



## From our Lay Director, Wanda Maciuszko.

It has been such a busy time for York Anglican Cursillo. We prepared for our 20th Anniversary at York Minster in September but sadly it had to be postponed due to the death of Queen Elizabeth. We finally had the service on October the 17th in the glorious Lady Chapel at the far east end with the sunlight streaming through the myriad of coloured windows.

I had been lucky enough to be allowed into the Minster before anyone. I felt the awe of God as I walked across the nave of the Minster taking in the complete silence and splendour of the building. The service was followed by a delicious buffet lunch at the Dean Court Hotel where nobody stopped talking.

The National Ultreya was a fantastic experience. We had prayers under the dome of St Paul's and set off across the Millennium Bridge in brilliant sunshine, our York Anglican Cursillo banner fluttering in the wind. The service in Southwark Cathedral, itself inspiring, was very moving. We had a thought provoking talk, and a delicious lunch at Borough Market, followed by a boat trip on the Thames watching the lights of Canary Wharf light up as dusk fell. There was a singer, a marriage proposal and lots of laughter. What a memorable day! It was good to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Ultreya!



## Ultreya & Christmas lunch, Wydale Hall, Saturday 17th December

The lunch is fully booked now but others are very welcome to come to the Ultreya at 11.00am. Gather in the central hall for coffee. If you intend to come please notify Trevor on **07941 338466** so that we know how many are coming.

## Dates for your diary in 2023

<b>Sat 21st January</b>	<b>Ultreya &amp; Secretariat</b>	<b>St Mark's, Scarborough</b>
<b>Sat 25th February</b>	<b>Ultreya</b>	<b>Emmanuel Church, Bridlington</b>
<b>During March</b>	<b>Local Meet Ups</b>	<b>Local area Ultreyas/Group Reunions in Lent around the diocese</b>
<b>Sat 15th April</b>	<b>Ultreya &amp; AGM</b>	<b>St James, East Hull</b>
<b>Sat 13th May</b>	<b>Quiet Day</b>	<b>St Oswalds Community, Sleights</b>
		<b><i>(See p 2 for details of how to book)</i></b>
<b>Sat 1st July</b>	<b>Ultreya</b>	<b>Emmanuel Church, Saltburn</b>
<b>Sat 2nd September</b>	<b>Ultreya UK</b>	<b>Rochester Cathedral</b>
<b>29 Sept to 1 Oct</b>	<b>York #32 Weekend</b>	<b>Wydale Hall</b>
<b>Sat 14th October</b>	<b>Ultreya</b>	<b>St Nicholas, Wiggington, York</b>

## Wanda, Lay Rector of York 31, writes about the weekend

York 31 took place from November 11th to 13th after two inspiring training days where we revisited the purposes and priorities of the weekend. It was a weekend of silence, talks and sheer love between everyone. I felt filled with the Holy Spirit who guided me through the detailed programme. The candle lit cross in the chapel on Saturday was as stunning as ever and moved me as usual. The closing service was stupendous accompanied by the music of our music gofer Paula. I felt very moved and tearful as I put the crosses on the new pilgrims.

A huge thank you to everyone involved in York 31. Your enthusiasm, hard work and faith were a joy to my soul. Ultreya!

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What the Bishops said:

“The Archbishop wishes you a fruitful time as you gather at Wydale. May you be blessed in your coming together, may you have respite from the busyness of life and may the holiness of Wydale send you home refreshed.”

The Bishop of Selby, who presided at the final service said:

“Forming disciples and lay leaders is vital to the flourishing of our churches. That’s why Cursillo is such a great movement because it trains people to follow Jesus in the practicalities of ordinary life as members of the astonishing global and historic community we call the Church. So I am really looking forward to joining the forthcoming Cursillo week-end at Wydale Hall in November to celebrate Cursillo and its blessings.”

The Bishop of Hull sent the following:

“Greetings family in Christ. I would like you all to know how deeply thankful I am for each of you making this commitment to journey together as pilgrims this Cursillo weekend. I am struck by the verse James 4:8 “draw near to God and God will draw near to you”. My prayer is that in each of the days ahead, you know the nearness of God to you, but more than that, that you experience a nearness at a new level of intimacy and clarity. God loves us with a love that is so hard for us to fully realise in our minds and our hearts. May all that lies ahead in these coming days be a gift of knowing God’s love even more deeply. I pray that the Holy Spirit will surround you in fresh grace to be fully present to yourselves, fully present to each day, fully present to the fellowship of those who support you, and fully present to the fullness of God. May God bless you indeed. Your fellow pilgrim in Christ, +Eleanor “

We are so grateful for the support and encouragement we receive and it is wonderful to know their prayers (and ours!) for the weekend were fully realized . *Jonathan*.

### Quiet Day Saturday 13th May

Quiet Days are special away days of bible teaching with lots of time for you to read, walk or pray as you reflect on God’s word. They are designed to enrich your walk with God.

Our next Quiet day is on Saturday May 13th at St Oswald’s Community, Sleights, just outside Whitby (Whitby YO21 1RY). St Oswald’s is a joint venture between Scargill House at Kettlewell and the OHP Sisters of Whitby.

St Oswald’s is a beautiful, secluded house on the edge of The Esk Valley in the moors with extensive grounds to explore. We have use of the lounges, library and chapel and the dining room. You need to book as places are limited to 22, and please bring your own sandwiches (though hot drinks are provided). This Quiet Day will start at 10am and finish around 3:30pm and will be led by Jonathan Couper. The bible topic will be announced early next year.

The cost is £5 (pay on the day). It is on a first come, first served basis. Send your booking to Margaret James [margaretjames1955@gmail.com](mailto:margaretjames1955@gmail.com) or call 01377 288148. We look forward to seeing you.

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

Dear All,

I am writing this after York 31. It was a brilliant weekend. Thank you to all the team and pilgrims too! One of the meditations I did during the weekend was on John 15 I thought it might be good to share now.



### **We are planted.**

The earth is very different from the seed, but is the place where fruit is produced. Our mortal bodies are flesh yet we can bear spiritual fruit in an imperfect life in an imperfect world. God has a purpose for us where we are, at whatever stage of life we are, and uses everything, including the “negatives” of our lives – so we are never too old or too young, have too many problems, aren’t good enough, etc.

A lady came up to the evangelist Gypsy Smith saying she felt called to preach but she had seven children, so what should she do? His reply was, start where you are with your children. Wise advice. Do what you see needs doing and what you are asked to do.

### **We need to be nourished.**

Every seed needs rain to grow. We must not be dried out. Stay in God. Make sure you maintain a helpful routine. These change as life changes. Make sure you put yourself in places where you can receive what is good and in your private world aim to see, read, and pursue what is helpful to your well-being with God. Choosing a favourite chair to pray or read your bible, a good walk or a helpful routine can all be means to getting a place where nourishment of the seed occurs.

The way our seed produces fruit will vary. John in his first chapter of his gospel connects with the Genesis creation story as he talks about the light coming into the darkness in the context of the Word coming into the world as a baby born in Bethlehem. I want to take another verse from that same Genesis passage to illustrate the different ways blessing or fruit bearing happens.

Genesis 1:11 in the NKJV reads, Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. Some blessing that came from fruit trees “whose seed is in itself” whilst others came about by the action of the wind causing seed to spread. Some you might know carry their blessing. They have experience which speaks of God’s grace to others, revelation to give, or teaching they know. There are others who bear fruit when the wind of God blows, everything from inspired words or behaviour in divine appointments, to random acts of kindness. In reality we will bear fruit in both what we carry and how we operate when God is on the move. But whatever blessings we happen to bring, we must ensure we are well nourished, that we abide in God and He in us.

### **Fruit bearing makes who Jesus is and what He is like clear to the world.**

This encourages others to discover His goodness and grace. A vine is clearly recognised when grapes appear from the branches. Jesus said, “I am the vine you are the branches”. He then talked about the action of the Father on those branches so it can bear more fruit (see John 15:5,1,2). We bear fruit because we are children of God in the world, and we bear fruit at the call of God. Fruit bearing involves both the action of God within by the Spirit and the action of the Father through the events of life. We find as we obey our call, doors opening and also doors closing, avenues which bless and those which don’t. We do not dismiss either the Holy Spirit’s promptings or the actions of the Father around us as we abide in Jesus and He in us.

With Christmas grace and blessings, and hope for 2023.

*Jonathan.*





## **York Cursillo Prayer Diary**

<b>Mondays</b>	- Hull and surrounding villages.
<b>Tuesdays</b>	- Bridlington, Driffield, Beverley, Pocklington, Rudston, and Huggate.
<b>Wednesdays</b>	- Scarborough, Hunmanby, and Filey.
<b>Thursdays</b>	- Whitby.
<b>Fridays</b>	- Redcar, Brotton, Saltburn by the Sea, and Marske by the Sea.
<b>Saturdays</b>	- York and surrounding villages.
<b>Sundays</b>	- 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 Spring 2023 and items for inclusion should be sent to: [trevorking3355@gmail.com](mailto:trevorking3355@gmail.com) by 25th March. 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:**

**Frank Tuffee our Treasurer.**

**07922 121150** [franktuffee@btinternet.com](mailto:franktuffee@btinternet.com)

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