



Psalm 84:5 (NIV)

A movement of the Church encouraging people to know, love and follow Jesus ...

Lay Director's New Years letter 2021.....

I wanted to begin by wishing you all a very happy "New Year" and indeed I do...but the words seem a bit premature at the moment..... What with a Covid variant on the loose, vaccines only just beginning to be made available in our area and Brexit .....I think I will hold off from that greeting for the moment and bring our focus back to the joy of Christ's birth we have just celebrated. Immanuel – God with us and indeed He is! Always has been, always will be and if there is one thing we can hold onto as 2021 opens its doors, it is that God NEVER breaks his promises and He will come again in glory and wipe away all the tears..... Until then.....we have family, friends, church family and each other to help us keep that sense of joy and stay on the path. Christ lives within us. May we take that light wherever we go and share it with whoever we meet.....

I hope you have all received and read (!) the Cursillo autumn newsletter?? In December of 2020 your secretariat had a meeting, mainly to discuss communication and Chichester #32. Communication has been even harder during these last few months as we haven't been able to meet up and for those among us who are not "on line" the concern is greater. With that in mind we will be taking a closer look at how we communicate and hopefully highlight the areas and indeed individuals who are feeling bereft of information. If you are feeling this way or know of anyone in your area who is please let me know.

After much discussion at the meeting and listening to Liz Cooper's thoughts with regards to Chichester #32, the decision was made to postpone it until the autumn of 2021(October 21-24th) We all felt that April would be too soon to hold a "normal" weekend as restrictions would still be in place, resulting in reduced numbers in both staff and pilgrims and social distancing would mean a complete rethink of what can be done or more importantly, what we would have to leave out/change. Liz and all of us want to hold a normal Cursillo 3 day weekend for our pilgrims....to do that, we need to wait. We were also very aware that confidence to be together again needed to be restored, especially amongst the older members and that can only happen when we have all been vaccinated. I pray these tough decisions will become fewer and fewer as 2021 unfolds. I have been in touch with both the Lay Director and Spiritual Director of Southwark to inform them. Like us they are saddened by the decision but all Cursillo dioceses are in a similar situation.

On a more positive note.....I have invited our new BACC's President, Beth Roberts and our National Spiritual Director, Revd. Stephen Bowring to our Pilgrim Progress weekend in July 2021( July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>) and I am very happy to tell you that both have accepted! Both of them will be a part of our Day of Deeper Understanding(DDU). Revd Stephen has staffed on a "concise" 2 day weekend and I have asked him to talk to us about his experience of such a weekend. Our last DDU was held in October 2018 and these DDU's are primarily for our new Cursillistas as these offer you a chance to learn more about Cursillo on a deeper level.

We hope to be able to increase your knowledge of what the core message is, looking especially at how this is expressed over your weekend in the flow of the weekend. So I encourage all those of you who attended Chichester #30 and #31 to come, but it is a valuable day for all of us.

Pilgrim Progress weekends are very popular as they give us an opportunity to be together at Wychcroft – to share fellowship, worship, laughter, fun and of course food! It is also a time to learn together - the theme of this year's has yet to be decided. Following the year we have had I think it will be a very welcome and popular event! Please pray that by July we will be able to “do this”. Trudi Kearsley has very kindly offered to help us put this weekend together but more help is always valuable. If you would like to be involved please get in touch with me or Trudi. Trudi can be contacted via the website as she is our Palanca Rep. We will begin to put an agenda together in the next few weeks, so please do let me know if there is anything you would like us to consider. If you have a gift/idea and would like to suggest a “workshop” which you would like to facilitate then please have a chat with me.

In the past we have had painting with a spiritual theme, Celtic morning prayer, crafting, Julian meeting of silence, the making of bracelets, making Palanca, colouring books for quiet time and reflection, singing - to name but a few ! Here are a few pictures from previous PP's to whet your appetite and to hold on to the memories of what has been .....and will be again!!  
Happy days.....



You will be notified when bookings can be placed for the PP4 and DDU and I will endeavour to keep you all updated about what is going on, as the year unfolds.....

In the meantime.....

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.  
Put on the full armour of Light so that you may stand firm,  
Girdle your loins with truth  
Put on the breastplate of righteousness  
shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace  
Take up the shield of faith  
Wear the helmet of salvation and hold the sword of the spirit (the word of God)  
(Ephesians chapter 6)

with love and a big Cursillo hug

Judy Short