



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

JANUARY 2023

Message from our Lay Director

Judy Short

Having had the mildest and wettest November we were plunged into winter temperatures in December, with little time to prepare! I felt the same about Advent and Christmas!!

When I wrote my last letter it was on a very hot day and we were all enjoying meeting up outside.

Since that letter many of us travelled to London to attend the National Ultreya which was held by Cursillo in both London and Southwark dioceses.



It was a wonderful day with about 250 Cursilistas taking part from all over the country. The weather was perfect for our Walk of Witness from St Paul's Cathedral, over the Millennium bridge to Southwark Cathedral. There was a short service at St Pauls where all banner holders were asked to gather together before leading everyone out of the cathedral.



After lunch we had the Ultreya which included two witness talks, one from each diocese, and very powerful and interesting talks they were! It was quite humbling to hear what these two fellow Cursillistas were doing for Christ.

In September we held out 5th Pilgrim Progress weekend at Wychcroft. Once again this weekend was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who came. I would like to thank Trudi for her wonderful input and work in putting it

together and to all those of you who took an active role over the weekend. These weekends only happen because of all of you, many of whom were willing to help before and during the weekend.



These weekends are another opportunity to come together to share fellowship and fun at Wychcroft, but we also try to have a focus for each weekend. This time we chose to use Saturday to take a closer look at the structure of Group Reunions.....we had examples of all 4 talks from a weekend which make up Group Reunions Piety, Study, Action and Group Reunion. I would also like to thank our BACC Area Rep, Billy Hollis for



joining us and giving s a talk about BACC on the Sunday morning.

In October we had another successful and very blessed joint Cursillo weekend, led by Irene Adams. Let us continue to hold our eight new Cursillistas in prayer as they continue in their 4th day. During this weekend we trialled shorter talks (with the introduction of shorter Cursillo's, running from Friday evening to Sunday late afternoon, it was necessary to shorten the length of all the talks) This worked very well and will now be implemented into future weekends. Charlotte Hillier from Southwark will be leading the next weekend, to be held in May this year. Please hold her in your prayers as she chooses her team and begins her preparations.

Our last Ultreya occurred in November at Holy Trinity church Cuckfield. This was our first Ultreya to be held there and we were well looked after by Jane Coan, Jo Kells and their team. I have a feeling we shall be returning there in the future!

Belinda Maclean gave the Witness talk which covered her work at the Imara Uganda Education fund in which she has been involved since the very beginning. A copy of her talk is set out later in this newsletter. On the 17th December we had our last Camino of the year, held at St Peter's church in Ferring. This was well attended and included one or two possible future pilgrims. Even Santa Claus and one of his elves joined us!!

Maggie had been very busy making all sorts of lovely gifts which were for sale on the resource table.

Maggie had also prepared some quiz questions and some "pitcherwits" for us all to do which got us in to competitive groups!!



The Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach, on Saturday 25th February. We may start a bit earlier so we can finish a bit earlier so we can get home before it is too dark. A poster with more information will be circulated nearer the time but do put the date into your diaries....

I know many of you have been poorly over the festive season – so many bugs have and still are flying around – but I do hope and pray you are all on the mend and may 2023 unfold gently for each one of you

With love
Judy

Keep walking
with Christ



As usual there was much laughter, fellowship and of course cake!



Cursillo Weekend Report – CHICHESTER #33 with SOUTHWARK (OCTOBER 2022)

Arriving at Wychcroft on the Thursday afternoon, there was a real excitement amongst staff about the Weekend to come. The pilgrims all settled quickly with a few feelings of apprehension.

Table leaders and staff team from both Chichester and Southwark, created a welcoming atmosphere. We had slightly shorter talks which gave more time for thought, prayer and much appreciated free

Our next “get together” will be an Ultreya at

time for both staff and pilgrims. The SA's Helena Buque and Michael Maine provided us with some wonderful meditations. We were led in some rousing singing by Derrick on guitar. As always, the times of silence helped us all to listen to what God is calling us to do?

Also have to mention the 'very special' knitted gifts from Helen which were such a nice surprise for everyone!

At the end of the weekend, pilgrims and staff shared some poems and readings. It was lovely to see so many friends at Wake up and Clausura in the chapel at Wychcroft on the Sunday.

All left Wychcroft with a renewed strength in the Spirit of Christ and ready for their 4th day.

I look forward to leading the Southwark#43/Chichester Weekend from 11th – 14th May at Wychcroft.

Charlotte Hillier



Witness Talk – 19th November 2022

Fourteen years ago, in the autumn of 2008, a woman priest, Rev. Hellen from northern Uganda, joined a Cursillo weekend at Wychcroft.

I wasn't part of that weekend apart from attending a service at the end. Rev. Hellen had a beautiful voice and she sang a song about the plight of the people of northern Uganda, people who had suffered for 20

years at the hands of the LRA rebels. They abducted around 60 thousand children and forced them to be child soldiers and to carry out the most terrible acts of cruelty. Around a million people were displaced and living in camps, little huts close together with nowhere to grow crops and they were farming people. People were starving. Some sold their daughters to the soldiers so they could have money for food. In around 2007 the rebels left and deeply emotionally wounded people began to rebuild their lives. There were a great many orphaned children and damaged children who had been abducted but had survived and were returning home.

A couple of months passed after I had heard Rev. Hellen sing and I didn't think much more about it.

About this time I had the sense that I wanted to do some charity work abroad, maybe for a few weeks or even months. I started to Google possibilities but was quickly overwhelmed by the number of possibilities there were. But then I had the sense that so many things I read were leading me somewhere. Words seemed to keep taking on some significance:

- Commit to the Lord whatever you do and your plans will succeed. In your heart you may plan your course, but the Lord determines your steps.
- Jesus calls me and sends me that I may do his will.
- God said to Abraham "Go from your country to the land I will show you ... I will bless you so that you will be a blessing."
- May we cherish our little ones. They are born out of and into God's eternal love.
- David Adams prayer – Good and gracious God, grant to our eyes wide horizons.

Increase our vision to see beyond the obvious and into the depths.
Let us walk ways that are new
Where we do not know the destination.
Let us journey in joy and in hope among so many troubles and dangers.
Surround us with your protection and peace that nothing separates us from you and your abiding love in Christ Jesus.

About this time a letter came from Rev. Hellen to Ruth Hitchcox. Some money that had been collected at the Cursillo weekend for Hellen was being used to support very poor children with grants to enable them to attend school. So many children were dropping out of school because their families couldn't pay the fees.
Did God want me to go to Uganda? Perhaps I could organise sponsorship for a few children from Hellen's organisation and help them to go to school. Before I went to bed I prayed that God would make it clear if this is what he wanted me to do.
Next day I opened a new page in the Tearfund prayer diary that I used, and there were 2 weeks of prayers for the people of northern Uganda who were suffering so much and abducted children returning home. Wow! Tearfund is a worldwide organisation and at just this moment they had honed in to northern Uganda!
I wrote to Ruth who was excited because she had received a letter a week before mine from a Cursillista, Norman Horsley, with very similar thoughts to mine. Ruth introduced us and in 2009 I received a warm invitation from Hellen to spend time with her in Uganda and Norman began to put together plans in the UK that would enable us to support some 5 children from Hellen's organisation, Hands of Hope Ministry.

I went out to Uganda in April 2009 for 5 weeks. This was an incredibly difficult visit. I met some amazing Christian people. I visited churches that were so full that the services had to be relayed to the crowds outside who couldn't fit in. Once we were in the north, Hellen had arranged for me to visit three or four individuals, families and groups – church groups, mothers' Union groups, schools etc every day. Everyday I listened to stories of trauma and hardship, I met orphans and children who had been abducted, I listened to children sing about and act out the saddest events that made up their everyday lives. I was not aware of what a burden of people's suffering I was carrying until I reached the point of near exhaustion. I was little more than half way through my time in Uganda and I felt I couldn't go on. I had nothing more to give. I began to plan to go to a tourist spot for a few days and then come back but a program of visits had been organised and I would be letting a lot of people down. Then I experienced God's presence in a way that I never had before. I felt that Jesus was saying to me, "You cannot carry the weight of all this suffering. I know about it and I have taken it on my shoulders." I felt a sense of peace as I handed it over to him and I was given the strength to go on. After this visit, Norman, his wife Jackie and I and a small group of supporters, including some from Cursillo, paid grants towards the education of about 5 of the most needy of the Hands of Hope Ministry children. After quite a short while we were their main supporters paying towards the school fees of about 21 children.

In 2011 we had reached the point where we needed to register a UK charity and we became a charity in our own right and so Imara-Uganda Education Fund was born. For

a while, we continued to support the existing children from Hellen's organisation, but we started to give full scholarships to 7 Imara-Uganda scholars mainly at first from a village, Abia, where a terrible massacre had taken place during the time of the LRA rebels and there were many orphans. The number of scholarships rose to 30 this year and included 2 originally from Hellen's organisation. Abia Primary School was in a state of dilapidation and we built and stocked a resource centre there with library, IT room, a hall and a small group room.

God has blessed us in many ways. A Cursillista, Sylvia Walker, joined me on my 2nd and all subsequent trips to Uganda and became part of the team. When Sylvia and I have been in Uganda on our many visits we have felt particularly close to God and aware of his guiding hand. For me there was another very significant moment back home. I was walking in a field behind my house when the word "Disability" came into my mind completely out of the blue. I felt that God was saying something. My mind raced ahead instead of waiting for clarity from God. Should we build a primary school and include a unit for children living with disabilities? In my mind we built a school – I planned it, what it would look like and how it would operate. Somehow it didn't seem right and time passed. We did have 2 disabled children amongst the Imara scholars. The school that one of them attended was unable to meet her needs so through contact with another organisation that operates for children with disabilities, we learnt of a school that might be suitable for her. When Sylvia and I were next in Uganda we were taken to the school. It was a Christian primary school that catered for children in the community but it also took a large number of children with disabilities, particularly visual impairment, from

surrounding areas and there was a great sense that the children were loved. It was remarkably like the primary school I had pictured in my mind. It was already there so my plans were not God's, but I did have a very strong sense that God had led us there and had a plan for us there. When we got back to where we were staying I asked Sylvia what she thought about it and she also had a strong sense that God had led us there. We have begun to build up a relationship with the headteacher and teacher of special needs, we renovated their library and we provided the school with 12 Braille machines, and some Bibles and books. We are now supporting the education of 8 children with disabilities, mainly visual impairment amongst our scholarship children. Most attend or have attended this school. So, these children have their primary school but the nearest secondary school to cater for blind children is a 2 hour journey away and many children drop out of school after primary with insufficient education to enable them to lead really fulfilled lives. There is land next to the primary school available for a secondary school but we are very small and the cost of building it is beyond us, but God loves these children and has a plan. We are praying and actively seeking our part in it. Many times on this journey I have felt God telling me to put things into his hands, to trust him, to follow his lead. I am not always very good at that. I am surprised he doesn't lose patience with me.

The journey has not been easy. There have been huge challenges along the way but we feel a great sense of pride in children who overcome their personal challenges, get into colleges and train in teaching, midwifery, engineering, clinical medicine, hairdressing, tailoring etc. as these children have done and it's been a privilege to help them.

I would like to finish by telling you about a picture that came into my mind during a quiet time a little while ago because it could be for anyone here as much as for me. I was climbing a very steep and stony mountain. Jesus was walking ahead of me. When the mountain became too steep and too stony he turned, reached for my hand and helped me. I often bring that picture back into my mind when facing a challenge.

Some people here already receive our newsletters but if anyone else would like to, please give me an email address. Being a member costs nothing and you receive news about what we are doing. If anyone feels they would like to be more involved then we need you. Please talk to me or get in touch.

Belinda McLean
lay.director@chichestercursillo.co.uk



Welcome to Camino – Come And Meet INviting Others.

The Camino de Santiago is the way of the gospel walked by St James. It is a spiritual way, a joyful way, and encouraging way. What better name to give our new venture ... an afternoon for meeting up and bringing those who don't know too much about Cursillo to ask questions and enjoy the company. It is not an Ultreya. It is just a time for getting together to drink tea and eat cake and sing some songs. There is time for chatter and laughter – or quiet one to ones if that is what you need.

We started these back in February last year and they have been quite a success. It is so valuable being able to meet with others who are on a similar journey – God never meant for us to travel alone – and if you are unable to make an Ultreya, there is something for

you to look forward to. Bring those who you are walking along side in their journey, to give them a glimpse of what it is to be a Cursillista.

We try to hold them every other month, and usually hold them around the Worthing area, but there is no reason why we can't go further afield so if you would like to offer your church or hall for a Camino, then let me know. I am happy to lead the singing, but equally happy to sit back and enjoy others leading.

Our next Camino is on March 25th at Pagham. Come along and bring a friend along with you – they don't have to be Cursillistas remember!

We would like to have a Camino in May, but being mindful of the Southwark led weekend, we would need to avoid 13th and also try to get as many to Wake up and Clausura as we can.

I am very excited to tell you that we are holding a Camino in July at Wychcroft. This will be a day event and cost £35 per person, to include morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. What a wonderful opportunity to take those thinking about making their Cursillo to Wychcroft or for you to return for the day. The agenda is still in the making but arrival will be for coffee (around 10:30) after which the morning is your own to do as you please – there will be things on offer to do – and then after a Wychcroft lunch, we will have our Camino finishing with tea and cake before departing for home. If you would like to come, then please let me know and I will send out more details soon.

I look forward to seeing you at our Ultreya in Shoreham in February or our Camino in March in Pagham.

Maggie Williams

We remember our fellow Cursillistas who passed away last year

Ruth Hitchcox	Stella Carter
Pat Plumpton	Hilary Ferries
Veronica Boobyer	Sybil Bladen
Anne Moran	

May they rest in peace, and rise in glory

Secretariat

Lay Director	- Judy Short
Spiritual Director	- Revd Helena Buque Revd James Cooper
Secretary	- Janet Birchall
Treasurer	- Sue Bowman
BACC Rep	- Linda Tempest
PreCursillo	- Brian Spicer
4 th Day	- Jackie Harwood
Booking Sec	- Maggie Williams

Non-Secretariat Roles

Webmaster	- Stephen Lucas
Communications	- Catherine Gleadow
Resource Table	- Maggie Williams Irene Adams
Ultreya Rep	- Janice Lelliott
Equipment	- Trudi Kearsley
UK Palanca	- Trudi Kearsley

Joining the Secretariat

At our AGM in June we will be looking for a new Booking Secretary and BACC Representative, as Maggie and Linda will have completed their three year term of office. If you are interested in taking on either of these roles please speak to one of them or to Judy Short.

2023 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February 25 th	Ultreya at Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach
March 3-5 th	CLW at Wychcroft (fully booked)
March 25 th	Camino at Pagham
March 25 th	1 st Training Day – Southwark #43/ Chichester
April 22 nd	2 nd Training Day – Southwark #43/Chichester
May 11-14 th	Southwark #43/Chichester at Wychcroft
June 3 rd	AGM and Ultreya at St John the Baptist, Kirdford
September 2 ⁿ	National Ultreya, hosted by Canterbury
Oct 26-29 th	Chichester#34/Southwark at Wychcroft
Nov 18 th	Ultreya at St Symphorian's, Durrington

Easy Fundraising

Do you shop online? Why not do it through [easyfundraising.org.UK](https://www.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

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