



Our Lay Director, Jan Watts, writes.

Dear friends,

As I write this I'm greatly looking forward to attending the National Ultreya in Chester with some other York Cursillistas. If you've never attended a national I do urge you to consider it. This one is on Saturday, 31st August for the day. The morning will be an Ultreya and the afternoon a service and it all takes place in Chester Cathedral. It's not too late to go – details are on the National Website at anglicancursillo.co.uk. One of the most enjoyable parts of the day is the Walk of Witness along Chester's pedestrian high street carrying the various Diocesan banners. And it is always great to meet and worship with so many like minded people. Usually there are hundreds of Cursillistas at the National.



If you're too late to go this year then do look out for details of next year's event which will be held in Southwark Cathedral – jointly hosted by London and Southwark Cursillos. I understand that plans are afoot for the Walk of Witness, possibly crossing the millenium bridge on its way to the Cathedral.

We have had some lovely get togethers since the last newsletter. We had a super Taster day in Barmby Moor village hall – what a lovely village and venue. And then we had a wonderful Ultreya in a newly appointed church hall in Saltburn by the Sea, ending with fish and chips from the shop next door which had also provided lunch for Archbishop Sentamu when he last visited!

We have an Ultreya next on 28th September in St. Andrew's church, Paull, near Hull – more details to follow.

On the week-end of the 8th and 9th November York Cursillo are acting as hosts to the National Standing committee and the BACC Council meeting. Both these will take place at St. Chad's York. The Standing committee will arrive for a meeting on the Friday afternoon and on Friday evening we shall have an Ultreya at St. Chad's which they will join in with. This will probably be followed by a meal in a local



restaurant for those who'd like to go on to that. As we are hosting the Ultreya I do hope as many of you as possible will feel able to support it. More details later. On the Saturday members from all over the country will be arriving for the BACC council meeting. We have been asked to provide tea and coffee, lunch (which we are ordering from outside caterers) and tea before delegates leave. If anyone at all could help with providing that hospitality – serving, washing up etc. we should be very grateful. Please let me know on 01723 360410 or at janwatts2@btinternet.com.

And of course we can look forward to our next Cursillo week-end, York 29 to be held from 17th to 20th. October. It will be led by Tracey Netherton from Burstwick so please pray for her in her preparations. Cursillo can only grow if we all talk about it and bring people into it as pilgrims. Now is the time to be praying about who God would like you to invite. It is a time to be sharing openly and honestly all that goes on on a week-end. Our leaflets can help by describing the week-end and Cursillo's place within the Anglican church. Both application forms and publicity leaflets are available at all Ultreyas, or give me a ring or e mail me. We also have information should this be your first time sponsoring somebody. Remember we are no longer asking people to pay for their week-end when they book, but inviting them to come along as guests. They will be told the cost of the week-end and asked later if they'd like to contribute to the following week-end. So there are no difficult conversations about money for you to have. Indeed, Cursillo sponsorship never means financial support for the pilgrim, but prayerful support and things like attending your pilgrim's closing service if possible.

We already have a couple of pilgrims and an enthusiastic team who start their training in August.

I do hope that many of you will enjoy some time of relaxation and refreshment over the summer. I look forward to seeing many of you again in the Autumn. In the meantime every blessing to you all.

Ultreya!

Jan



A great big "THANK YOU" to Di Davies and her York 28 team for their faithful service. It was a wonderful weekend for all.



ULTREYA GB CHESTER 2019

Anglican Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method whereby Christians are empowered to share God's love with everyone, and to grow through prayer, study and action.

One of the pioneers of Cursillo was Eduardo Bonnin Aguila. 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 2019 is at Chester cathedral on August 31st.

You are invited if you can go.

A letter from our SD, Jonathan Couper

Dear All,



Jesus said "seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness". (Matthew 6:32). Isaiah 32:2 tells us some of the results of so doing. . We can be a shelter when life is stormy; or a refuge from its dangers; we also provide refreshment and relief when life is boring or dry. Everyone in the right place with God as well as every local church and Cursillo event can be "a shelter in the storm"...We can be a help and encouragement amidst adversity. We can even be "a refuge from the storm" because sometimes we can even provide a safe place, a change of environment so the storm is no longer an issue.. ***We may not be able to change world events, but we can still bring help to those on life's journey.*** The next phrase is "rivers in the desert". We all thirst for life, and real life is found in knowing the love of God and peace of heaven. God can refresh us whatever our circumstances, and he uses Cursillo to do this to thousands around the world. Thirst is not wrong, it is an experience of life. We thirst not just physically but spiritually. Our soul has needs as well as our body. Let God satisfy your soul. Drink from the river of God—His truth and grace. The last phrase is "the shadow of a rock in the desert ". God is our Rock. He is unchanged amidst the changes of life. Abiding in God's faithfulness can bring relief especially when life is harsh and hard. Staying close to God brings a security through His tested reliability and truth over the years that have past.

May we continue to experience God as shelter to us in our life, or as refuge as we enter His domain. As one who brings refreshment and rest to us in our souls. Our choices matter. We can choose to drink from the river or turn away from it; choose to abide close to the rock or go far away like the prodigal son. Let us make the right choices that lead to a richer life with God in Christ"

God bless

Rev Jonathan Couper

BACC Pages

Information on what is happening nationally or internationally 7 edition is available on the BACC website. <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.

Can you help?



**Is God
Calling
you?**

At our next AGM, on Saturday, 4th April 2020, various key post holders on our Secretariat (or committee) will be standing down. One of Cursillo's strengths is that posts are time limited - usually 3 years with occasionally people adding a fourth year to complete some particular work or to give more time to find replacements. It means that the work of organising Cursillo in the Diocese is shared around and after three years a member of the Secretariat can go back to the grass roots. Ruth Bannister has had no such break.

She stepped into a role as Palanca contact immediately after her week-end and then was thrust into the enormously hard work of taking in and dealing with the bookings of both the National Ultreya in York and the accommodation at York University when we had our Ultreya GB in York Minster. She then very kindly offered to step into my role as 4th Day Co-ordinator when Trevor King left the Secretariat to become National Lay Director. She has done that job so conscientiously for the last three years but is, quite understandably not prepared to continue after next April.

Fourth Day Co-ordinator role (which Ruth has been doing)

This role involves working with the Lay Director to produce an annual programme of regular Cursillo events in the Diocese. Once the programme is roughly decided she contacts churches and Cursillistas to book the events and produces flyers to send out in advance of each event.

She also keeps an eye on Group Reunions - trying to match people to groups if possible and encouraging the groups.

She also edits the newsletter which comes out 2 or 3 times a year.

Ruth has done all this but it is a great deal of work so we have discussed possibly creating a 4th day team to split it up. Trevor King, who stands down as National Director next year is willing to take back the newsletter.

If we could find a fourth day co-ordinator who could keep an eye on all the various roles and be on the Secretariat that would be wonderful. And then we could perhaps have an events organiser who just concentrated on booking Wydale Quiet Days and Ultreyas etc. and someone else to keep a pastoral eye on Group Reunions. If you feel you could do any of those roles then do please contact me.

Secretary Role

Elizabeth Charlton has been doing this role, despite a break when she lost her dear husband and uncertain health herself. We are so grateful to her and pleased to say that we have already had an offer from a Cursillista willing to take over from her in April. Of course the offer is open to all so anyone else wanting to take on that role, do please let me know.

Membership Secretary

Lynn Stephenson has done this role really well. Some computer literacy is essential as she keeps the Cursillo membership database and she alone sends out all messages to the membership (they may come from me but they are sent out from Lynn's e mail address). During the annual membership, renewal forms are sent to Lynn which she then sorts and collates. She also has a place on the Secretariat. If anyone would like to consider this role it can almost all be done from home and for someone wanting to find out more about Cursillo then it is good to be part of the Secretariat and see how decisions are made. If no-one comes forward for this then the person who has offered to be Secretary will manage the membership role as well.

Publicity and Promotion

We have no one on the Secretariat whose sole aim is to promote Cursillo within the Diocese. We all try to do our bit but if you are familiar with the way the Diocese works and could promote Cursillo through the various channels of the Diocese then that would be enormously helpful and we should love to hear from you. We should really like to create a new post for this.

Please pray about these roles. Cursillo could not function without a strong Secretariat. Meetings are spiritual, full of good fellowship, interesting and fun! And usually involve cake!!

Jan Watts 01723 360410 janwatts2@btinternet.com

Remember York 25?



Now it is York 29.... Is there anyone you could sponsor to come?

Sponsoring is welcoming others to join us

It 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.



Cursillo Weekends are the way in to supportive friendships and faith which equips and encourages Christians. Cursillo means "short course" and was first created by Spanish Eduardo Bonnín to help ordinary believers to so grow in confidence in Christ that they, with others, can make a difference wherever they are bringing the blessing of God. Churches, communities and nations benefit from Cursillo. The York Diocese benefits from Cursillo! The weekend has transformed hundreds of lives in the UK but so far under four hundred have experienced a weekend in our Diocese. We would like a thousand to have had that experience. Would one of your friends (or you if you have not yet been on a weekend) like to join us this October?

Staff Team for York 29:

Lay Rector	Tracey Netherton
Observing Lay Rector	Brian and Margaret James
Spiritual Advisers	Revd Jonathan Couper Revd Bruce Harrison
Lay Rectors Gofor	Di Davies
Music Gofor	Jim Gillespie
Chapel Gofors	Richard Netherton Brian James
Palanca Gofors	Anita Grandey Sue Swales
Prayer Partner	Doreen Hyde and Dot Jessop
Conference Room Gofor	Liz Mortimor + Mandy Fletcher
Table Leaders	Pam Caton Andy Grandey David Fletcher Graham Davies Margaret Price Helen Aistrop



York Cursillo

photo album



York 28

Feedback on York 28

We both had an enjoyable weekend and Wydale was a lovely venue with great food!

We found that everyone was friendly and kind and were amazed at the prayer support for us before, during and after the weekend. It was lovely to receive all the cards.

It was good that we were slightly prepared before we went on the weekend, about the silent evening etc, although it would have been helpful to know more about the structure and content of the weekend beforehand. Obviously, it's good to keep the surprises as surprises, because they were lovely!

We understand that Cursillo is a traditional weekend and quite formal in its prayers and content, which would be useful for people to know beforehand, as we were a little surprised by that! That structure wouldn't necessarily appeal to many people, (especially younger people). It depends on who you are reaching out to.

On the whole, we felt re-assured, encouraged and were happy to meet such a lovely group of people.

God bless

Shirley Bamford and Sarah Bulmer



The Secretariat always tries to listen to what you say, and we have discussed at some length the comments Shirley and Sarah have made about the structure of the week-end. In many ways we cannot change the structure as it's what is given to us by our national body. However, we are keen to reach all age groups and all types of churchmanship. One thing we have decided to change straight away at the next week-end, is the practice of not starting any of the sessions, either in the chapel, conference or dining room, without everyone being present. On York 29 we shall begin everything on time and leave the door open for any latecomers but not wait for everyone to arrive as we do recognise that can be embarrassing for some. We should be very happy to have any other comments which address what Shirley and Sarah have said, and we are grateful for their honesty.

Some Photos from our album



Thoughts on the Wydale Quiet Day, July 10th

Jan writes.....Here are a few random thoughts from some of those in my Group Reunion who were able to attend.

'I found the Quiet Day very good. The services were excellent and Jonathan's talks very good. Jonathan is a lovely, genuine, kind person who is friendly and my idea of the perfect clergyman. He also has a nice line in humour which puts us at ease'

'I liked the personal touch of a special card (palanca) with a message for each person'

'I found the study of the Old Testament characters excellent and the links between them and our modern life very helpful'

'I enjoyed the labyrinth walk very much and found the different ways it could be used very helpful, especially in praying for others'

Another person using the labyrinth was suddenly aware of the huge number of bees on the lavender around it and says "The bees buzzing between flowers fascinated me. How did they know how long to stay at each flower and did they ever rest? Our own lives are filled with activity and we need to take time to rest and reflect."

And finally:

"There was that wonderful, quiet hum of conversation around the building, during the craft work and in the hall – the meeting of old friends and new which is such a part of any Cursillo gathering. But there were also people dotted about on their own, both in the gardens and in the Prayer Room, allowing God to speak to their hearts in the silence. A lovely balance....."

Next one November 30th Emmanuel Bridlington 10am – 2pm

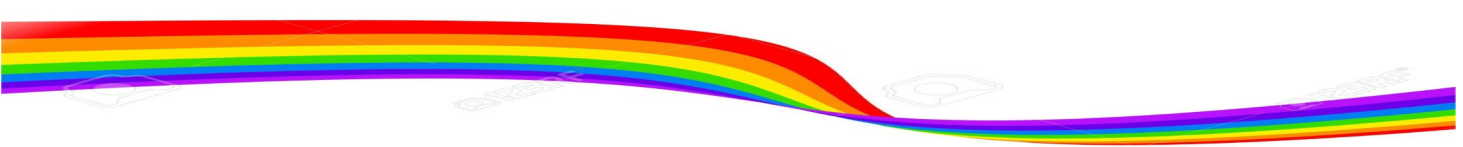


Inside Emmanuel Church, Bridlington



Cost £5

Contact Janet Green to book.
Bring a packed lunch



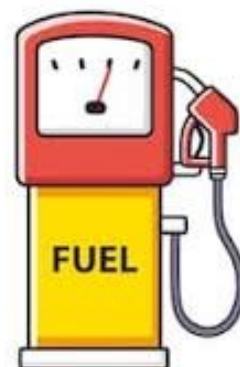
CURSILLO QUIET DAY

"Steady to be Ready"

Saturday November 30th

Quiet Days are designed to provide spiritual fuel through teaching and encouragement.

Every Quiet Day has a different theme. The theme on this day is "Steady to be Ready" drawn from Advent parables of Jesus.

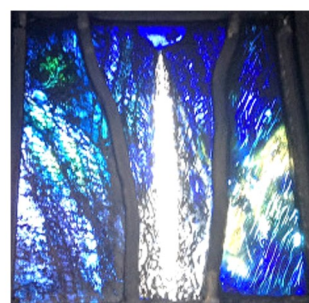


Every Cursillo Quiet day had different activities, so while some like to be silent and alone to listen to God, others hear God better together whilst being active.

On this quiet day our activities include a fun choir run by music teacher and performer Ben Couper. If you fancy a light-hearted chance to sing in a choir for a day then this is for you. You do not have to be able to read parts or have ever sung in a choir before. This we hope will be fun and at the same time a ministry through the songs the choir sings.

This will be the first quiet day we have ever held in the winter. The day will start earlier (doors open at 9:30 for a warm cup of tea/coffee to start the first session at 10:15 a.m.) and we will finish before 2:15pm.

Emmanuel Church is warm, with great facilities. There will be a quiet place in the excellent side chapel, reflective music in the church for any wishing to spend time in that way, and other activities to be part of if you wish in the rooms adjoining the "street" which is part of the modern church building.



Staying as a guest on a Cursillo week-end



I am sure many of you have very fond memories of time spent at Wydale Hall.

York Anglican Cursillo is very fortunate in having the use of such a wonderful venue in the Diocese.

At recent Cursillo weekends, an invitation has been extended to Cursillistas, to come and stay as a 'guest' at the Hall, alongside the pilgrims and staff team members.

For the York 28 weekend, I took up this offer and it proved a valuable time of relaxation and refreshment. I had a comfortable en suite room and enjoyed the good food and hospitality offered by the Wydale staff. A word of warning, food and refreshment are in abundance, so unless restraint is exercised, expect to add inches to your waist line! That said, fellowship over mealtimes was a great opportunity to get to know the pilgrims and renew friendships with the team members. An invitation was extended to join with those on the Cursillo weekend for the services in the chapel, which I accepted and found these times a spiritual blessing. I was free to come and go as I pleased. Although the weather was a bit mixed, I dodged most of the showers and ventured out into the peaceful grounds and also donned walking gear and explored further afield. However the library, with its comfortable easy chairs and scenic view down the valley, provided a restful indoor space, where one could read, have forty winks or relax over one pastime or another. Beverages and biscuits were freely available whenever you wanted a snack in between meals, and of course homemade cakes at teatime.

In order to have the Hall to themselves for the weekend, York Anglican Cursillo has to pay for a specified number of rooms and when there are rooms surpluse to the requirement of a particular weekend, these are offered to 'guests', who pay for their bed and board. Obviously this helps towards covering the considerable costs involved in putting on a weekend.

From my experience, I would highly recommend taking up this offer when available on future weekends."

Rosemary Gillespie



We are offering 4 "guest" places on our next week-end, York 29, from Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th October. Do let me know on 01723 360410 or at janwatts2@btinternet.com if you're interested. First come first served.



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)***



Contact details.

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