



From our Lay Director, Cheryl Taylor.



Where has the summer vanished, now that we have safely gathered the harvest in and already the farmers are busy ploughing the fields and scattering next years seed, whilst we sing the celebrations in churches everywhere.

We have been busy in Cursillo too with Ultreyas, preparations for York #34, training days and meetings.

Since our last newsletter we delighted in the insightful Ultreya held in St Michael's Church, Eastrington; where Joy Hadley, Rosemary Gillespie and the wonderful mustard seed team each gave us a witness talk on their gifts for art and the outreach they are making through it. A wonderful and very encouraging example of how using our individual gifts can open up so many opportunities to speak about our faith and to inspire others.

In early September, we gathered from all corners of the UK as one body in Durham to celebrate the National Ultreya GB. We had glorious weather and a blessed weekend, and you can read more in Maggie Roberts article further on.

Our Next Ultreya was in St Catherine's Church, Barmby Moor, where I provided a witness talk on the many different roles I have held in my working life and the lessons that God has taught me along my path. We also reflected that for some whilst this has been a time of bounty and abundance, for some it has been a time of life's seasonal changes and loss. Tim provided a very powerful reflection on Matthew 14:22-33, when Jesus walks on the water, as does Peter until he doubts. We were all challenged on where we see ourselves on our water level with Christ.

GROUP REUNIONS – The Fourth Day Experience

As you are all aware Group Reunions are the beating heart of Cursillo, regularly gathering together to share the three foundation blocks of Piety/Prayer, Study and Action.

As we prepare for York #34 and to welcome new pilgrims into York Anglican Cursillo the Secretariat Committee have reflected on the cornerstone of the Group Reunion. We are aware that some groups have struggled to meet recently and that some of you do not have a group to attend. In order to gain a clearer picture we will be sending out a short survey letter to you all. Its purpose is to gather a map of who meets where and when and ensuring everyone has the opportunity to gather and hold to a regular meeting, but most importantly to be able to direct new pilgrims to a group near to them and support them in their fourth day journey onwards.

It may be that you are thinking of starting a new group with fellow Cursillistas around you and please reach out to me if you need any help in this regard. My own particular Group Reunion is held in an evening via Zoom to be able to gather those of us who are geographically challenged. Whatever works for you the benefit is the regular meeting together and following the Group Reunion format. It is also a good introduction to Cursillo for those who wish to know more, and many attend a weekend following a good foundation with a Reunion Group.

Closing Service for York #34 – Wydale Hall 3.00pm prompt.

I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the Closura for York #34 on **Sunday, 26th October 2025 at 3.00pm** where the lovely Bishop Eleanor of Hull will be presiding. Please come and show your support for the weekend team and our new pilgrims launching them into their fourth day journey.

Wherever and however we meet, as always, I send you all my love and prayers.

Yours in Christ

Cheryl x

Bread, Blessing, and the Generous Life

Spiritual Director's Article – Autumn 2025

Revd Dr Tim Kelly

Harvest comes round each year with a gentle rhythm that invites us to pause. Churches fill with the colour of apples and grain, the smell of cut flowers, the sound of hymns sung with affection. It's a moment to step back, look around, and give thanks. For most of us, food simply arrives on the shelves. The long chain of labour and weather, soil and sunlight, is easily forgotten. Harvest brings it back into view, reminding us that everything begins as gift.

Yet the words of our well-loved hymns carry a quiet challenge too. When we sing of "soft refreshing rain," we remember that rain does not fall everywhere. There are lands scorched by drought and others overwhelmed by flood. Our tables of plenty exist alongside communities where daily bread is uncertain. True thanksgiving holds both together: gratitude and compassion; joy and justice.

In John's Gospel, after the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus tells the crowd, "*I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry.*" The miracle they had witnessed was not just a generous meal; it was a sign pointing to God's deeper provision. Bread, in Jesus' hands, becomes more than flour and water—it becomes life itself.

That's the heart of the Christian harvest. We give thanks not only for the food that sustains our bodies, but for the Bread of Life who sustains our souls. Food perishes; grace endures.

And harvest reminds us that everything we have is received. King David prayed, "*Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.*" It's a truth that exposes our illusion of self-sufficiency. Our skills, our time, our friendships, even our faith—none of it begins with us. When we know that, generosity ceases to be a duty and becomes a way of life.

But there's more. The life of faith is not confined to a few roles or titles. In *Cursillo* we talk often about the ministry of all believers—the call for every Christian to make Christ known in the ordinary places of life: our homes, workplaces, friendships, and communities. God's mission is not a spectator event. Each of us, wherever we are planted, is invited to bear fruit. And generosity—of time, attention, or resource—is one of the ways we live that calling.

There's a story about a janitor sweeping floors at NASA who, when asked what he was doing, said, "I'm helping to put a man on the moon." He understood that his small work was part of something larger. In much the same way, when we give of ourselves—whether through prayer, encouragement, hospitality, or service—we take our place in God's great work of renewal. That's part of the *Cursillo* vision too: a community of ordinary disciples, quietly transforming the world through grace.

And something happens in us as we do so. Generosity loosens our grip. It changes how we see the world. It pulls us away from the endless treadmill of earning and deserving, and back into trust. When the crowd asked Jesus what they needed to do to please God, his answer was simple: "*Believe in the one he has sent.*" The work of God begins not in effort, but in belief—in recognising that we already live within his love.

So at harvest, we bring our gifts—fruit, tins, loaves, envelopes—and we bring ourselves. We place them into the hands of the God who multiplies. And in those hands, our small offerings become part of something far greater: the feeding of body and spirit, the building up of the Kingdom, the visible generosity of Christ in the world.

May this harvest renew our gratitude and refresh our calling. May we live generously, not out of duty but out of delight. And may our lives, together, be signs of the "soft refreshing rain" of God's grace falling upon a thirsty world.



Ultreya!

Tim

York #34, Friday 24th – Sunday 26th October 2025

The Palanca List is out! Lay Rector, Steve Baker, has a strong team and 10 Pilgrims who need your support so please send your Palanca to **Gail Card (43 Plaxton Court, Woodlands Drive, Scarborough YO12 6QT)**. It is recommended that one piece of Palanca is prepared for each Pilgrim plus one for their 4th Day. Please send items clearly labelled with Christian & Surname and make sure you mark your 4th Day item on the envelope.

Our next **Ultreya** will be on **Saturday, 15th November 25** at **St Emanuelle's Church, 70 Cardigan Road, Bridlington YO15 3JT**, and our host will be the lovely Odette Brophy, who will be welcoming our newest Pilgrims hot off the press from York #34 so please do join us and let's provide them with a very warm welcome to York Anglican Cursillo. As always, I would encourage everyone to try to attend this event and bring a friend who is curious about Cursillo to come and experience our wonderful gatherings.

Final Diary Call for 2025

If your diary is not already full, Rev Tim Kelly will be offering a **Quiet Advent Reflection** at Wydale Hall on **Friday, 12th 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.



Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ!

YORK #35: 23 - 25 October 2026

Our next weekend is being planned with Sponsorship forms available from January 2026. 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 now so please put the date in your diary and begin praying with us today.

VACANT SPACES — Can you help please?

Has God stirred you up yet? Are you thinking that you have a gift to offer the team but not sure where? Please pray and consider where you might help to promote Cursillo further in our Diocese. We have vacancies for:

Palanca Rep

The Sending and receiving of Palanca Support for our weekends and other weekends being held throughout the UK and internationally. Network yourself into the bigger picture and be a wonderful support to the larger Cursillo organization.

Help with Palanca for our weekends and supporting the team with prayer throughout.

Communications Officer

We are in need of someone who can keep everyone in touch, via the website, Social Media and general notifications. Are you a communications gifted person who can help to raise our profile so we can shout out the joy of Cursillo to all? WE NEED YOU!

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

Have you heard of Eco Church? Is your church signed up to it?

Want to know more about it? Read on!

Eco Church is an environmental scheme designed to support churches in the United Kingdom as they work towards greater ecological sustainability and stewardship. Founded by A Rocha UK, a Christian conservation charity, the initiative encourages churches to assess and improve their environmental impact across several key areas, including worship and teaching, buildings and energy, land and nature, community and global engagement, and lifestyle.

Through Eco Church, participating congregations are invited to complete an online survey that helps them reflect on their current practices. Based on their progress, churches can earn Bronze, Silver, or Gold awards, recognising their commitment and achievements in caring for creation. The scheme is rooted in Christian theology, emphasising the responsibility of faith communities to protect and cherish the natural world as part of their spiritual mission.

Eco Church has become a growing movement, with numerous churches across different denominations working together to reduce their carbon footprint, promote biodiversity, and inspire environmental action within their congregations and wider communities.

At my church, St Mark's Newby, in Scarborough, we first heard about Eco Church at a Deanery Conference some 18 months ago that was addressed by Rev Jan Nobel, York Diocesan Green Ambassador. A few of us thought it was something worth investigating, so we studied the website in some detail. (<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>) We looked through the online survey and answered all the questions about what we were doing in the 5 key areas and found that we had a very low score in most of them !

We scored well enough in the Buildings and Energy section as we have replaced all our boilers (in the church and hall) in the last 6 years with the most efficient gas ones available, and insulated both the roof spaces and below the wooden floors. We also try to recycle as much waste as we can and buy environmentally friendly products, so were on the right road with the Lifestyle section. But as we don't have a graveyard (only having lawns, hedges and tarmac on our land), we scored badly on Land and Nature. We also weren't sure about the Worship and Teaching section or the Community Engagement section. So we started to see what we could do to improve things.

We decided to turn one of the lawns into a Wildflower Meadow (not a quick process), put up bird boxes, build bug hotels and cut the hedges in a way so that nesting birds are protected. We discussed with the clergy and other preachers how they could include more about our responsibilities to the environment in their teaching and plans were made to celebrate the relatively new season of Creationtide which is in September, culminating in Harvest Festival. In order to address the Community Engagement requirements and Lifestyle aspects of the scheme we decided to put on some training for the congregation.

The training idea developed into organising a full day conference with speakers explaining how the scheme works and going into each of the aspects of it in some detail. They included Jan Nobel and Prof Colin Beale, the Chair of A Rocha, both from York; Catherine Fish from Sheffield, representing Green Christian; and Prof Martin and Revd Margot Hodson from Oxford, experts in environmental theology. We have large TV screens in church now so all the talks were illustrated.

Along side this there were 12 organisations involved in conservation, recycling, reuse etc having information stands in the church hall, and the local camera club put on an exhibition of climate change and nature photos. We had over 70 people attend from as far away as Hull and it was a great success.

St Mark's has now gained the Bronze Eco Church award and we are working towards the Silver. Watch this space!

Trevor King





Contacts

Cheryl Taylor	Lay Director	cataylor1662@gmail.com
Revd Tim Kelly	Spiritual Director	rev.tim.kelly@outlook.com
Margaret James	Secretary	secretary@yorkcursillo.org
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

Our thanks to everyone who has kindly offered to host this coming year, but we still have a few gaps in the list (**highlighted in red** on the list). If you can offer your church or church hall as a venue for any of these dates, please contact our 4th Day Officer, Dave Huntridge: davehuntridge@hotmail.co.uk 07939 859615.

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 offer a refreshments team to assist you.

2026 Dates

FEBRUARY 7 th	Ultreya @ St Chad's Church, Camplesdon Road, York YO23 1PE
MARCH 21st	Ultreya Available
MAY 9th	Ultreya and AGM – venue tbc
JUNE	Creative Art Quiet Day – further details to follow
JULY 11th	Ultreya Available
SEPTEMBER 5 th	National Ultreya GB - CHICHESTER
SEPTEMBER 19th	Ultreya Available
23–25 October	York #35 WYDALE HALL
NOVEMBER 14th	Ultreya Available
DECEMBER tbc	Christmas Lunch and Quiet Morning at Wydale

Prayer Diary

Mondays	- Hull and surrounding villages.
Tuesdays	- Bridlington, Driffield, 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 Trevor King, Editor: 07941 338466



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Steve Baker our Treasurer.

stephendsbaker@googlemail.com

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