!) Chelmsford (see anglicancursillo.co.uk for details) |
| 20 Sept. | Cursillo Quiet Day, Wydale Hall (Thursday) |
| 29 Sept. | Ultreya! St. Mark's Bessingby, Bridlington |
| 10 Nov. | Day of Deeper Understanding, Cherry Burton |

All the above are very suitable for bringing non Cursillo friends to introduce them to Cursillo.



Contact details.

Jan Watts: 01723 360410 / 07957 869287 laydirector@yorkcursillo.org
Rev. Jonathan Couper: 07710 257550 spiritualdirector@yorkcursillo.org