



## From our Lay Director, Wanda Maciuszko.

My dear Cursillistas

I write this in a spirit of optimism and trust for the future and with this quote from Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Faith has sustained us and will continue to sustain us.

We are on the threshold of new beginnings and new challenges. Cursillo will emerge again into this new world whatever it is. I feel very encouraged that nearly a hundred people have returned their membership forms making a commitment to Cursillo again.

We have to acknowledge the loss we have suffered over this last year. We mourn the loss of wives, husbands, partners, family members and friends. The loss of people who are precious to us is hard to bear and will leave scars probably for ever. We had to adjust to the loss of worship and the ordinary pattern of our lives, especially not being able to see those we love. The **Ultreya on 11th September at St Mark's Church in Scarborough** will be the beginning of the process of remembrance and renewal. It will also be an opportunity to share how we coped and developed our creative skills.

There was also a sense of quiet and peace in the world during this time which allowed the earth to breathe and nature to flourish. I felt the power of God's creation in early morning walks by the sea. We must continue to try and have times of peace and quiet.

My son said to me "It's made us realise what's really important mum." and we need to hang on to that thought as we rebuild and renew Cursillo, restart Reunions, enhance our relationship with our churches and gather pilgrims for our Cursillo next May.

In the last two weeks I have had the simple joy of being with the people I love face to face –my family, my friends and my church family and I so look forward to at last being with all of you face to face.

Let us go forward to celebrate God and his presence in our lives and the world.

Love and blessings. Ultreya!

*Wanda*



## Dates for your diary.

Following the decision to delay easing of restrictions on June 21st we again have to rearrange our planned events.

The Ultreya planned for **Saturday 3rd July will now be on Zoom at 2.30 pm.** (You'll receive the link by email).

We will hold our **AGM on Saturday 7th August, 10.30, followed by an Ultreya at Emmanuel Church Bridlington.**

**Saturday 14th August 2021, from 9am till 3pm**, fundraising stall at **Scarborough Charities Fair.** (See page 5).

Our **'Re-launch Cursillo' Ultreya of Renewal and Remembrance** will be on **Saturday 11th September at St Mark's Church, Scarborough, starting at 10.30.** Bring along the things you've made, written, or in any way created during the past 18 months.

## Our Spiritual Director, Revd Jonathan Couper, writes.

Dear All,

As we emerge out of lockdown we want to give an opportunity to start to share the journey we all have been on during the last year or so. To help this, we would encourage you to bring to the **'Re-launch Cursillo' Ultreya on 11th September** any craft or writing or painting or knitting you have done with the aim of sharing it in the reunion groups. Sharing what you have made, or a photograph you have taken, a poem you have written or a painting you have painted - whatever it is- will be a blessing. If you can't think what to bring, don't worry - just come. We would love to meet you. Meanwhile, our **AGM will be on Saturday 7th August** and I look forward to seeing you there!



None of us asked for this journey we have just lived through. None of us wanted COVID to threaten us, or liked being forced into separation from family and friends, but God has remained with us.

I am reminded of Balaam who also did not want to go on a journey. You perhaps remember the story of how the king of Moab wanted Balaam to come to curse the people of Israel. You can read it in Numbers 22:14 onwards. Anyway there was a moment in the journey when the ass he rode saw more than he did. (Numbers 22:23). Balaam was good at talking, had an international reputation, could lead morning and evening prayer, and knew what he was doing with animals when it came to sacrifice, but he did not see the angel in front of him. There are times for us when we for all our skills and "wisdom", are blind to the spiritual. We can be thinkers or doers or those who feel things deeply, but still be blind to God. By contrast how precious it is when we recognise God with us, especially when that recognition comes amidst trial. Jesus said it is not to the great intellect, or those who can identify with others at a deep level or even those who do a lot who recognise God. Jesus in Mathew 11:25 "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes". We may feel at times little better than Balaam's ass but we are grateful for every sign that God has been with us. Let us encourage one another. Many of you have shared during lockdown how important spring, bird song and space for reflection has been.

The journey takes us to a new place and it takes time to adjust . We won't instantly know everything about that new place we occupy post lockdown except it will not feel like it did before. Knowing God is with us during the journey encourages us to keep God in focus as we discover what we need to take up and what we need to lay down in this new day. It is all about obedience to Him and we are unlikely to know what to do straightaway. Here are some lessons for us from Balaam

1. Don't blame the donkey! None of us likes change and we can be quick to blame ourselves, or others. Turn your eyes upon Jesus look full in his wonderful face and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.
2. Take up the opportunities the new day brings in the fear of the Lord. (see Numbers 22:34,35) Try to develop a sensitivity to the heart of God. Perhaps some may continue practices started during lockdown which helps this....a favourite space to pray, or building on different priorities lockdown has brought to your thinking, or even new activities which marks out the future path. One thing is certain, whatever it is, it will be tested and honed in a corporate context as lockdown fades from view.
3. Look forward to fresh experiences with God. Balaam rejected sorcery and as a result experienced God's Spirit resting upon him which caused him to prophesy about the coming of Jesus hundreds of years later (Numbers 24:17). God wants to bless you. Get ready!

Jonathan



## POSTPONEMENT OF YORK 30 – AGAIN!!



As you all are no doubt aware, we were hoping to hold York 30 in November this year, but we feel that although the vaccination programme is going amazingly well, things are still too uncertain to be able to plan effectively. It is unlikely that pilgrims would commit to the weekend until they see how the autumn/winter is re Covid. Government medical and scientific advisors have made it clear that some social distancing requirements may have to be reintroduced in the autumn and winter months when the virus may become active again. We really want to give pilgrims a memorable Cursillo weekend and experience the close fellowship of Cursillo.

The Secretariat has therefore decided that to launch into preparations for a weekend at this time is premature. Recruitment of pilgrims will then follow when people feel more confident to commit.

***So York 30 will now be held over the early May Bank Holiday weekend next year (Friday 29 April – Sunday 1 May 2022).***

Now is the time to look forward, and also to look back on our time as Cursillistas, and pray that future pilgrims will become apparent for each and every one of us. We all need to start praying for pilgrims and for sponsors to come forward. Application forms will be available at the Ultreya on 3 July. Cursillo has not disappeared during lockdown – though it may have seemed far away. But with the end of night comes a bright new dawning.

We look forward to welcoming the pilgrims to York 30 next year.

Ultreya!

Brian and Margaret James, Joint Lay Rectors, York 30





## A surprise present from the Queen

A ring at the doorbell and the postman was there with a registered package for me – what could it be? Then I saw the post mark – Buckingham Palace! A few weeks previously I had had a letter out of the blue from the Lord High Almoner informing me that I had been nominated to receive Maundy Money from the Queen – would I be happy to receive it? And would I write a few lines about how my faith has motivated my Christian service? I included the powerful influence of Cursillo amongst other experiences in my faith journey. I wonder if the Queen enquired what Cursillo was?

Well I felt so honoured and humbled, especially when I think of so many people who have given Christian service for many years and often at great personal sacrifice. There were in fact 70 women and 70 men across the English Dioceses who were nominated, in recognition of the Queen's 70th year on the throne. Unfortunately due to Covid we were not able to receive the gift in person at the special Maundy Service planned for Westminster Abbey.



As you may know the gift comprises two purses of specially minted money. In one purse is a sum of £5.50 (5 Guineas), this year made up of a £5 silver coin to mark the Queen's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday and a 50p silver coin commemorating 50 years of decimalization. In the other purse are silver 1p, 2p, 3p and 4p coins adding up to 95, the age of the Queen.

I also had a phone call from the Diocese Communications Director asking me for more information which Buckingham Palace Press office had requested. Would I give radio and TV interviews! At the time I was

immersed in the annual stock take of the community owned and run village shop of which I am Chairman – so the picture shows me in my 'work clothes'. Calendar came along and included a few seconds at the end of that evening's news and then I had five minutes with Radio York the following morning. All very exciting and a wonderful opportunity for Christianity to be seen in a positive light.

Margaret Price

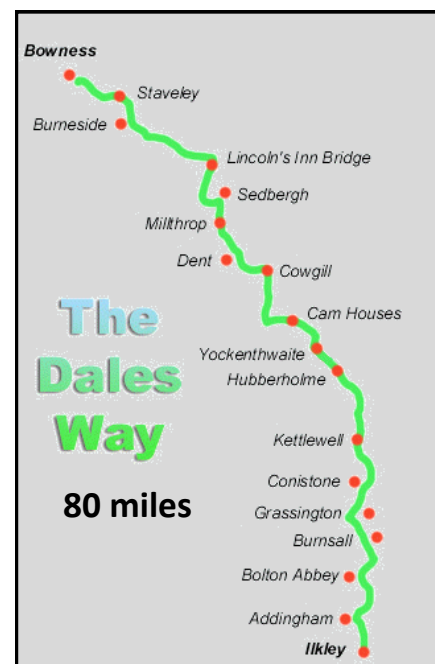


## Intrepid Dales Way Walkers



Many of you will know Margaret Price and I (Lynn Stephenson), from weekends and Ultreyas, I'm on the left of the photograph, Margaret on the right! We are walking the Dales Way from Monday 28th June to Sunday 4th July, a total of around 80 miles., from Ilkley to Bowness on Windermere.

We wondered if anyone would like to sponsor us for Cursillo funds? If you do, could you please send payment in by BACS, or a cheque to the treasurer, possibly with a note specifying for sponsorship. Thank you very much.



BACS Bank Transfer to York Anglican Cursillo details are: Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account: 00015722.

## York Cursillista, Eileen Connolly, to be ordained on 26th June.

### Margaret Price writes:

I first met Eileen when I helped with RPA training in about 2015 - I used that opportunity to tell the group about Cursillo and she said 'it was just what she was looking for'. She attended York 23 and gave the witness testimony when we had our Ultreya at Strensall 4 years ago. She has been in my reunion group when she could get to it. As Lynn Stephenson points out, Eileen will be serving her curacy in parishes containing long serving and enthusiastic Cursillistas

### From the York Diocese website:

Eileen Connolly will serve as Assistant Curate at St Andrews, Sutton Park in East Hull, working in Bransholme, Wawne, Sutton, and Kingswood. Following a Roman Catholic childhood in Bolton, in her twenties her faith deepened during many years in a Pentecostal Church.

She has worked in both banking and teaching, latterly as a deputy head at St Barnabas Church of England Primary School, York, and has twin daughters aged 22 years and a huge Golden Doodle dog named Noah.

Eileen moved to York in 2010 into the parish of St Mary the Virgin, Strensall. "No one was more surprised than me to be considering a call to ordination – I thought surely God doesn't call divorced single parents?"

She began training part-time at St Hild College, Mirfield while still working and is looking forward to all that God has in store for her and her family.

**Ed: Please pray for Eileen in her future ministry and we look forward to seeing her at Ultreyas in the future.**



## Scarborough Community Fair,

Saturday, August 14 from 10.00am in the town centre

We have decided to take a stall this year at the Charity Fair held along Westborough in Scarborough town centre, organised every year by Scarborough Cavaliers Rotary Club. Over the last 18 months we have acquired quite a lot of quality second hand items and we thought that we would have a better chance of selling it at a large event like this than at our own Ultreyas.

*(We don't need any more, thank you!!)*

We will start setting up about 9am and will clear up after 3pm. If anyone can help out at all over that time, even if only for an hour, please let Wanda know on 01723 372643 / 07939 637257





## **York Cursillo Prayer Diary**

- Mondays** - Hull and surrounding villages.
- Tuesdays** - Bridlington, Driffeld, Beverley, Pocklington, Rudston, and Huggate.
- Wednesdays** - Scarborough, Hunmanby, and Filey.
- Thursdays** - Whitby.
- Fridays** - Redcar, Brotton, Saltburn by the Sea, and Marske by the Sea.
- Saturdays** - York and surrounding villages.
- Sundays** - Other places such as Northallerton, Tadcaster and any I have missed out!



### **Contact details.**

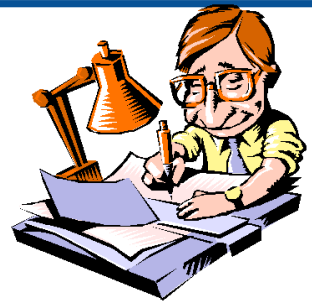
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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of York Diocese Anglican Cursillo Newsletter.

The next issue is planned for the spring and items for inclusion should be sent to: [trevorking3355@gmail.com](mailto:trevorking3355@gmail.com) . Please contact me with ideas for articles well before this date. Trevor King, 4th Day Officer: 07941 338466



**York Anglican Cursillo is faith funded, so thank you to the increasing number of Cursillistas who support York Anglican Cursillo through Gift Aid donations, particularly by monthly standing order. Under Gift Aid, each £1 donated is worth £1.25 to York Anglican Cursillo, the extra 25p coming courtesy of HM Revenue and Customs. If you would like to start making monthly donations, please contact:**

**Janet Green our Treasurer.**

**01723 449940 [janetcffi@gmail.com](mailto:janetcffi@gmail.com)**

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