



From our Lay Director, Cheryl Taylor.



It is the season of AGMs and if your Parish or Benefice has not already tucked yours away for another year, then you may well be still gathering your annual reports.

We were delighted to welcome so many of our membership to join us for the York Anglican Cursillo AGM at St Luke's in Scarborough on where we were made to feel very welcome, not only by Gail Card and her Reunion Group team but also by their Vicar, The Rev Cannon Mike Cansdale who presided with Rev Tim Kelly for our Eucharist following the meeting. Rev Mike, who is also the Vicar of St Mark's Church in Scarborough, was very keen to hear about Cursillo and spoke to many of those present about their experiences and what Cursillo meant to them.

Our grateful thanks go to those members of the Secretariat Committee who will be stepped down, **Veronica Govenlock** our Palanca Rep., has been a great

asset both for York and the National outreach with her poster Palanca of encouragement, not only to other National Diocese holding their own weekends but has also encouraged the BACC Council to reconnect with international members and ignite the call for a register of international connections. Thank you Veronica, for your enthusiasm and dedication. We wish you well in your new chapter – God Bless you richly.

Our grateful thanks also go to **David Fletcher**, who is stepping down as Treasurer. I am forever grateful to people who have the gift to manage other people's money well and David has certainly been a blessing to us all in his careful and good management of our accounts. His clear explanations and guidance have kept us on a firm footing – thank you David and God Bless you.

I am extremely grateful to all members of the Secretariat Committee who offer their God given talents and time to ensure all the dots are connected and everything is prepared for events and weekends. I would ask each and every one of you to prayerfully consider offering your skillset by spending some time on the team. Each member plays an invaluable part ensuring the success of York Cursillo itself and within the National membership. We help to shape and support each other and serving can be richly rewarding.

Current vacancies include:

Palanca Rep
Communications Officer

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**York 34, Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025.** Plans are well underway for our next weekend and **Lay Rector, Steve Baker**, is forming his staff team with training days set for 2<sup>nd</sup> August and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2025. Please hold Steve, his team, the training days and the weekend in your prayer. Sponsorship forms are coming in for those interested in attending and we would be delighted to hear from you if you have a friend or a member of the clergy who would like to attend, perhaps you are considering sowing seeds of encouragement amongst your fellow Christians. Remember to make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ!

Our next **Ultreya** will be on **Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 25** at **St Michael's Church, Eastrington, York DN14 7PR**, and our host will be the artistic Joy Hadley, who will be introducing us to the Mustard Seed Artists. I would encourage everyone to try to attend this event and bring a friend, I am sure this will be a very encouraging meeting.

(Cont.)

Our thanks to everyone who has kindly offered to host this year, and if you did not make it on this year's list and would like to hold a future Ultreya at your Church please do speak with myself or David Huntridge and we can reserve a slot for you for next year. It's a great excuse not to have to travel too far from home and is a wonderful opportunity to invite members of your congregation or friends along to experience Cursillo on home turf. If you have the facilities we can even offer a refreshments team to assist you!

**Ultreya GB Durham, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> SEPT 2025** British Anglican Cursillo at its best. If you would like to attend but are not sure if you can get there, please get in touch with me and we will try to link you with others travelling from your locality.

If your diary is not already full, Rev Tim Kelly will be offering a **Quiet Advent Reflection at Wydale Hall on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025** with a planned mornings peaceful meditation, followed by the legendary Wydale Christmas Luncheon. Those who attended last year found this pocket of stillness before the explosion of Christmas events extremely beneficial. Not to mention the enjoyment of the spectacular decoration of our Diocesan Retreat House. With restricted numbers you will need to confirm your interest with Margaret James please.

This only leaves me to wish you all well and I hope you enjoy the summer ahead. I will be tending my seedlings, watching them grow and enjoying the birdsong in the garden, marvelling at God's glorious creation and yes that even includes the slugs and snails.

As always, my love and prayers to you all.

Yours in Christ

**Cheryl x**

## Our Lay Director, Revd Dr Tim Kelly, writes.

### Roots and Renewal

As I sit in my study with the windows open, I can hear the birdsong and feel the settled warmth of the sun. The garden outside is well into its stride—lush, vigorous, and full of colour. The hedges are thick with life, the flowerbeds are bursting with bloom, and I've already cut the lawn more times than I care to count. It's a season of fullness—growth no longer tentative, but abundant.

Even so, the most vital part of all this flourishing remains hidden. Growth still depends on roots going deep and the presence of life-giving water beneath the surface. The flourishing we see is only possible because of the nourishment we cannot.

That's the kind of image we find in Jeremiah 17:5–10:

*"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.  
They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream..." (Jeremiah 17:7–8)*



This image has long spoken to me, not least because I'm not much of a gardener.

Pot plants in our house tend to start well—fresh and full of promise—but, in time, my forgetfulness wins out. Leaves curl. Colour fades. Life drains. It's not malice, of course—just neglect. But the result is the same: without water, the promise shrivels.

And so it is with us. We can start full of spiritual vigour, but unless we stay connected to the source, we too risk withering. Jeremiah gives us the choice: the tree planted by the stream, flourishing even in times of drought; or the lonely shrub in the salt land, struggling in dry and desolate places.

**So—what kind of plant are we?**

It may be that we find ourselves in a time of spiritual plenty. Perhaps we are thriving in prayer, enjoying fellowship, (Cont.)

or seeing fruit in our service. But even then, the health of what is seen depends on the depth of what is hidden. And for others, this might be a time of weariness—where energy feels sapped, ministry feels relentless, and prayer feels more like duty than delight. The temptation is to dig deeper into our own effort, our own grit, our own plans.

But Jeremiah calls us back to something simpler and far more sustaining: trust in the Lord. Not as a slogan, but as a posture. A way of rooting ourselves not in what we do, but in who God is. The difference between the shrub and the tree isn't effort, it's location. One is isolated; the other is near the stream.

We often say in Cursillo that Christ is counting on you—and you on Him. That mutual dependence is not a burden, but a gift. It is Christ who refreshes. Christ who waters. Christ who invites us, still today, to drink deeply.

*"Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink." (John 7:37)*

That invitation is not seasonal. It's not reserved for moments of revival or celebration. It is for today—for all of us, whether fruitful or flagging. It's for those who forgot to water the roots, for those clinging on, and for those who are quietly blooming and needing grace to persevere.

### So, how are your roots?

Are they planted deep enough to withstand the pressures of life and the heat of ministry? Or have they stayed near the surface, reliant on shallow things? This season—lush and outwardly vibrant—can also be a time to pay attention to the inner life. To sink our roots deeper into God's Word, into prayer, into stillness, into worship.

And let us remember: the image of a tree bearing fruit in drought is not a demand, but a promise. When we are rooted in the living God, our lives can bear fruit—sustained not by our own strength, but by where we are planted.

**Ultreya!**

**Tim**

## British Anglican Cursillo Council AGM Sat 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025 St Luke's Market Harborough



### Maggie Roberts, our BACC Rep, recently attended the BACC AGM

As well as the usual business Helen Taubman, the National President, spoke about the continued importance of **Communication**. She highlighted the new BACC website [anglicancursillo.uk](http://anglicancursillo.uk) She wants it to be a 'living being' and explained that it has a wealth of useful resources and information. Helen discussed the use of Blogs and urged the wide distribution of the BACC Pages newsletter. (A link to the latest edition has been circulated to York Cursillo members). If you would like a paper copy, ask our Trevor King to send you one (07941338466).

Helen wants us to send her stories, news of events and so on for the next edition please

**Roles to be filled** Prayer and arm twisting is needed to fill several roles on the BACC committee.

- Secretary
- Treasure (from September)
- Publicity & Communications Officer (this role could be split)

Helen asked us to ask ourselves the question, 'Where are these roles to be found?' We need to ask ourselves could we do this role, or do we know of anyone who could?'

### Upcoming events

- CLW (Cursillo Leaders Workshop) – 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Oct 25 to be held in Crewe. Helen encouraged all leaders or Secretariat members to attend, plus anyone who was thinking of taking on a role. Two to four people from each Diocese are allowed to attend at any one time.
- Next year's National Conference and AGM will be held in Highgate, London.



# Mustard Seed Artists

Three members of York Anglican Cursillo: Janette Garthwaite, Rosemary Gillespie and Joy Hadley, have joined with two other artists: Sue Harris and Lynda Allanach, to form a group of Christian artists hoping to promote the use of visual and creative art in local ministry. The group is called 'Mustard Seed Artists' inspired by (Mark 4,30-32) to reflect their belief that by faith; from something very small their group will grow. Meeting regularly, they support and encourage each other and individually they use their creativity for their own faith journey and to support their local ministry.

The five artists held their first exhibition last year at St Magnus church in Bessingby, which was very successful, it showed the range of techniques and styles used by the group. It was very well attended and raised funds towards a project to install disabled access to the church.

The second exhibition is currently being planned for 2nd to 3rd August 2025 at Holy Trinity church in Bridlington and this year more artists have been invited to join in. If you would like to learn more about 'Mustard Seed Artists' then do come along to the Ultreya at St Michael's church in Eastrington on 19th July when members of the group will give the Apostolic action talk and there will be a small display of their work.

1) Be Still, mixed media , Joy Hadley



2) Gelli printing collage by Sue Harris



3) Iconography by Rosemary Gillespie



## Can you help please?

We would be delighted if everyone would prayerfully consider offering their skillset by spending some time on the Secretariat team. Each member plays an invaluable part ensuring the success of York Cursillo itself and within the National membership. We help to shape and support each other and serving can be richly rewarding. The following positions are currently vacant:

### **Palanca Representative**

Purpose of the Role: To coordinate and promote the offering of prayerful and practical support (palanca) for Cursillo weekends, team members, and pilgrims—locally, nationally, and internationally—ensuring that all aspects of palanca reflect the grace-filled, prayerful spirit at the heart of the Cursillo movement.

### **Communications Officer**

Purpose of the Role: To oversee and coordinate clear, timely, and encouraging communication across the Cursillo community, using appropriate channels to share news, resources, and events. This role supports the unity and visibility of the movement, helping Cursillistas remain connected and informed in their journey of faith and service.

### **Safeguarding Officer** (non-Secretariat)

Purpose of the role: To ensure the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy.

Further details of all roles are available from Cheryl, Tim or Margaret.

## **Witness Talk at our Ultreya at Skidby** **By Tim Sanderson (Bishop Eleanor's husband)**



Hi, my name is Tim Sanderson. I made my Cursillo on Wellington #M42, St John's table.  
*(That's in New Zealand and they have single sex weekends. Ed)*

"De Colores!" Yes, I have a holding cross – and no, I did not knit, braid, or weave a necklace for it.

As with so many parts of our faith, some things or experiences we have will look, sound, and feel very familiar... others, not so much. And that's okay. I believe, as we are called in Matthew's Great Commission to be "disciples who make disciples", that as we try to live more Christ-like, Christ-shaped, Christ-centred lives, it will look different – just as we all look different, despite all being created in God's likeness.

How does this influence or inform our relationships and communication, both inside and outside of church spaces?

I'm a big fan of playing with the English language and of using common sayings to remind me of important truths. Here are a few of my (hopefully relevant) favourites:

*"Two ears, one mouth."*

As we seek to further God's kingdom and to build good relationships, both within and beyond the Church, we would do well to listen – properly listen and understand – twice as much as we speak.

*"A picture is worth a thousand words."*

What people see is important, and often conveys much more of what we believe than what we say.

When we talk about our faith, beliefs, values, churches, and Christianity, perhaps we should ask ourselves: are these things nouns, naming words? Or maybe they're more like adjectives, describing words?

Personally, I believe – and attempt to live into – the idea that they are verbs, action words. Note: 'doing', not 'done'. This is a life's work, not a box to tick. Honestly, I'm not sure whether that's good or bad news! Which is a nice segue into my next common saying:

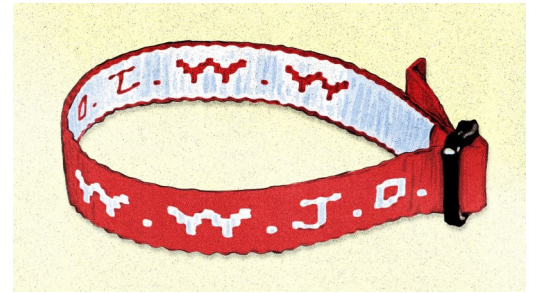
*"Actions speak louder than words."*

For those who like symbolism, continuity, movies, or animation – films are also known as "motion pictures" because they are a series of still images shown rapidly to create the appearance of movement. So, if one picture is worth a (Cont.)

thousand words, then thousands of small, seemingly insignificant things may be as good as – or even better than – millions of words!

*So, what next?*

Several years ago, there was a campaign with bracelets that said “WWJD?” – “What Would Jesus Do?” A great question. But it often ended up being interpreted as “stay away from bad people or bad things,” which seems like a good place to start... except when we read Scripture, we see that Jesus was often in the “wrong places”, and with the “wrong people”!



If we are to be more Christ-like, we need to be good news in those spaces and for those people.

- What does that look like for you?
- What does being good news look like in your neighbourhood?
- In your workplace?
- In your family?
- In your church?

*Some suggestions:*

We all have limited capacity. While everyone's limits may be different, we all have them. So if you're doing something effective and worthwhile for God's Kingdom, how about encouraging, training, or mentoring others to do it too?

If you see someone doing something that makes a difference or inspires you, ask them how they got started – or whether they could help you learn that skill. The momentum of more of us working, learning, and sharing together can – and will – help us grow.

I'm sure you've all heard the starfish story, but I'll repeat it, because I like it, and because it makes a great point:

*A person goes for a walk on the beach after a big storm and finds hundreds of starfish washed up on the dry sand.*

*There is a child throwing them back into the sea one by one.*

*The person asks the child, "What are you doing?"*

*The child replies, "Starfish need to be in the sea – they'll die if they don't go back."*

*The person looks at all the starfish and says, "There are too many. You can't help them all."*

*The child looks at the starfish in his hand and replies, "I can help this one," and throws it into the sea.*

*At that point, the person reaches down, picks up a starfish, and throws it into the sea too – and together, the pair make a difference for those they can.*

Tim.

## Come to Durham! Ultreya GB 2025

Saturday 6th September 2025 at Durham.

Cursillistas of Durham are looking forward to welcoming you to Durham. Here are a few things for you to consider:

**Friday 5th Evening** – join us for Evensong at Durham Cathedral beginning at 5.30pm followed by a guided tour afterwards (to be booked in advance)

**Saturday Ultreya** – 9.20am arrival and registration for a 10 am start at Elvet Methodist Church, Durham.

**Eucharist** – 2pm start at Durham Cathedral







### Contacts

|                 |                    |                               |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
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| Revd Tim Kelly  | Spiritual Director | rev.tim.kelly@outlook.com     |
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| Lynn Stephenson | Pre-Cursillo Rep   | lynnstephenson58@gmail.com    |
| David Huntridge | 4th Day Officer    | davehuntridge@hotmail.co.uk   |
| Steve Baker     | Treasurer          | stephendsbaker@googlemail.com |

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

One of the delights of Cursillo Ultreyas is that they encourage us to visit so many of the wonderful churches within our own Diocese. If you would prefer to host an Ultreya rather than have to travel do get in touch and we will be highly delighted to add you into the schedule for the year ahead. If you feel you would struggle to host an event we would be happy to arrange a team to assist you with refreshments, so please feel confident to raise your hand. Contact our 4th Day Officer, Dave Huntridge: [davehuntridge@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davehuntridge@hotmail.co.uk)

Our 2025 Ultreya dates have mostly been set and, as always, full details and maps will always be sent out to the membership prior to each event.

### 2025

|                                                          |                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fri 13th June</b>                                     | <b>Quiet Day Reflection at Wydale Hall.</b>                   |
| <b>Sat 19th July</b>                                     | <b>Ultreya at St Michal's Eastrington, nr Goole. DN14 7PR</b> |
| <b>Sat 6th September</b>                                 | <b>National Ultreya GB at Durham Cathedral.</b>               |
| <b>Sat 13th September</b>                                | <b>Ultreya at St Catherine's Barmby Moor. YO42 4EF</b>        |
| <b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – Sun 26<sup>th</sup> October</b> | <b>York 34, at Wydale Hall.</b>                               |
| <b>Sat 15th November</b>                                 | <b>Ultreya at Emmanuel Church Bridlington. YO15 3JT</b>       |
| <b>Fri 12th December</b>                                 | <b>Christmas Lunch at Wydale Hall.</b>                        |

# *Cursillo*

## Prayer Diary

- Mondays** - Hull and surrounding villages.
- Tuesdays** - Bridlington, Driffild, 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!

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

The next issue is planned for the summer and items for inclusion should be sent to: [trevorking3355@gmail.com](mailto:trevorking3355@gmail.com) Trevor King, Editor: 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:

David Fletcher our Treasurer.

07900 998378 [davidfletcher165@hotmail.com](mailto:davidfletcher165@hotmail.com)

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