

Newsletter May 2026



From our Lay Director, Cheryl Taylor.

Spring has arrived and we are already one quarter of the way through the year!

Earlier in the year I enjoyed a few days away to relax in Wales where the sun shone, and the daffodils bobbed their heads for the celebrations of St David's Day. Each day since I have been observing nature's changing robes of colour, the pure white of snowdrops replaced by the sunshine of daffodils, which in turn are now fading away for the myriads of tulip displays, lilac trees, blossoms and royal purple aubretia. I've also spotted wild cowslips and forget-me-nots in the hedgerows and am reminded of Matthew 6 Ch vs 29, "*yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these*"

The cycle follows a pattern, and we too walk a well-trodden path. Our first step often begins with a friendship, an introduction to Cursillo and then an invitation to attend a weekend. The full experience of a Cursillo Weekend leads to our 4th Day, supported by Reunion Groups and Ultreya meetings. Our path takes us forward in many varying ways. Growing in confidence, some step up to staff on a weekend, to give talks and perhaps to lead weekends. Others support their own churches in greater ways, and some go on to Lead and even become Ordained.

You might like to attend a Cursillo Leaders Workshop. Maggie Roberts and I recently attended a wonderful weekend in Crewe, and you can read her report below.

I am delighted to announce to you all that following much prayerful consideration and our weekend away Maggie has accepted the invitation to become the **Lay Rector for York#35 23-25 October 2026**. I know you will all join me in holding Maggie in your prayers through the coming months and we wish her every blessing.

Your Annual Membership letters will soon be sent out to ensure we have your correct, up to date details and to ask whether you would like to staff on our up and coming weekends for YORK #35 and YORK #36. Please reflect on your own weekend experience and, if you feel able to, tick the box to staff. This helps when putting together our staff lists.

Our **AGM will be held on 16th May in St Andrew's Church, Sutton Park, Hull**. Please join us to support the Secretariat team and hear all the news for the year ahead.

As the adage goes '*many hands make light work*' and we would love to have more Cursillo members on the Secretariat team. We are less than half strength at this time with limited volunteers, and it would be amazing to hear your ideas and utilise your gifts to help us grow more and strengthen our presence throughout our Diocese.

If you feel called to be more involved or would like to consider being included in a weekend, to help, to staff or even lead a weekend please speak with Rev Tim and myself. We have many ways to help support your next step and to encourage you. I think that sometimes we can all feel that we have little to



offer, and yet God knows that the world needs each of one of us for this time and purpose.

St David, the patron Saint of Wales departed this world leaving us with the sage advice to “*Do the little things*”. I think we can all do little things which together will make a huge difference and will take us forward. Please let us know how you would like to help – we are praying for you to come forward.

ULTREYA!

Cheryl x



Our Lay Director, Revd Dr Tim Kelly, writes.



Just outside my window at All Hallows Walkington there’s a cherry tree that has come into the most amazing blossom this week. It’s not something you could easily miss - it really is quite striking. I put a note on the village Facebook page to say people should go and have a look while it’s at its best, before the blossom drops.

There’s something about blossom that makes you pay attention. It doesn’t hang around for long. If you’re going to notice it, you have to notice it *now*. It made me think of those familiar words from Ecclesiastes - that there is a time for everything, a season for each part of life. The blossoming trees signal one of those seasons. Brief, but not insignificant. Because it’s not the end of the story. It’s a sign. It tells you that something is happening, even if you can’t yet see where it will lead. Fruit is coming, but not yet.

Part of the challenge for us is learning to notice the “blossom” moments in life. Not just the finished things, not just the outcomes, but the signs that something is beginning. A small change. A conversation that stays with you. A sense that something is shifting, even if you can’t quite name it. In Cursillo we often talk about noticing where God is at work, but that work doesn’t always arrive fully formed. Sometimes it looks more like blossom than fruit. So perhaps there’s a simple invitation in this season - to pay attention, to notice what is beginning, not just what is complete, to look for signs of life in ourselves and in the people around us. Because if we only look for the fruit, we may miss the season we’re actually in - and like the blossom outside the window, it won’t last forever.

Ultreya! Tim

Cursillo Leaders Workshop (CLW) Wistaston Hall, Crewe 22th – 22nd March 2026

Cheryl and I recently attended a Cursillo Leaders Workshop (CLW), held at Wistaston Hall, Crewe. We had a lovely time meeting other Cursillistas and sharing fellowship together. The CLW is a refresher course to look at the Cursillo movement as a whole. They usually run about twice a year and **next year there is one being held at Wydale Hall!** They are not just for Leaders but are open to all Cursillo members who have attended a Cursillo Weekend. The course gives an in depth view of the Cursillo movement and its purpose in a Christian's life. One quote given was; *'Cursillo is a movement of the Church, providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone.'* [BACC](#)



During the sessions we looked into various aspects of the Cursillo movement, including the Group Reunions and their purpose, Ultreyas and the Witness Talks plus the Cursillo Weekends. It also addressed Sponsorship and gave an in-depth explanation of the Fourth Day. Two things that were highlighted to us were the importance of Sponsorship and the relevance of the Fourth Day.

As a Sponsor it is important to know the goal of Cursillo which is to empower and equip Christians to be effective witnesses for Christ and want others to be empowered and equipped in this way. Sponsorship is seen as a great privilege and joy but also a responsibility. It is important to know the pilgrim well and support them at every stage, before, during and sometime after the Cursillo weekend. 'Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ'. Prayer, of course, is essential at all stages.

The Fourth Day came first for the founders of Cursillo and it is seen as the priority of Cursillo – following Christ's command to "Go, Teach, make Disciples, Baptise". Therefore, the Fourth Day is to be seen as a great relevance to all Cursillo Communities as they work within The Church. This was highlighted as the **focal point** of the Cursillo movement and that the 'Weekends' are a means to an end. The "end" is an active Fourth Day.

The implications of putting the Fourth Day first are that *"We see Cursillo as a tool for taking active, committed Christians who have the desire to serve our Lord more effectively, showing how they can do it and supporting them as they so do"* and that, *"Good sponsorship becomes vitally important and involvement in Fourth Day must be encouraged"*. A good way of introducing people to Cursillo is by inviting people to come to an Ultreya and also encourage people to come along to a Group Reunion.

I came away from the weekend realising just how important Cursillo is to The Church. It is a tool to help people discover what it truly means to be a follower of Christ and to deepen their faith and knowledge as a Christian. Open to all Cursillistas and very helpful in deepening your understanding in the Cursillo movement, I would like to encourage anyone interested in attending a CWL to have a chat with either Cheryl or myself.

Maggie Roberts
BACC Representative
York Anglican Cursillo

Ultreya GB 2006 Chichester



The Chichester Cursillo Community is looking forward to giving a warm welcome to Cursillistas from across the nation at the Ultreya GB2026 on Saturday 5th September 2026. It will be a celebration of Cursillo, and an opportunity to sing, learn and praise, and to meet friends old and new.

It is free to attend but, of course, there is travel and accommodation. The best way to get there from Yorkshire is probably by train, and there are plenty of good hotels to stay in.

On the evening of Friday 4th there will be a Beetle Drive and Fish & Chip Supper at the St Paul's Church Centre from 7.30pm.

The Saturday will start with Registration from 8.30am at St Paul's Church Centre, where refreshments will be served. The main Ultreya runs from 10am till 12.30pm, and follows a usual Ultreya format, just on a bigger scale. We will then walk from St Paul's to the Cathedral, with plenty of opportunities for lunch on the way, or a picnic in the Cathedral grounds.

There will be a banner procession around the cathedral before the celebration Eucharist at 2.30pm, and the event will end about 4pm.

If you don't know Chichester, it is a historic cathedral city and the county town of West Sussex, located between the South Downs and the coast. Known for its well-preserved Roman roots, the city centre retains its original Roman grid pattern with four main pedestrianised streets—North, South, East, and West—radiating from the iconic Chichester Market Cross.

To book, go to the Chichester Cursillo website, <https://chichestercursillo.co.uk/> and find the Ultreya GB 2006 Chichester page where there's a link to the booking form. There's also information about accommodation, car parks, buses and cabs.

Have you considered being a Church Warden? By Trevor King

At the upcoming Annual Church Meeting of my parish church, St Mark's Scarborough, I'll be finishing 5½ years serving as a Church Warden. It has been an honour and privilege to do so, and a lot has happened in that time, but I couldn't have done it without the encouragement and support of my wife, Anna.

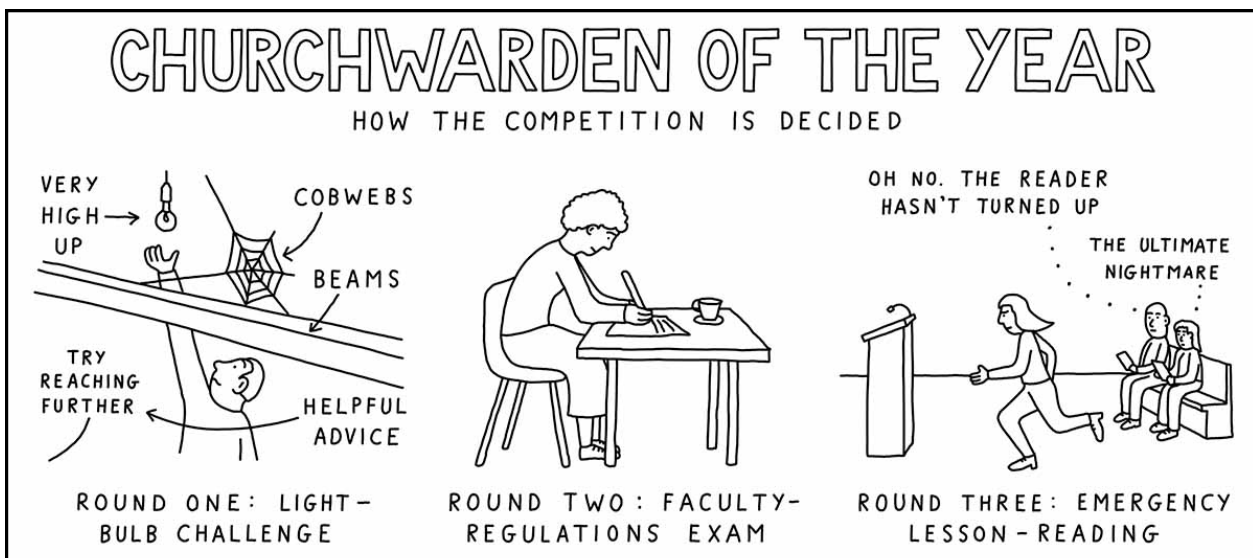
If you're not sure what a Church Warden is or does, they are a lay official in the Church of England (technically a bishop's officer) who is chosen by the parishioners to assist the clergy in the smooth running of the parish. Their duties typically include caring for the church buildings and their contents, ensuring the church is ready for services, helping to maintain order during worship, and acting as a link between the congregation and the clergy. Church wardens also have some legal responsibilities regarding the administration of parish property and finances, and they may be called upon to represent the parish in certain official matters.

Wardens are elected to serve for a year at a time, and there is no legal limit to how often they can be re-elected (some serve for decades), but most parishes set a limit of about 6 years so that people get a rest and new blood is brought in. I was elected in October 2020, when church annual meetings were delayed by 6 months due to Covid. St Mark's was in a vacancy period, our Vicar having moved on in the September, so I was immediately involved in the selection and appointment of our next Vicar. Little did I expect that we would have to go through the process again just 2 years later when she unexpectedly had to leave for family reasons. I was so grateful to have such a supportive team to see the parish safely through that unsettling time, until we were able to welcome Revd Mike Cansdale as our new Vicar.

There have been some very significant improvements made to our church and hall during this time, including creating a parish office, building a disabled access toilet, refurbishing the church hall (new boilers, kitchen and windows, roof repairs and decoration), resurfacing the car park and upgrading the audio-visual equipment in the church. And, of course, a lot of money was raised or donated to pay for it all.

From the outset I have seen being a Church Warden as a form of practical ministry, or Apostolic Action, doing the things that enable the spiritual and community life of the church to happen. St Mark's has recovered very well from the post-Covid decline that we suffered, and numbers are now growing again. The hall is used throughout the week and now some groups are meeting in the church when the hall is unavailable. And ultimately that's what it's all about, serving the people and the community.

St Mark's is going to be in very safe hands with my fellow Warden continuing, and several Deputy Wardens to assist, although no-one wants to be a full Church Warden just yet. I would urge anyone who wants to 'serve the church by doing' to consider volunteering to be a Church Warden at your own church. You'll have a great time!



York Anglican Cursillo Secretariat

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FUTURE 2026 DIARY EVENTS

***All Ultreya begin at 11.00am with Refreshments available from 10.30am.
You are welcome to stay to eat your picnic after an Ultreya.***

MAY 16th – Ultreya and AGM

St Andrew's, Sutton Park, HULL HU7 4BL

JUNE 6th – Creative Art Quiet Day: 10am -3pm £10 per person booking required

St Mark's Church Centre, 2 Bessingby Gate, Bridlington YO16 4RE

JULY 11th – Ultreya

St Mary's Church, Castle Rd, Scarborough YO11 1TH

SEPTEMBER 5th – National Ultreya GB

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL PO19 1PX (further details to follow)

SEPTEMBER 19th – Ultreya

Bridlington Priory, The Bolt, Bridlington YO16 7BN

23–25 October – York #35 WYDALE HALL

NOVEMBER 14th – Ultreya

Heslington Church, Field Ln, Heslington, York YO10 5ED

DECEMBER 2nd (Wednesday) – Advent Stillness

Thicket Priory, Thorganby, York YO19 6DE



OUR Grateful thanks to everyone who has generously offered to host an Ultreya



Diary note for 2027:

York #36 - Date change for our Cursillo weekend has changed to **11th – 13th June 2027**, this is because our usual weekend October dates have already been booked by the National BACC Committee to host a Cursillo Leaders Workshop in Yorkshire.





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!



Secretariat Vacancies

At our AGM on 16th May we will be seeking to fill the current vacancies on the Secretariat, that is, the Committee the manages York Cursillo. If you feel that you may be being called to serve in one of these roles contact Cheryl, our Lay Director. Email her on: cataylor1662@gmail.com Mob: 07514281588

- **4th Day Rep:** (*Planning Ultreyas and keeping in touch with and encouraging Reunion Groups*)
- **Additional Ultreya Rep:** (*Helping to organise Ultreyas*)
- **Palanca Rep (UK and International):** (*Sending palanca to other dioceses holding Cursillo weekends*)
- **Assistant Palanca Rep:**
- **Communications Rep:** (*Managing communications, e.g. material for the website & Facebook page*)

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of York Diocese Anglican Cursillo Newsletter. The next issue is planned for the autumn and items for inclusion should be sent to: 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:

Steve Baker, our Treasurer.

stephendsbaker@googlemail.com

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