

BACC[®]

Autumn 2017



NEWSLETTER OF CHICHESTER ANGLICAN CURSILLO[®] REG. CHARITY No. 1099668

chichestercursillo.co.uk

MESSAGE FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR **TRUDI KEARSLEY**

Time seems to fly by and I can't believe that it is now 9 months since I was writing in the last newsletter. So what has been happening? Well most importantly of course we have now held the postponed Chichester #28 weekend. It has been said before that it is always difficult for all concerned when a weekend has to be postponed. The decision to postpone is not taken lightly, but sometimes circumstances are such that there is little choice. However I think that all those who were involved in any way with Chichester #28 will agree that sometimes the waiting is worthwhile.

The weekend was led by Ruth Hitchcox, with her enthusiastic team, which was as usual a mix of those who have staffed before, and those new to the experience. We were able to welcome 9 new pilgrims, most of who are now in group reunion in their own areas. The weekend was filled with the joy and love of Christ. Thank you to all who contributed to what was another wonderful Cursillo weekend.

Our next weekend Chichester #29, which will be led by Sue O'Neill as Lay Rector, is well into its planning and will run from 31st May to 3rd June 2018. Sue has been forming her team and we ask that you continue to pray for Sue and all her team as they make their preparations, and also that Pilgrims feel inspired to come forward to participate in the weekend. Bookings are now being taken for the weekend, with details available on the website, or available from the Secretariat.

Introducing pilgrims to the idea of Cursillo is the responsibility of us all, but I know that for many of us actually stepping out and talking of our faith can be difficult. However I am sure that you will all agree that our own Cursillo weekends were very special to each

each of us, and an important stage in our own pilgrimage journey. Surely if it means a lot to us we should want to share with others our thoughts, feelings and enthusiasm and to encourage others so that they too can experience the joy and excitement of growing closer to Christ. Almost, if not all, of the pilgrims on the last weekend had already either attended a group reunion or Ultreya (or both), encouraged to attend by Cursillistas who had been sharing their thoughts and experiences about Cursillo and what it meant to them over a period of time. Prospective pilgrims are gradually introduced to the idea and accompanied on their journey - and perhaps this is the way that we can help and encourage others.

Pilgrims Progress was held in October of last year and was a great success. Building on that the Secretariat decided to plan for, and arrange, Pilgrims Progress 2. Pilgrims Progress was arranged at very short notice, but for Pilgrims Progress 2 we have had time to consider and plan and we hope that we have managed to create a more cohesive programme, which links into the Diocesan focus of 'The Year of The Bible'. The weekend has been designed so that Pilgrims can attend for all or part of the weekend as they wish. It is proving to be very popular - so much so that all the rooms are now booked, with a waiting list in operation in case of cancellations. However there is plenty of space available if you would like to attend for a day/days or part of days. Booking forms need to be completed so that we can sort out meals/drinks etc. with the management at Wychcroft. If you would more information please contact me at laydirector@chichestercursillo.co.uk or via the website <http://chichestercursillo.co.uk/contact-us>

During the year we held a Clergy Taster Morning at the Bishops' Palace in Chichester. The idea of condensing the material from the Clergy Taster Day, held in 2015, worked well. The clergy that attended showed great interest and the discussions held gave some interesting thoughts and ideas which the Secretariat will be considering. We plan to hold further Clergy Taster Mornings annually, using venues in different parts of the diocese so as to make it easier for clergy to attend from our rather large and elongated diocese.

The Secretariat is in the process of organising the next Day of Deeper Understanding. Details will be circulated to all once finalised. The date is likely to be Saturday 20th October 2018, so if you are interested in attending please keep this date free.

Ultreya, *Trudi Kearsley*



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2017

September 23rd **Ultreya**
St Peter's Church Centre Ardingly, Haywards Heath RH17 6UN from 11.30am
October 27th – 29th Pilgrims Progress 2017 Wychcroft

2018

March 3rd **Ultreya**
St John the Baptist, Kirdford, coffee from 11.30
May 31st – June 3rd **Chichester #29**
Wychcroft
(Please pray for Sue O'Neill and her team, and for the Pilgrims who will be attending).
June 16th **AGM/Ultreya**
St Andrew's, Ferring, coffee from 10.30am
11.am AGM electing Treasurer and Pre Cursillo reps

October 19th – 21st Pilgrims Progress 3
Incorporating
Day of Deeper Understanding on Saturday 20th October

2019

February 21st – 24th **Chichester #30**

We are able to take bookings for both Chichester #29 and #30 now.

Chichester Cursillo Team – Contact them via the website

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Trudi Kearsley | Lay Director |
| Revd Keith Smith | Spiritual Director |
| Revd Pauline Lucas | Spiritual Director |
| Jane Lumley | Secretary |
| Catherine Gleadow | Treasurer |
| Sue Davis | Resource Rep |
| Keith Lelliot | BACC Rep |
| Maggie Williams | 4 th Day Rep |
| Revd Pauline Lucas & Stephen Lucas | Pre Cursillo Reps |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Judy Short | Palanca Rep |
| Keith & Jan Lelliott | Ultreya Reps |
| Andrew Meredith | Booking Rep |
| Ruth Hitchcox | International Palanca |
| Judy Pullin | Merchandise |
| Sue O'Neill | Newsletter |

CURSILLO LEADERS' WORKSHOPS

2017 -2018

20th - 22nd October 2017

Shallowfield House,
Stone, Nr Stafford

23rd – 25th March 2018

Shepherd's Dene, Riding Mill
Northumberland

28th – 30th September 2018

Purley Chase, Athertone
Warwickshire

A Cursillo Leaders' Workshop is for all who want to know more about Cursillo. All are welcome, lay or ordained. Those who have or may have a leadership role should attend. It is an opportunity for sharing in worship & fellowship, hearing talks on the following and discussing their content with people from other diocesan / provincial movements:

- **The Purpose of Cursillo** including: Cursillo and the fundamentals of **Christian** Living, The Church and the place of the movement
- **Forming a Movement** including: The Fourth Day First, The Groups – Reunion and Ultreya, Spiritual Direction
- **Making the Movement Work** including: The Servant Community, The Pre-Cursillo, The Authentic Three-Day Week-end, The Cursillo Leader
- **Looking Ahead** Taking the information and ideas back to the diocese and sharing them with the leaders there.

For further details:

CLW Administrator: Paul Thacker. Chapel Cottage, Chedburgh Road, Chevington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5QU. Tel: 07909 730973 E-mail:

admin@anglicancursillo.co.uk

MY WITNESS (HEARTACHES & BLESSINGS) – VERA BROWN

My life with Christ began (as far as I can remember) when I was five years old and my mother took me to the local Sunday School. There I learned about Jesus and sang 'Yes Jesus Loves Me'. The word 'love' was a word not spoken in our house of quarrels and violence, so I felt comforted and truly felt that Jesus did love me. My mother was Catholic, my father was C of E. They were only allowed to marry providing all children were brought up as Catholics.

Out of five children I was the only one who went to church – WHY?

In my early teens I would walk three miles to church to take communion, then three miles home for breakfast – WHY?

Here I felt safe and that God was on my side and he would not let me down.

After being Head Girl at school (a sympathetic headmistress) I was offered a job (I'd left home by then) at Fortnum & Mason in London, but the fare was too dear so I got a local job at Richard Shops – WHY?

I know the answer to that one – because of that job I met my future husband and we have just celebrated our Diamond Wedding! God was at work here I know!

When my father committed suicide and I wasn't allowed to take part in the service (this was a long time ago) I decided the Catholic faith was not for me and changed to the Church of England. We got married in that church and after eleven years (not for the want of trying) our beautiful son Jason was born. What a Blessing! Thank you God! At 4½ he died of cancer! – WHY? Heart breaking!

People questioned my faith 'Where is your God now?' and I must admit I began to wonder that too.

One day I was walking through Kingston where I grew up and saw a tramp sitting under the railway bridge. He was a big man, filthy and unkempt and I thought 'why are you here, my little boy isn't?' I walked away feeling sad and despondent. Something stopped me in my tracks and I knew: that poor man was there to teach me compassion for others amid my own grief.

I felt we had to try and make something good come out of this awful situation. With my trust in God fully restored I prayed for guidance to show us how we could make this happen. Missing the arms of a loving child we applied to several adoption agencies and were finally accepted by Dr Barnardos – but we had to wait two years.

So we decided to foster, which we did (and that's a very long story). We were considered older parents by now and time was running out. But our prayers were answered. Just as the two years were up, a little boy came up for adoption. Thank you Lord! What a blessing! But God had still more work for us to do as we took a little girl out of hospital to foster and finally adopt. God was working his purpose out. Helping at the Sunday School and taking the children to church continued to strengthen my faith.

After Jason died the Vicar introduced us to another couple who had sadly lost a child (there was no other help in those days). My new friend said 'You need to do something for yourself now' so we enrolled in a guitar class – what a blessing! So here I am in my 83rd year still strumming for charity! God is still working through me and I am excited to know what he has planned for me.

Leukaemia and breast cancer came my way but I know the Light of God surrounded me, the Love of God enfolded me and the Power of God protected me. So now wherever I am, God is. He was with me when my brother died and my young sister's husband was killed within 24 hours, leaving two small children. My sister went to work in a charity shop and came to sing in my group.

I do believe, when we suffer loss of any kind, we will not be left alone and Christ will be nearer to us then than at any other time. 16 years ago I came kicking and screaming to live in Worthing. It was hard to leave my family and friends behind and my guitar group of fifteen years! But God provided me with another guitar group and singers and a wonderful church family – a true blessing!

Once a month I go and play to the people with learning difficulties (what a joy that is) at Worthing Baptist Church (SHINE). I'd like to finish my talk with the words of a hymn we sing there:

He lives in me.

He lives in me.

I know that Jesus lives in me.

He lives in me, I know it's true that Jesus lives in me. AMEN

Vera Brown



Easy Fundraising

Do you shop online? Why not do it through easyfundraising.org.UK and raise a free donation for Chichester Cursillo every time you shop! It is easy to use and costs you nothing.

Simply use this link

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chichestercursillo/> and register to support Chichester Cursillo.

Gift Aid

Thank you to all those who donate using Gift Aid, this enables us to reclaim the income tax you have paid on the donation. Last year we received over £600 through Gift Aid.

With the forthcoming changes on tax on savings income we appreciate that some of you may no longer pay tax, in this case please let me know that you are no longer eligible for Gift Aid in order that I do not erroneously claim it.



Feeling a little 'left out'...
Unsure as to what's going
on in Chichester Cursillo?
Then let's do something

about that!

The new Chichester Cursillo web site is YOUR resource - our aim is to keep it right up to date with:

NEWS – EVENTS – ULTREYAS – WEEKENDS – PRAYER – WHO'S WHO – AND LOTS MORE...

If you are willing to 'Sign up' we promise NOT to share or pass on your details or your email address to anyone else... and we promise NOT to fill up your inbox with endless emails. What we will DO is keep you right up to date with all that's going on in the Chichester Cursillo community by sending by email our eNews bulletins, but ONLY when we have news to tell you!

Simply visit the web site at chichestercursillo.co.uk follow the 'Sign up' instructions at the bottom of the home page, click on the 'I'm not a Robot' button then click send. After this you will receive an email which – if you are happy to proceed – you need to click on the link which will confirm your wish to register.

If you would like help with your 'Sign up' please do let Stephen know by sending him an email to:

webadmin@chichestercursillo.co.uk

Ultreya! **Stephen (Chi#16)**

THE ROLE OF THE 4TH DAY SERVANT COMMUNITY COORDINATOR

As I enter my second year as fourth day servant community co-ordinator, it seemed as good a time as any to explain a bit about myself and what I do.

I spread myself around in my worship and spiritual life! My main focus and time is spent at St John the Baptist church in Findon helping Helena build the profile of the youth in that parish and all things that come with that. I also spend much time organising and helping with fund raising opportunities for the parish which consists of 3 grade 1 listed buildings!

When I am not in Findon, I work with Beverley in Findon valley again with the youth, trying to link the two parishes in youth work.

I am the only Cursillista in the valley but we have several in Findon. I am hoping and praying that Holy Spirit will guide me to grow our presence in both parishes.

I made my weekend in 2015 (Chichester #26) with Trudi as my lay rector. (I will leave her to tell you what that was like!) As so many have said before me, it changed my life. My spiritual life grew and at a rate of knots! I felt (and still do) uplifted and able to 'hone into' the Holy Spirit so much better and therefore tune into what God was providing for me. I had the feeling that I had joined the biggest group of loving, praying friends. WOW! Group reunions are a source of regular prayer and reflective support which I value greatly.

Those of you, who know me, know I am a 'doer!' I am happiest and most fulfilled when I am doing things for other people. So I guess that joining the secretariat (I feel that I was caught off guard when I said 'yes!') has turned out to be one of those decisions that I have never regretted. I sometimes feel pummelled as God is shaping this particular clay pot but hopefully the end result will be watertight and useful.

As the fourth day servant community co-ordinator I am trying to continue and enliven the wonderful work that you all do out there in your various communities. The secretariat has revamped the role and what its responsibilities are to a more logical load. Having someone to be there for the area reps to have constant contact with is essential for the process of communication to grow and flourish.

As with any form of communication, it has to be a two way process, so please feel free to contact me, either yourself or via your area rep should you need to.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Ultreya in September or the Pilgrim's progress weekend in October.

Prayers and blessings, Ultreya,

Maggie Williams



ULTREYA GB 2017

At the beginning of September, I together with a nine other Cursillistas from the Chichester Diocese travelled north to join about 500 Cursillistas from all around the country for this year's National Ultreya. This year the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham had volunteered to organise and host the Ultreya

The Ultreya was scheduled to be held in the morning, using the Minster School, followed by lunch, and culminating with the Eucharist in the afternoon at the Minster. Southwell is a small town, so the ample parking provided at the school was a bonus for all of us who had travelled by car, and the facilities provided by the school more than met our needs.

!0.45 saw us all gathered into the large hall, having already had the opportunity to meet other Cursillistas, chat, shop and enjoy coffee. Following the welcome from Mark Wilkinson, Southwell and Nottingham Cursillo Lay Director, short notices and a period of very enthusiastic singing we were invited to form small groups for Floating Group Reunions. The witness talk was then given by Linda Tucker.

Our hosts had risen to the challenge of feeding so large a gathering in a small town with limited places to purchase refreshments, by offering a lunch package, which most of us had pre-booked. The tasty jacket potatoes, with a variety of fillings, and a dessert were all served very efficiently, allowing us more time to chat and socialise with fellow Cursillistas.

Following lunch the excited groups of Cursillistas gathered behind the colourful banners ready for our procession through the streets of Southwell, (which had been closed to traffic) to the Minster. On arriving at the Minster we waited in the sunshine for the signal for us to go in to the Minster.

There had been a wedding in the Minster, and they had not quite finished having their photographs taken. I think the wedding guests were a little taken aback to have to walk out down the path which was lined with Cursillo banners and Cursillistas (indeed the bride and groom seem to have departed by another route).

At last, we were asked to enter, filling the Minster for the very special Eucharist service which followed, presided over by The Rt. Revd. Paul Williams, Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham. The service ended, we were invited back to the Minster School for refreshments before departing. A wonderful day spent with fellow Cursillistas.

An event of this size needs a great deal of planning and effort for it to run smoothly, and I would like to thank my brothers and sisters in the Southwell and Nottingham Diocese for all their hard work which meant that the day was such a wonderful experience.

Next year's Ultreya is to be hosted by the Diocese of Chelmsford. I already have the date – September 1st – in my diary, and look forward to seeing some of you there. Photos will be on the website soon.

Trudi Kearsley



ULTREYA GB 2018

ULTREYA GB 2018 will be hosted by Chelmsford diocese in September 2018 and details of the event will be available soon <http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk>

Events for 2018

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Rev'd Keith McNicol, Spiritual Director of Canterbury Cursillo, is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2018. Keith has a wealth of experience and the planned itinerary looks really interesting. Please click on the link below which gives full details and booking information. Keith will be delighted to hear from you should you have any questions or queries. <https://darwin.eecsoftware.com/client/sites/mccabe/brochures/1113%20McNicol%20Tiberias%20first%2010%20days.pdf>

PRAYER BOARD

Please pray for:

All those affected by the recent Hurricanes in Texas and Florida, and the Caribbean

For those affected by the Earthquake in Mexico

For the family and friends of Morwenna Chattaway (Chichester #24) who passed-away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday 3rd September

For Shirley Witcombe wife of Dennis and family and friends of Dennis Witcombe who passed-away peacefully at St Wilfrid's Hospice Chichester on 23rd July

Sue O'Neill, Staff and Pilgrims Chichester #29

For Trudi Kearsley in her role as Lay Director

Cursillo Weekends at Home and Abroad

Pray that God will put the name of someone on your heart that you can tell about Cursillo

Remember you can use the prayer board on the website for all prayer requests

<http://chichestercursillo.co.uk/new-prayer-net>

Judy's Prayer

Judy read this out at a recent Ultreya, and has kindly agreed for us to include it in the newsletter, I am sure most of us can identify with the situation and make use of it when frustrated with our computers!

As I sit here in front of screen,
And enter into world's unseen,
Keep my focus on you, dear Lord,
Impatient frustration I can ill afford.

Keep me centered calm and still,
May my work be to your Will,
And if I sense your call to go,
May I, with pleasure simply flow.

Along with you and stop and stare,
Knowing that 'later' is always there,
If you are in my work, I'll know,
Your glory, from it, will be on show.

Judy Short



We would love to hear from you if you would like to include something in the newsletter, please send to sue@media-events.biz, and please include a picture if you can.

