

Autumn 2018



BACC Pages

The magazine of The British Anglican Cursillo® Council



What's the buzz? What's happening?

The atmosphere was buzzing as crowds of Cursillistas from all over Britain filled Chelmsford Cathedral on September 1 for our National Ultreya – smiling faces, enthusiastic singing with a rock band, inspiring talks and encounters, all making it a truly joyous occasion. See page 2 for a report by Dawn McDermott from Blackburn Diocese, BACC Rep for North West England.

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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.

NATIONAL ULTREYA, CHELMSFORD, SEPTEMBER 2018

Dawn McDermott writes: *What's the buzz? Tell me what's happening*", That's what I found myself singing (not out loud you'll be relieved to know!) as I entered Chelmsford Cathedral grounds before 8.30 am on a bright sunny Saturday morning on September 1st for our National Ultreya.



I had potted round from the hotel to the cathedral.

Although I was more than 45 minutes early for registration, I was pleased to see large banners confirming I was in the right place and stewards outside in their high-viz jackets awaiting Cursillista arrivals. I felt a sense of anticipation and then noticing the many pathways all leading to the main door, I quickly found myself imagining people all wandering in from different directions, all preparing for the arrival of Jesus, as in the song I was singing from Jesus Christ Superstar.

Once inside there was most definitely a *buzz*. Different groups of people were all going about their final preparations, some chatting, some busy setting out stalls, some sitting quietly. I quickly noticed a sea of red polo shirts – hooray, I could easily identify who was from Chelmsford and therefore to find out where to get a cuppa. I mooched around, both inside and out, taking photos (<https://photos.app.goo.gl/vi522BF1fk7KjxCQ7>) and generally enjoying the build-up as people arrived and spotted others they clearly hadn't seen for a while. Conversations began, hugs were shared and I noticed everyone wearing big smiles.



There were 230 Cursillistas and several casual-callers who wandered in and joined us at various stages. They clearly had felt the *buzz* and come inside to see what was going on. Each of those casual-callers was given a 'National Ultreya' bookmark. Depending on when they joined us, they will have witnessed some young, fresh, personalities amongst us – hooray.

The day began with a welcome, followed by interview-style chats with Trevor King, BACC President and then with Becky Dyball & Luke Bacon, who spoke about free places for ordinands and a youth day. A witness talk by Toyin Owedayo followed those, which then led us into floating group reunions. All groups were invited to share something of their discussions via microphone with all the rest The main points were: check the BACC website; add encouragement; Cursillo empowers us; faith must include action so go back and be a blessing to your church/parish. The morning ended with Mary, from Chester Cursillo, giving us a quick intro to Ultreya GB 2019 which is on 31 August. They are hoping to raise funds for this by producing and selling a 'bring and share' recipe book so they would welcome recipes you use for bring and share events.

Lunch was either spent having picnics in the Cathedral grounds, or inside the Cathedral to keep cool or some took a short walk into Chelmsford. All those who could, assembled at the Stone Bridge – a clear map was provided, thank you – for the Walk of Witness back to the Cathedral. It was an *interesting* walk, as there were some stalls set up in the middle of the pedestrianised route that needed negotiating. The glorious sunshine also needed negotiating when trying to take photos of the banners 😊.

Back at the Cathedral, Bishop Peter Hill led the Closing Eucharist. Although not a Cursillista (yet) I felt he could well have departed by singing "*What's the Buzz? Tell me what's happening*", having experienced Cursillistas in action. His sermon, from the Gospel, asked us "How far is your calling buried?" We were told to 'Act for Jesus' amid the chaos. We were given a blank sheet of A4 paper and the message 'Nothing. Be clear, clean, somewhat empty for God's calling on us. We are God's choice'. We were tasked with Origami as the sermon progressed which many didn't appear to have seen done before.

The day ended on a high, quickly followed by many swooping in to get the tables set up for the evening ceilidh. The Cathedral was going to be transformed and it was. Over 100 attended that and yet again, there was a *buzz* as they danced the night away! Well done Chelmsford and thank you.

“Cursillo is still the best tool God has given to the church”

Says Rev Cynthia Hebden, National Spiritual Director

who is retiring after her three years in post



It's hard to believe that I'm nearly at the end of my three years as National Spiritual Director and I am delighted that Rev Stephen Bowring has agreed to take over from me. Stephen and I go a long way back having been in the same diocese for many years. Stephen was Spiritual Director of Leicester Anglican Cursillo before me and was Rector of Shepshed and Oaks in Charnwood before me as well. This time I've gone first.

My final BACC meeting will be in May and we are going to be gathering in one of my old churches, in Shepshed, which is very central for most people, being just off Junction 23 of the M1.

I do hope that you have all had a wonderful summer enjoying that endless sunshine we were blessed with.

During August I moved to a new house. Two years ago, I retired from stipendiary ministry after a difficult few years, having lost my husband, had family issues and looked after my elderly mother, who died at the age of 100 in 2015. I was tired, and the parish was a large and demanding one. Where to move to was the question and I decided that I wanted to be near to the city and bought a little three bedroomed semi in the suburbs of Leicester. However, I found that retirement didn't suit me. I wasn't bored; I could fill my time; but I wasn't fulfilled. I found that I still had too much energy and a desire to be more involved. The God-incidence came along and I saw advertised a full time post looking after 6 country parishes near Market Harborough, for two years and I felt that my name was written on it. One of my parishes is at the end of the road going down to Launde Abbey.

I'm loving the countryside, which is not where I wanted to be. Everybody is so friendly and there is a lovely sense of community. Unfortunately, the churches are poorly attended, and prayers are needed for our rural churches that they might return to being the centre of the communities, rather than an ancient building.

My brief from the Bishop is to 'build up the laity'; one of my colleagues shook her head and confessed to not knowing how to do that. Of course, I know how to do it, but doing it in two years is quite a challenge.

I find it interesting to think that after near 40 years in Britain, Cursillo is still the best tool that God has given to the Church. Other movements and courses come and go but Cursillo is still, in my opinion, the best.and I've been on every course offered to me!

So, why are many dioceses struggling to introduce Cursillo into their Ministry teams; why are so many dioceses struggling to get participants; why are so many dioceses struggling to get clergy support? I think that we need to get back to basics. Cursillo is not just a machine for making clergy and authorised ministers; Cursillo is so much more than that. It's a movement which is intended to help and support us all as we continue our Christian journey.

We need to have confidence that what God has given to us is good and to look to Him to find ways of promoting and encouraging the use of Cursillo in our churches and in our dioceses.

Ultreya! *Cynthia*

Message from our President, Trevor King

“Here I am Lord, again!”

I've just got back home from another wonderful National Ultreya weekend, this time at Chelmsford, Essex. (A huge 'thank you' to everyone in Chelmsford Cursillo who helped put it on, well done). I haven't been to all the Nationals since I made my Cursillo 26 years ago, but every one that I have been to has been an uplifting, memorable occasion. But none more so than the first one I went to in Southwell Minster back in 1992, just 6 months after I'd been on Chester #10.



It was there that I heard and sang for the first time our unofficial Cursillo anthem, 'Here I am Lord, is it I Lord'. We didn't use it at our church back then and we hadn't sang it during my Cursillo weekend so I was unfamiliar with it. Those of you who know me will vouch that I love a good sing and I can pick up a new tune quickly so I had no trouble singing it lustily by the second verse. But as I was belting out the chorus my late wife, Steph, started digging me in the ribs. I looked at her and she said, "Have you actually read those words? If you really mean them think of the implications!"

Would I go if He led me? Was I prepared to hold His people in my heart, whoever they were? I believed the answers were 'Yes' so I sang on.

The message of my Cursillo weekend had really hit home: that if I really believed Christ had died to save ME, to pay the price for my sin, my unworthiness, then the least I could do was to find some way to serve him through the rest of my life. I had begun trying to work out what that might mean but I hadn't got very far. The words of the hymn suddenly made it clear to me. I had to be prepared to literally go, to up-sticks from our cosy life in Cheshire, and serve Him anywhere.

Over the next five years or so I looked at many possibilities; as I was trained in catering management I focussed on that area, applying for jobs at diocesan retreat houses for example. I remember going for interviews at Pleshey Retreat House in Chelmsford Diocese, Morley Retreat House in Derbyshire and Whirlow Grange in Sheffield, all unsuccessfully! As a couple we offered ourselves to Wycliffe Bible Translators who needed folk to run a guest house for them in Cameroon, Africa, but they turned us down. We were successful in getting jobs with a Christian outward bound activity centre at Harlech in North Wales but that all went wrong after 3 months and we were back at square one.

So I kept searching and finally the Lord led me to move my family up to Scarborough. I had a job with the main parish church setting up a Social Action Centre for those many folk living in B&B accommodation or worse in the town. It became known as The Rainbow Centre. I was overjoyed that I'd found the role in which I could use my organising and fund raising skills and experience to further His kingdom, and I loved nearly every minute of my time there.

Time moved on though, circumstances changed (Steph died quite suddenly and I later remarried, Anna) and after nine years running the Centre I developed work related stress and depression and had to leave. What was going on? I thought this was where you wanted me Lord, I prayed (shouted actually,

more than once!). How was I going to be able to serve Him now? Thankfully I quickly found another job but it had nothing to do with the church, it was bus driving. How was this serving Him?

It wasn't long though before I started to realise that what I was doing in my secular job was a form of service to God. I was driving the most precious of passengers, young children, to and from school and I was quickly dubbed the cheerful bus driver (not all of them are). My passengers during the day on the seafront were largely older folk and I could cheer them up and have a laugh with them, hopefully improving their day. And my elderly parents, who had moved to Scarborough, started to need more help and care which meant visiting them frequently. This, then, was to be my service for a few years.

Thanks to Anna I was able to take early retirement so I could once again offer myself to the Lord. 'Here I am Lord, what do you want me to do now?' I had already become more active in York Cursillo and had been asked to be the next Lay Director. Then we took on organising the 2016 National Ultreya. My own parish church had been struggling with the problem of replacing the aging church hall but plans hadn't got very far so I offered to take it on as volunteer Project Manager. (We now know exactly what we want to do, have all the permissions we need, and have raised over £100,000 so far. Still a long way to go but we'll get there.)

And then I was asked to take on this role of Anglican Cursillo National President!

Looking back over the last 26 years since I first offered my service to The Lord I can now see that I have needed to say 'Here I am Lord' many times as life circumstances have changed. I've had to be prepared to look around and be open to new opportunities and challenges as God chooses to give me new things to do, to 'go' where He sends me. I don't claim to have been obedient all the time, to have understood what was happening all the time, to have succeeded or got it right all the time, but in my weakness I have tried. Please pray for me as I continue to try to serve Him and pray that in future years, after I've finished being President and our new church hall has been built, I'll still be able to say 'Here I am Lord,

what do you want me to do next?'. I urge you to do the same. ULTREYA!! *Trevor*

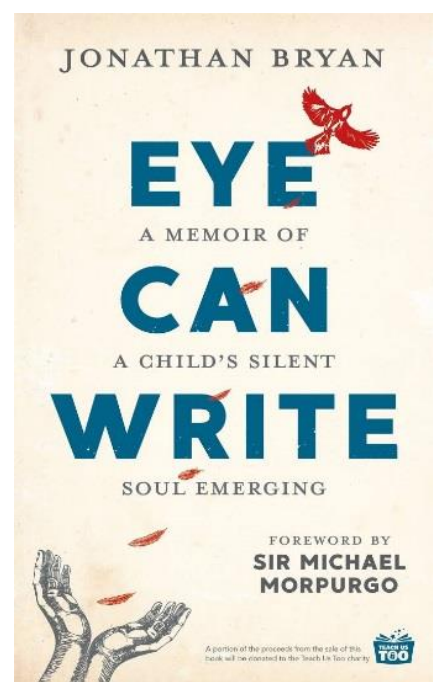
BOOK REVIEW: *Eye Can Write*

by Jonathan Bryan

ISBN 978-1-91160-078-7

Published by Lagom

Jonathan Bryan is an incredibly intelligent 12 year old boy who has severe cerebral palsy and is incapable of voluntary movement or speech. Yet he has written this memoir in his own words. This is due to the love and dedication of his mother who instilled in him a love of books, and after finding that Jonathan could communicate with his eyes and with help taught him at home. He also attended the local primary school and now attends the mainstream secondary school alongside his home studies. Love, faith,



dedication, perseverance and positivity flow from this book which I purchased because Jonathan's family live in our village. I shed tears while reading it and could not put it down. How can one so young, with such severe disabilities achieve so much? This book is inspiring; it is Jonathan's story. He is trying to help others like himself. Jonathan's words are so much more eloquent than mine - I recommend that you read his story.

Angela Smith

A 'Two-day weekend'

***Judy Craig Peck asks:
Is this the future for UK Cursillo?***

A few months ago BACC standing committee agreed that Cursillo Scotland would experiment with holding the 'Cursillo weekend' experience over a 2 day w/e, rather than over three days. This is already happening in USA and there were particular circumstances which meant it was the only viable option for Scotland to have their w/e, which had been cancelled due to snow earlier in the year.

I was privileged to serve on Team as Spiritual Advisor for Scotland #66. My perception is that most of the participants engaged well with the process and many seemed to connect with those on their table and with the Team, and I think God was at work. There was an excellent, well-staffed team who all worked very hard and co-operated very well to ensure things ran smoothly. The spacious venue with plenty of rooms for different activities really helped the flow and organisation of the whole event.

Interestingly most of the time there wasn't too much of a sense of time pressure. The packed timetable seemed to flow quite well, most of the talks kept to the very tight time parameters. The tables seemed to gel well, quite quickly and had a sense of focus on the task in the very limited discussion times. The time constraints meant there was only one artwork / feedback opportunity; in my experience the art work can be very good at opening up creative channels for folk and the feedback can be useful for everyone. There was necessarily very little space or free time in the timetable, and therefore limited time for reflection for the participants

A new look 2 day w/e has a lot of attractions, however I think the three day version has a sense of spaciousness, potential for a stronger community to build and more time for worship and personal encounter with God. Very careful thought needs to go into timetable planning, to a well-staffed, well briefed team who have made team formation a priority, are well prepared and have the venue well set up in a timely manner.

BACC standing committee decided to authorise two further pilots of the 2-day w/e in 2019. Scotland will undertake another one in the summer and Southwell and Nottingham have one planned for the spring; both will report back to BACC Standing Committee.

I think this could be a positive way forward, though I have reservations and it may be that a mixture of types of weekend may be possible, perhaps 2 and 3 day ones alternate years. If this turns out to be a new way of doing Cursillo then I would suggest the talk outlines should be revised to ensure the right focus for each talk is clear and leaves space for the personal aspect of the talks which is vital to bring them to life.

Judy Craig Peck

Three years in the life of the National Secretary

By Linda Ross

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?”

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?”

So... there I was, one morning in early February, sitting quietly at home, minding my own business, getting the papers ready for the next full day meeting of the BACC Standing Committee when Trevor phones and just drops into the conversation – “as you are due to stand down in May, would you like to write a short piece about your time as National Secretary for the next copy of BACC Pages” Well, I did make a start on it (honestly!) but various issues caused me to put it on hold and unfortunately it didn't make the last edition.



But... as we all know a good President never forgets! So at the National Ulteya in Chelmsford, when I felt a hand on my shoulder and heard the words – “you haven't forgotten that you said you would write an article for the next issue of BACC Pages, have you? I would like to publish at the end of September!” I knew my time had come.

So...in order to reflect on my three years as National Secretary I need to go back a bit further to explain how I actually got to do the job.

In July 2007 I took early retirement from teaching with no definite plans for the future, except to ‘make no definite plans for the future!’ I had always been actively involved in church life, as a member of Diocesan Synod, Lay Chair of Stockton-On-Tees Deanery Synod, a member of our church PCC, Social Committee etc., etc.... and a few months after retiring, when I was thinking about how God was acting in my life and what I was going to do next – a priest friend (I still consider her a friend!) pushed a Cursillo leaflet into my hand and said – “Here I think you should go on this - I think you will enjoy it! I will sponsor you”. So I thought oh... ok why not? In October 2007 I made my Cursillo on Durham #8 at Shepherd's Dene Retreat House in Northumberland. As the saying goes if I had known then what I know now...

To say the weekend was life changing is a bit of an understatement. Within a year I was (somehow?) on the Durham Secretariat as BACC Rep for three years, then I had a bit of time off and in 2012 I became Lay Director for Durham, during which time Durham Cursillo celebrated its tenth anniversary and also organised the BACC Pilgrimage to Durham. Another three years passed and then just as I was due to stand down as LD my dear friend Sally, who had recently become BACC National President somehow dropped into the conversation that she was looking for a secretary and the rest is history...

So...if anyone tells you that three years is a long time please assure them that it is not! I can honestly say that the time has flown by. It has been demanding (at times), it has been tiring (at times), it can be overwhelming and emotional but it has definitely been a joy and privilege to serve Cursillo nationally. I have visited many Dioceses from Edinburgh to Exeter and met and shared fellowship with many

wonderful and dedicated Cursillistas. The times leading up to Standing Committee and Full BACC meetings are always hectic, making sure that all the documents are out in plenty of time to BACC officers, reports written and everyone knows where they are going and what they are doing for the meetings. It has been rewarding to work with two excellent Presidents, Sally and Trevor. However one of the great things about serving Cursillo is that no one is expected to do more than three years in a role, unlike a PCC or Churchwarden commitment which all too often can seem like a life sentence!

A highlight for me, attending Standing Committee and full BAC Council days has been meeting so many people who have experienced Christ's love in such a special way at a weekend and who continue to grow in faith and love through the Cursillo method. Group Reunions are a time when we can support, pray and care for one another. For me Ultreyas are about encouragement for life's journey and I definitely feel encouraged and richly blessed when I have attended one whether in my own Diocese or further afield when visiting other Dioceses.

So... if you are considering taking up a Cursillo role locally or nationally please remember that – when God gives us a job to do, He wants us to know that it's not too big for us. He will enable us to do whatever he asks us to do. We can serve Him with confidence, knowing that he chose to put us into that situation because He knows that – with His strength – we can do it! That is why I begin and end this article with the words from that great hymn of encouragement and hope – “Will you come and follow me...” If you are thinking of sponsoring someone for a weekend please don't look upon Cursillo as a treasure to be possessed but as a legacy to be passed on. I was very moved by the Witness talk at the Ultreya GB in Chelmsford this year. It is often the small things that we do to serve God in our community and parish that can have the biggest impact on not only our life but the life of all those we come into contact with.

We all know that the Cursillo movement is underpinned by prayer and as Christians and as Cursillistas we are called to be Christ to others and to see Christ in others. One of the best things for me personally about being a part of Cursillo is the knowledge that we are all constantly being upheld in prayer and love by so many wonderful people. As we all know... Christ is counting on us! And we on him!

I would like to thank Sally and Trevor and the past and present members of Standing Committee and especially all of you for your prayers, for your care and for your support over the last three years. A huge thank you and good luck to Richard as he takes on the role of National Secretary for the next three years. May we all continue to encourage and support each other through our prayer, study and action.

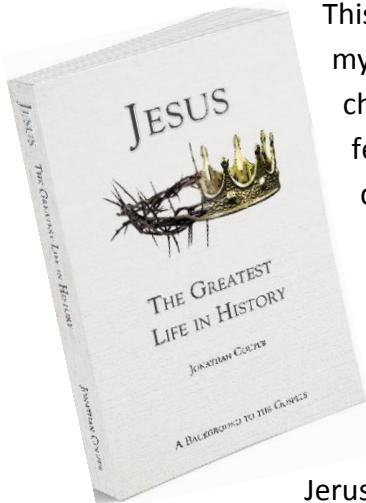
***Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?***



Ultreya! With love and every blessing...

Linda (Ross) *September 2018*

Jesus, The Greatest Life in History



This book is the culmination of a journey I started over a year ago when I asked myself the question, “What if the events described in each gospel follow chronologically?” There are events which occur in all the gospels (e.g. the feeding of 5000) and others like the rich young ruler or the Gadarene demoniac, which occur in three of the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke). Such events provide markers for other events described in the same gospel and so, from this place, I began to construct a timeline of the events described in the gospels. I was not prepared for the challenges and fresh insights this would bring me into the life of Jesus.

The book follows the gospel text and also includes descriptions of Jerusalem, Herod’s temple and the Galilee of Jesus’ day before the Jewish revolt in the mid first century (which changed everything). This was drawn from Josephus who was born in 36AD. I have also included recent archaeological discoveries which amplify and explain the gospel text. I have intended to make what is in the gospels 3D, so the reader can gain perspective, seeing the connections between different events from all the gospels and, as a result, begin to see the development and progression of Jesus’ ministry.

Alongside forming the timeline of Jesus’ ministry, I have sought to identify the months and years in which each event took place. I have used computer technology to translate the Hebrew calendar into the Gregorian calendar. I identified events which, from the text, show the exact year and month and from there I felt I could identify the time of year when other related events happened. This is less speculative than it sounds, and helps to add further colour to the events we read.

I decided to write the book in a style accessible to all. There is an appendix and footnotes for those who wish to find out the reasoning and sources behind what I have written, but my hope is that anyone could read it – including those who have never read the gospels or any commentaries. The book has been written from the heart, so purists of the English language will need to forgive me when the grammar or text is not perfect. Please look beyond these to the content in this book.

Not everyone will agree with every conclusion I have made, but I hope all will benefit from reading it. Readers of commentaries will know that discussion exists around most subjects contained within the gospels. I have sought to help by bringing a clear chronological account of the life of Jesus which I think resolves many questions raised in the past. I hope you enjoy reading the book.

The contents section at the start of the book contains specific details of the subjects within the 69 short chapters of the book enabling it to become a reference book when reading the gospels. With this in mind, this book could stay on your bookcase for years to come, being revisited when needed.

You can purchase the book on the internet at £12.99 from Gilead Books.
(www.gileadbookspublishing.com/store/991/Jesus).

It is also available as a kindle edition (via Amazon).

May you be blessed through reading “Jesus, The Greatest Life in History”.

Jonathan Couper

Are you having problems financing your weekends? Inviting paying guests can help fill empty places at your venue

As many of you will also experience, in order to have sole use of our beautiful week-end venue we, in York Anglican Cursillo Diocese, must guarantee a specific number of attendees. In our case the 29 people we must pay for is a number generally higher than we would expect to have with team and pilgrims combined.

On one occasion, when we had paid full board for 3 non-existent people, I remember thinking that this should never happen again.

So now we try to fill our venue in a couple of different ways.

- If funds are good and we are able to, or if someone else expresses an interest in financially supporting a Cursillo friend, we invite those who are “in a bad place” in one way or another. These must be Cursillistas and in the recent past we have had a couple, where the husband has dementia and the wife was unable to be on team because of this. Both came along in this new capacity. We've also had a lady who was fairly recently bereaved who needed a time away with supportive Cursillistas around her. And we have had others who have recently been ill.
- The second way we fill the spare places is to advertise them throughout our membership – asking people to pay the full amount and have a week-end away at Wydale Hall whilst the Cursillo week-end is going on.

So what do these “guests” do on their weekend? Well, after prayer and consideration we felt they should not go into the Conference room at all as this may make the Pilgrims feel rather swamped. They can however join any of the worship (so in the case of the lady with a husband with dementia, he stayed in bed in the mornings and his wife came down to chapel). They also join the rest of the group for tea/coffee and meals and sometimes meet in the bar. If the Lay Rector feels he/she would like them there they are usually invited to any skits on Saturday night.

So what do they do for the rest of the time? One gentleman came as a guest whilst his wife was on the team. During the day he explored the wonderful grounds and did quite a lot of sketching. Another lady was taught to knit by a fellow Cursillista over the week-end. Yet another spent much of her time writing palanca for team members and pilgrims that she'd got to know during meal times etc. Others read and walked and chatted and generally “chilled” out.

All seemed to enjoy themselves and none of team felt that in any way they “got in the way.” In fact it just filled the venue with even more love and prayer.

So if you want to help out the financial situation by inviting “paying guests” I really would encourage you. It is also another way of keeping the “guests” enthusiasm for Cursillo really alive.

Jan Watts, Lay Director of York Anglican Cursillo

Cursillo Leaders' Workshops (CLW)

Cursillo Leaders' Workshops events are designed to enable people to understand what Cursillo is about, how Fourth Day alongside the weekends are best developed in the dioceses. The main aim is to equip those stepping into various roles in the dioceses.

Who attends CLWs?

- All Lay Directors and Spiritual Directors should have done a CLW within the last 3 years
- It is highly recommended that those who are to be Observing Lay Rectors or Lay Rectors should attend a CLW early enough to help inform their planning for the weekends.
- It is anticipated that those who have roles on the Secretariats will come on a CLW to enable them to effectively develop Cursillo in our dioceses.
- Those who will be staffing on a weekend should attend so they understand more clearly what Cursillo is about and what it is trying to achieve.
- Some delegates attend who are just interested in finding out more about Cursillo and we hope this will encourage them to step into roles in the future.



The CLW held 28th-30th September 2018 was well attended with 18 delegates and from the feedback was thought to be enjoyable and successful; it took place at a new venue, Cold Ash in Berkshire, with simple accommodation. Although the public spaces worked well for the group there were some aspects of the venue that make it less ideal for the future.

The excellent team worked extremely hard with a mixture of experienced and new members. Some changes in the timetable, worship and talks all worked well. The feedback was very positive, including those who had previously done CLW saying they had got a lot out of it. In our post workshop discussion the team had some discussions about how the timetable and content might be revised and developed for the future.

If you haven't attended a CLW recently, think about coming – from the feedback we get we know that many delegates find it worthwhile and fun as well.

Judy Craig Peck

CLW Convenor

The word 'Cursillo' is written in a stylized, colorful font. The letters are thick and have a brushstroke-like texture. The colors transition from red on the left, through orange, yellow, green, blue, to purple on the right.

Celebrating 30 years of Cursillo in Scotland

1988-2018

On Friday May 11, around 36 of us from around the country gathered at our favourite location, St Mary's, Kinnoull for a party to celebrate 30 years from the gifting of Cursillo to Scotland from Wales. Needless to say, the sun was shining righteously on us! We learned how to use the electronic door locks in seconds, though a few took much, much longer, and we were delighted at the new layout. Even the old team bedrooms in the gods were beautiful, spacious and en-suite. No more queuing for toilets and showers - which seemed to delight all. The public rooms have been refreshed and refurnished, it is amazing.



A glass or two of wine with our meal, joyfully joined by the brothers, and we were soon raring to go. Duncan did his audition for News at Ten by acting as interviewer of star guests, Ann Engh from Scotland (plus USA) and Cynthia Hebden, National Spiritual Director, originally from Wales.



Both of them, with their husbands, were very involved in setting up our first weekends. Cynthia is currently National Spiritual Director and we were delighted that the National President, Trevor King had also joined our celebration. Ann and Cynthia described some of the people and events which led to Cursillo in Scotland. It was enlightening, uplifting and amusing.



We watched a short film which BACC has produced professionally. It portrays a good variety of people of different gender, age, background, some laity and some clergy. Trevor invited discussion and the film was very well received. It may be used to show Cursillo in a better, more realistic light than some previous portrayals. Scotland will decide later whether to use this film or consider producing a more local version.



Saturday morning saw us descend for breakfast followed by preparation for workshops.

There was banner making, song writing, a labyrinth in chapel and beautiful walks in the gardens or up Kinnoull Hill. The gardens were a joy on such a beautiful day and rekindled many happy memories.

Some of us also spent time in the lovely small Tribune chapel which overlooks the church – and you can see who is doing what in church!

The workshops reminded us of all the “creative” work we had done on weekends. On display were a mix of good skills and hilarious nonsense plus a sense of togetherness and community, as we tried our best to produce something which would be pleasing to us and our Lord.

After lunch we held the AGM and then finished with a wonderful Eucharist. Bishop Idris presided, assisted by several and it was so, so special. The singing in the beautiful church was absolutely magnificent, ably accompanied by David and Ken. No-one had any doubt that we were surrounded by love and the Holy Spirit which was shown in our closing anthem "Here I am Lord".

A truly wonderful weekend and many thanks especially to Duncan McCosh for bonding it all together and making it a worthy celebration.

Ultreya
George Jenkins





What a wonderful mixture of good people gathered for the party at Kinnoull to celebrate Scotland Cursillo's 30th birthday! Old friends, new friends and all happy to be there – to catch up on each other's news, to listen to Duncan's jokes and dreadful puns and a general feeling of togetherness.

The event I found most enlightening was the Labyrinth even though I have walked this on many occasions. I always find something new, amazing, thought-provoking and very spiritual.

I wound my way round long curves and sharp bends, often backtracking and ending on a different road. Visualising myself coming towards me. This made me realise that I can never see round the bend which can be scary. There may be danger or something unpleasant. On the other hand there may be wonder and delight. I just need to have faith to take another step.

Sometimes the bends are very sharp with the danger of skidding off – I have experienced moving off the straight and narrow which is not pleasant.

As in life some of the bends were long and gentle which was easy to walk. I felt I was getting somewhere.

Then to the centre where I could stand and just be with God, still and secure. But it is difficult to stay centred for too long – got to keep moving. I can go back to that centre anytime as He is always there for me.

Leaving the Labyrinth was faster and a sort of relief. One more step along the world I go.

C.Wight

Ultreya!



CHESTER NATIONAL ULTREYA 2019

Welcome from Chester Cursillo, we are busy with plans for the Ultreya next year and ask you to put the date in your diaries now.

It is being held on **SATURDAY 31ST AUGUST 2019.**

We are holding it all in the Cathedral which will be a wonderful experience.

Chester is a city in northwest England, founded as a Roman fortress in the 1st century A.D. It's known for its extensive Roman walls made of local red sandstone. In the old city, The Rows is a shopping district distinguished by 2-level covered arcades and Tudor-style half-timber buildings. A Roman amphitheatre, with ongoing excavations, lies just outside the old city's walls.

So a lot to explore if you wish to make a weekend trip.

We will not be holding any evening entertainment; the day will close with the Eucharist.

Please keep an eye on the BACC website and our own www.chestercursillo.org.uk. More details and how to book will be on there as soon as possible.

Prayer, Study, Action



Let us never forget.....GOD ANSWERS PRAYER

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. What is less known is how prayer played a part in bringing this about.

George V called the nation to prayer on 4th August 1918 for an end to the bloodshed. Totally unexpectedly one hundred days after this day of prayer the war ended! Exactly three months to the day - on the 4th November 1918 the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to the Armistice of Villa Guisti which heralded the agreement of Germany to an Armistice on 11th November 1918 thus bringing to an end a war which cost the lives of so many.

But there was also immediate answer to prayer. On August 8th 1918 German defenders surrendered en masse at Amiens. 15,000 German soldiers surrendering was unprecedented in German military history. There had been deployed that day a new allied attack (French, British, Australian and Canadian troops with more than 500 tanks). But over the next hundred days tens of thousands more Germans would also give up the fight. This is the same Germany that at the beginning of 1918 were thought to most likely win the war.



Lessons.

- God answers prayer! He who delivered our nation in the sixteenth century from the Spanish Armada after prayer was still answering prayers in the twentieth century. He will answer prayers in our century also!
- God indeed answers prayer, but when it happens we do not always see it in that way! Instead of thanksgiving at answered prayer, thousands embraced agnosticism and abandoned the churches whilst others forged a hedonistic lifestyle far removed from Christian teaching. Intellectual scepticism about the reliability and historic truth of the Bible added weight to a growing secularism in Europe.
- George V gave the nation the intercession platform for the prayers. It was not to be anything about how right or good Britain or its allies were. The prayers were rooted in the pain of loss, of a desire to end the bloodshed. It was this cry from the heart of parents, children, wives and family that gave power to the prayer. Sometimes a real desire to pray takes us to a different place that we did not anticipate, but that place becomes a place where we are heard by God and our prayers are effective in a way they were not in earlier years. The road to prayer for Britain of 1918 involved a path from pride to humility. It took time, but eventually this country got to a place where they could effectively intercede. Prayer also has a hope, however small, birthed in faith which enables the journey we need to travel, to be taken.

Jonathan Couper, York Cursillo SD



No Calories!

Written by Derrick Scott
(Chichester Cursillo)



Sung to the tune of 'De Colores'

No Calories, in Cursillo at least that is what we're led to believe,
No Calories, well if you think that is true then it's only yourself you deceive,
No Calories, in each gateau and pastry and succulent chocolate éclair,
And I think that it's fair and my duty of care to issue some advice and a warning.

So enjoy while you can, every woman and man,

'Cos your diet will start Monday morning!

Au Lait!!



Ed's note: Can you write another verse? All entries welcome! Please send in your suggestion to the address overleaf and the best will be printed next time.

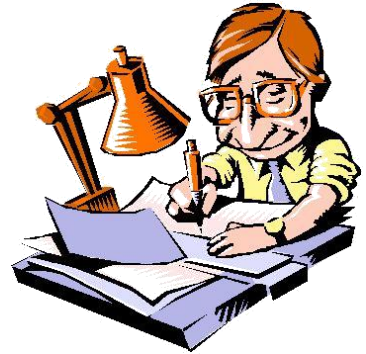
BACC Pages is the bi-annual magazine of the British Anglican Cursillo® Council.

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Thank you to all our contributors for this issue.

If there is anything you would like to contribute to the next issue, any thoughts, prayers, study recommendations or action tips that you would like to share please send to (preferably by email) to either of the following addresses:



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