

From Our Lay Director, Jan Watts.....

I'm writing this just after our Quiet Day at Wydale Hall. It was the first one we have run and it seemed to be appreciated by all. We were nearly 50 and a few of those were Cursillistas from the Leeds Diocese. Jonathan led us wonderfully with three very insightful meditations throughout the day. Joy Hadley prepared for the craft activity and Rosemary Gillespie and Lynn Stephenson helped a large number of those present to make a beautiful, felted butterfly brooch – each one quite different and unique. About 20 people during the day prayed on the labyrinth in the walled garden and many were moved by that experience and by the beauty and birdsong within the garden. After lunch, despite the rain starting, Jim Gillespie led a walk in the area and others spent time in the little chapel in silence or in the lounge or entrance hall, knitting and chatting or simply chatting. All culminated in a wonderful final Eucharist where the singing reflected the sense of joy we all felt from sharing such a day in such lovely company. We plan to have a Quiet Day next year so watch this space.



What a privilege on 1st. September to join several hundred other Cursillistas in the annual National get together at Chelmsford Cathedral. We had wonderful worship, culminating in Eucharist after we had all paraded through the middle of Chelmsford, singing and carrying 30 or so banners, representing our different Dioceses. York was fairly well represented, considering what a distance it was for all of us, and Ron Fenwick was yet again chief banner carrier. Thank you

Ron. I had to leave at that point but am told the meal and ceillidh in the evening (also in the Cathedral) was a lovely event. Next year's Ultreya GB is in Chester and it would be great if more of us could get there. Do put **Saturday, 31st. August 2019** in your diary. Often there is cheap accommodation in local colleges etc. so it would be wonderful if a whole party of us could go together next year.



I'd also really like to urge you to come to our Day of Deeper Understanding at Cherry Burton on **November 10th** this year. This is partly a teaching day so has all the elements of prayer and worship, study and action in the activities we shall do together. There is ample easy parking and we hope to finish by 3.30pm. so that most people can get home in the daylight. Cherry Burton is a lovely village with an interesting church and the day will be very suitable for introducing friends to Cursillo. There is no need to book for this – just come along.



St Michael's Church Cherry Burton



We have also booked **Tuesday 11th December** for a Cursillo Christmas dinner at Wydale. You should by now have had a menu and further details.

We know that not everyone can attend everything we try to organise but by moving things around the Diocese we hope to see you all somewhere or another in the next few months. In the meantime, every blessing to you all.

Ultreya!



Cursillo News and Information

The Easter 2018 edition of BACC Pages is available on the BACC website at

<http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/bacc-pages.php>

Don't forget our own website at www.yorkcursillo.org and we are also on Facebook at [yorkdioceseanglicancursillo](https://www.facebook.com/yorkdioceseanglicancursillo)

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A letter from our Spiritual Director, Jonathan Couper

I thought I would share a verse with you this time: Psalm 119:32 “ I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart”.

The Psalmist talks about running the way God had spoken. God has a purpose for your life. He is speaking it from the first day you lived. God is the source of your life. He knew you when you were conceived in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139). At that time God spoke over you. He purposed the colour of your eyes and skin and also your gifts, personality and His plan for your life. God’s purpose not only breathes through the DNA inherited from our ancestors, but also the life we live.



What does it mean to “enlarge” our hearts? The heart of the soul is at the centre of our being. It is the wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:23). Part of God’s plan is that we receive the Holy Spirit – God Himself- into our hearts so that a flow of life from this wellspring brings His life to our souls. It will then flow to bless people and situations around us – that is our environment (John 7:38).

An enlarged heart means we welcome what we did not before; to see what we were previously blind to; or to hope for new outcomes. An enlarged heart is an open heart (2 Corinthians 6:11-13). The closed heart of the “goats” in the parable Jesus told (Matthew 25:31-46) did not see the purpose they had in prison or amongst the sick or poor. The open heart has eyes to see. The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) had an enlarged heart for he saw the wounded man by the roadside and was filled with compassion. Sometimes we see but harden our hearts as the priest and Levite did in the same parable. The enlarged heart is not just shown in the more we see, but in the way we respond.

An enlarged heart also enables us to hear Him. A closed heart makes us deaf to what we have not heard before. We hear the echo of our own voice but not the voice of God or others especially when it is different from our own voice. Just as we have a choice to open or close our heart to what we see, so also with hearing. “Today if you hear his voice do not harden your heart” (Psalm 95:8.9).

In every case the purpose of God for us is multi-faceted, and differs from one person to another. In fact the purpose you have is unique. If you are a Cursillista, you share Cursillo as part of the purpose of God with many thousands of others around the world. It might be good as you read to pause to think how long it was before you saw how good Cursillo was or perhaps remember how sceptical you were at the beginning. In the past our hearts might have been closed to Cursillo so we never saw the point or the hope before us. As a result we had no desire to get involved in Cursillo. (cont. On p4)

An open heart allows desires to arise in our hearts which open up new opportunities. God who searches our hearts and minds longs to answer the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4) . He waits for desires to be birthed within us so He can unlock more of His purpose in our experience. In a closed heart such desires remain absent and God's full purpose remains dormant. Now try to stay open to God as you live each day. The process of enlarging our hearts changes us and it is a lifetime process. For all of us there are further places to go; more blessings to be given. Ultreya indeed!

May God continue to bless each of us.

Jonathan

York 27 - May 2018



Read the responses of two Pilgrims to their experience of a Cursillo Weekend on the next two pages.

With thanks as always to Paul Woolverton for the lovely photographs.

York 27 - The Promise of Love

When Jan invited my husband, Robert, and myself to the Cursillo weekend it couldn't have been more perfectly timed; we were dealing with a number of significant changes in our lives and I just knew that God was in it. We accepted without hesitation.

Even though Jan had explained about Cursillo weekends, we arrived not sure of what was to come. I was excited with expectations; I couldn't wait to see God 'do his stuff'. I just knew that our lives were changing and the Almighty was going to lay out the path ahead: probably in neon lights because I'm a little slow on the uptake. WRONG. What followed was a totally different message; a message that didn't clarify in my mind until some weeks after the weekend.

From the minute we arrived I was struck by the care from everyone around us: Jonathan rushing to carry our cases from the car (after 33 years of attending the church where he was vicar, that was a new one); so many friendly faces greeting us with hugs and warm words and Anita Grandy providing us with coffee and biscuits. She wouldn't let us so much as pick a cup up but insisted that we sat down and have the coffee served to us. We instantly felt at ease yet a little lost. In this modern world of self service, independence, help yourself and DIY it felt strange, almost guilty, to be so cosseted.

As the weekend progressed the pampering continued and we were drawn into a beautiful, intimate world as people shared their life experience and remarkable journeys. I was blown away when I was told about the number of people from all over the world who were praying for the weekend. I was also in absolute awe of the ladies whose job it was to cover each session with prayer- what a commitment. Yet that was nothing compared to the emotions I felt when we were presented with the cards and notes from other Cusillistas. I was truly humbled and touched by the vast number and by the care put into each card. In essence we were loved from start to finish. I do not use the word love lightly. I appreciate the sacrifice of time, effort and money that was given to do this. All the extra thoughtful touches from the team made a huge impact. I thank each and every one for their fantastic care!

So what was God's message to me? Love has an impact. Love is demonstrative. Love is sacrificial. Love inspires. Love empowers. God did not set a path for me in neon lights: instead he set a standard for me to apply to whatever path he leads me on. I now realize that there is no point in starting a journey without the right equipment and the equipment is love. I know that God is wanting me to go deeper and give more, to 'up my game' so to speak. The people at the Cursillo weekend certainly showed a fantastic example. I am still waiting to see what new path the Lord may lead me down but I am determined to be fully equipped when he does.

In conclusion, Cursillo – A love freely given: a life empowered to give.

Janette Garthwaite

A Further Response to York 27



Where do you start to sum up a Cursillo weekend? I could start with the setting and beauty of Wyedale, the warmth of the sun as we sat and gazed at the green fields and colourful gardens. Or I could mention the food – delicious and plentiful and shared with fellow pilgrims and team members amidst much laughter and conversation.

There was, of course, the teaching and the worship central to all we did. Fifteen short talks, carefully prepared and executed which inspired, moved and informed us and gave us much to reflect on when we returned home. For me, the idea of the three legged stool of piety, study and action reinforced through regular reunions suddenly made sense and gave me a framework in which to develop my own areas of prayer and study and involvement with church and elsewhere.



The music and prayers and messages of support from people we knew and those we didn't, sustained and encouraged us throughout the weekend, permeating and suffusing everything we did.



But none of these really gets to the heart of a Cursillo weekend, important though they are. The heart of the weekend was found in the extraordinary outpouring of kindness and love and support and encouragement which surrounded us from the beginning to the end like a warm blanket or embrace. This is the love pouring from the Holy Spirit working through each member of the team. This is the love and care which seems to me to be what Cursillo is really about.

If you haven't yet experienced it, try a Cursillo weekend – you will not be disappointed.

Sue Pearson



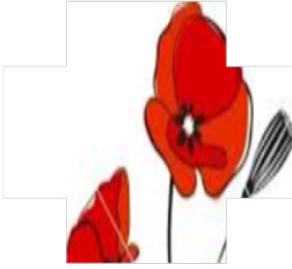
**Save
the
Date!**

Cursillo Events in 2019

26 January	Ultreya	St Mark's, Newby
6 April	Ultreya and AGM	St Andrew's, Sutton Park, Hull
3—6 May	York 28	
25 May	Taster Day	St Catherine's, Barmby Moor
29 June	Ultreya	Emmanuel, Saltburn by the Sea
Wed 10 July	Quiet Day	Wydale Hall
31 August	National Ultreya	Chester
28 September	Ultreya	St Andrew's, Paull
17—20 October	York 29	
<u>Friday</u> 8 November	Evening Ultreya	St Chad's, York

**An encounter with God,
An encounter with Yourself,
An encounter with Others**

Let us never forget.....GOD ANSWERS PRAYER



This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the first World War. What is less known is how prayer played a part in bringing this about.

George V called the nation to prayer on 4th August 1918 for an end to the bloodshed. Totally unexpectedly one hundred days after this day of prayer the war ended! Exactly three months to the day - on the 4th November 1918 the Austro- Hungarian empire agreed to the Armistice of Villa Guisti which heralded the agreement of Germany to an Armistice on 11th November 1918 thus bringing to an end a war which cost the lives of so many.



But there was also immediate answer to prayer. On August 8th 1918 German defenders surrendered en masse at Amiens. 15,000 German soldiers surrendering was unprecedented in German military history. A new Allied attack had been deployed that day but over the next hundred days tens of thousands more Germans would also give up the fight. This is the same Germany that at the beginning of 1918 was thought the most likely to win the war.

Lessons

God answers prayer! He who delivered our nation in the sixteenth century from the Spanish Armada after prayer was still answering prayers in the twentieth century. He will answer prayers in our century also!

God indeed answers prayer, but when it happens we do not always see it in that way! Instead of thanksgiving at answered prayer, thousands embraced agnosticism and abandoned the churches whilst others forged a hedonistic lifestyle far removed from Christian teaching. Intellectual scepticism about the reliability and historic truth of the Bible added weight to a growing secularism in Europe.

George V gave the nation the intercession platform for the prayers. It was not to be anything about how right or good Britain or its allies were. The prayers were rooted in the pain of loss, of a desire to end the bloodshed., It was this cry from the heart of parents, children, wives and family that gave power to the prayer. Sometimes a real desire to pray takes us to a different place that we did not anticipate, but that place becomes a place where we are heard by God and our prayers are effective in a way they were not in earlier years. The road to prayer for Britain of 1918 involved a path from pride to humility. It took time, but eventually this country got to a place where they could effectively intercede. Prayer also has a hope, however small, birthed in faith which enables the journey we need to travel, to be taken.