



Chichester CURSILLO®

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007

This is my first newsletter since taking over from Mark as Lay Director at the end of April so this is my first opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to Mark for all his work for Chichester Cursillo. I am also very grateful to Mark for continuing to maintain the website www.chichestercursillo.co.uk. If you have internet access do keep an eye on the website for details of Ultreyas, Weekends etc.

These past few months have seemed busy for Cursillo in Chichester. In early July we had a very happy afternoon at our Picnic at Latchetts. Again we are grateful to Laurence and Rebekah Hardy for their hospitality – every time I go to Latchetts there is something new to enjoy and one always feels closer to God in those very special gardens.

September was particularly exciting – many of us travelled to Canterbury for Ultreya GB. An added pleasure for some was the sharing of the journey by coach. I think we all agreed that it was such a friendly, easy and comfortable way to travel – with in “flight” snacks as well! What a very special day – 522 Cursillistas from all over the country worshipping, singing and sharing fellowship. The Eucharist in the Cathedral was highly memorable; perhaps a little glimpse of how it might be in heaven.

Next year Ultreya GB will be in Carlisle on 6th September, too far for a day trip. But if enough people are interested we could organize a group from Chichester for the weekend perhaps? Do let me know if you might come; non-cursillista friends/partners would be welcome to join us and enjoy a weekend in the Lake District.

Close on the heels of Ultreya GB came our weekend #15 with 10 participants. Andrew Meredith and his team did a splendid job. Our prayers for the weekend were heard and the whole weekend was richly blessed. Praise and thanks be to God.

It is amazing how Cursillo has grown in Chichester – the first Ultreya GB I attended was at Canterbury in 2000, a few months after making my Cursillo when there were only a few of us. Like Topsy “it has just growed”. However, with growth come difficulties as well as blessings. The biggest difficulty, I feel, is communication. It was fairly easy to keep a small number of people informed of Ultreyas, weekends etc. but with now almost 200 people it is very different. Email and internet can be both efficient and economic to those of us who have up

to date email addresses but I know there are many who do not have this facility. The alternatives are word of mouth or the Post Office, which can be expensive, and wasteful if the information is not required. Of course, we are delighted that so many have now made their Cursillo and continue to be actively involved and there are others who, while not participating in events or group reunions, do like to be kept informed and who do pray for us. I am very anxious that no-one should be missed out. There are a few people who, having made their Cursillo for whatever reason, do not wish to remain involved; others move away and of course, sadly, some who die. We need to do some work on keeping our list up to date and finding the best way of informing those who want to be informed. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome.

As a start we have agreed to keep a record of those attending Ultreyas with the opportunity to record changes of address etc. It is something we should do anyway, particularly at the AGM when proposals are made and votes taken.

With a large number of Cursillistas it is also more difficult to get to know everyone. I hope to have the opportunity to meet with some of you over the coming months. I want to hear from you, to know your thoughts and ideas for Cursillo in Chichester and how I can best serve you as Lay Director.

God bless you, Ultreya, Ruth

Caritas 08 : 21st June '08. The Brighton Centre.

Hopefully you will all know about this day. The biggest gathering of Anglicans in Sussex for many years.

Do keep the day in your diary and remember to book your place. This will be a day to celebrate, to be renewed, inspired and encouraged. There will be all age worship, inspirational speakers, resources and more.

Chichester Cursillo has been asked to support with volunteers for a variety of tasks on the day – stewarding, serving etc. A real opportunity to tell others about Cursillo. If you can offer your services please let Ruth Hitchcox or Penny Mattocks know.

There is a link to Caritas from Chichester website if you want to know more.

Greetings to you all!

I am sure that many of you who came to the National Ultreya at Canterbury felt an amazing sense of God's love during the whole day; and what a wonderful opportunity it was to share the joy of the Lord with not just our fellow Cursillistas, but also with others who came for the service. The spontaneity of the worship together with the charisma of Bishop Stephen all combined to make it a very special day.

Two weeks later it was Chichester #15 Weekend – just as memorable but on a smaller scale. You see, God can work through the great events and the small events of life. It's all too easy for us to forget this.

It will soon be Christmas, but first we have the most beautiful season of Advent – often totally lost in the secular world, but always kept by the Church. Like Lent, Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ, not just at Christmas, but also his Second Coming. Every time we say the phrase 'thy Kingdom come' in the Lord's Prayer, we are thinking about our Lord's return. Every Advent this prayer takes on a greater importance as the Church invites us to prepare both for Christmas and for Our Lord's triumphant return.

But, will it ever happen? we may ask – will he ever return? – will God's will really reign on earth? The answer is 'yes' and the way is for us to look at the second part of the phrase: 'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'. Jesus gave us these words to ask that we might have his will done in our lives.

We need to live out the prayer as we say it – just like the saints did. God's kingdom was present in them because they lived in the light of his presence. They clearly experienced heaven on earth – and so can we!

Jesus never gives us anything that we cannot handle – he gave us God's power to do his work on earth – this the Holy Spirit. And Jesus made all this possible – yes the true miracle of Christmas is God's loving plan to bring in a new kingdom and draw us closer to him.

It would be good if during this Advent and at Christmas, we could offer the Lord an open and pliable heart. God wants to do great work in our Church, but it will only happen if we let him into our lives and try our best to do his will as it is done in heaven. Just simply ask Jesus, as you see him in the stable, in the Holy Sacrament, in your daily devotions, in your worship, to let his love shine in us so that we can fall in love with him just that bit more.

May the love and peace of the Christ-Child surround you and you loved ones.

With love

Fr Norman

Please pray for Les Rhodes as he assembles his team and they prepare for Chichester #16. Also that participants will come forward.



National Ultreya Canterbury – taken by Philip Boobyer

SWEATSHIRT ORDERS

Orders will be taken at our next Ultreya in February
Please see Jane Lumley

Our Next Weekends

#16 April 3-6 2008

#17 September 11-14 2008

Dates For Your Diary

2007/2008

Saturday 9th February Ultreya St. Thomas a'Becket, Pagham
Saturday 26th April AGM St Symphorian, Durrington
Saturday 28th June Picnic

Saturday 6th September National Ultreya Carlisle
Saturday 11th October Ultreya
Saturday 15th November Day of Deeper Understanding

YOUR SECRETARIAT

Lay Director Ruth Hitchcox 01903 765157
Secretary Julian Slotema 01243 372450
Booking Secretary Carol Wood 01903 248894
Fourth Day Rep Les Rhodes 01243 527217
Weekend Rep Susan Maund 01903 242105

Spiritual Director Revd. Norman Taylor 01903 693499
Treasurer Andrew Meredith 01403 733519
Palanca Rep Yvonne Austin 01903 267719
BACC Rep Norman Horsley 01903 690311
Publications Rep Catherine Gleadow 01903 723709

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