

Chichester Cursillo 2000 - 2025

June 14th/15th saw a gathering at Wychcroft to celebrate 25 years of Cursillo in the Chichester Diocese.



Our first weekend Chichester#1 was held March 23rd - 26th 2000. Cursillo was gifted to Chichester by the Canterbury Diocese, and its formation didn't happen without a great deal of hard work being undertaken, behind the scenes, to set up the structure and support needed to ensure a successful programme.

A small steering group was formed to undertake all the necessary tasks, source a venue, organise equipment, co-ordinate a programme - and so much more. It was also necessary to build on the existing number of Cursillistas (those who had already become cursillistas in other diocese) to enable a staff group to be formed for the first weekends. Individuals were encouraged to attend weekends in other Diocese - some Canterbury and some in Exeter, so as to

June 2025

ensure that there were cursillistas in Chichester ready to take the lead.

The first weekend took place at Wychcroft - the Southwark Diocesan Retreat House - a venue that has been used for all our weekends and which so many of us have come to love. Staff for that first weekend came from Canterbury and Chichester Diocese, with the weekend being dedicated to St Barnabas, with 13 pilgrims in attendance.

Since then weekends have been occurring regularly - we aim for two weekends a year, but sometimes it has been to have only one. Over this time 355 pilgrims have attended coming from parishes across the Diocese.

A small team came together about a year ago to plan for the Celebration weekend, with Maggie Williams being asked to co-ordinate the event. The resulting weekend was a joyous occasion, with much laughter and so many memories.



25 Cursillistas booked to stay for the full weekend (all the rooms were occupied), with others joining for Saturday, Sunday

or both. We were very pleased to welcome Helen Taubman, BACC President, who joined us for the whole weekend, and very grateful for her thoughtful and informative contributions to the weekend. There were cursillistas attending from Chichester #1 and Chichester #35.



The weekend was an opportunity to share fellowship, worship, prayer, singing and memories, and gave us all a chance to look back and remember and reflect on how far we have come, and to give some thought to the future and how we can keep growing.

A fairly informal programme had been arranged to allow as much sharing of memories and thoughts as possible, and to give everyone the opportunity to relax and celebrate, and to enjoy the peace of Wychcroft. We were blessed with some beautiful weather so were able to make full use of the outside space as well.

This was a Cursillo weekend so of course there was a mix of creative activities with simple craft activities set up for all to try, alongside prayer stations, and worship and of course singing.

Stephen Lucas, aided by Maggie Williams, encouraged us all to sing - and sing we did - visiting old favourites and learning some new songs as well.

And of course a weekend at Wychcroft would not be complete with some mention of the food, which as usual was all we could wish for and more. Our thanks to Richard and Wendy and all their staff for looking after us so well.



There are so many things to remember when you look back over 25 years, some good, some funny, some sad. In the hall which was of course full of butterflies and rainbow coloured decorations, we had the opportunity to look at so many pictures from past weekends, and also to look back through the Register recording so many names. It gave us all the chance to remember with gratitude all those who have contributed so much to Chichester Cursillo.



Before concluding the weekend with a Eucharist in the chapel we took the opportunity to give some thought on how we can build on what we already have - how can we continue to grow.

The general feeling was that each of us has some part in this as the best way to spread the message and share the love and joy that we have experienced is by word of mouth - make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Jesus. It was also felt that sharing some of our thoughts on the website could be beneficial and to this. Stephen is suggesting that some of our experiences could be shown on the website to inspire others.

As part of the celebrations to mark 25years, there was a new addition to be found in the chapel. This beautiful lectern fall was designed and created by Annette Thomas. I am sure you will agree it is a beautiful addition .Our grateful thanks to Annette for all that went in to creating this.



A great deal of work went into making the weekend and I would like to record thanks to all the team who made it possible. My thanks also to all those who created all the little touches that always make our weekends so special - to Helena Buque, Irene Adams, Annette Thomas, Linda Pudney, Sue Bowman, Stephen Lucas and of course Maggie Williams.

Chichester Cursillo is 25 years old and we owe a huge debt of thanks to all those who have worked so hard over those 25 years to first bring Cursillo into Chichester Diocese and then make it what it is. Thank you.





Thank you all for making this a wonderful weekend.

Trudi Kearsley
Lay Director

Sharing your Weekend Experience

Stephen has suggested that we could make use of some of our thoughts and memories of what difference our weekends made to us. We are not sure how we will use these yet, but if you would like to share your thoughts and impressions we will look to use them.

These should be short messages reflecting your experience. Please add your name and weekend number and send to Stephen.
webadmin@chichestercursillo.co.uk

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

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

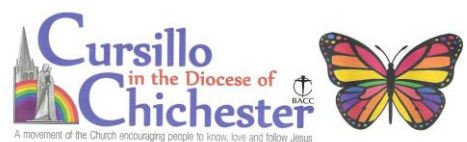
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July 12th Camino 2.30 – 5.00
at The Church of the Good Shepherd,
Shoreham Beach

September 6th
National Ultreya in Durham
GB Ultreya –
[Info and bookings](#)

October 11th
Ultreya
at St Thomas a Becket Church,
Pagham

May 29th – 31st 2026
Chichester #36
Please keep Annette Thomas, Lay Rector, in your prayers as she begins to form her team for our first Two-Day weekend.



New! **CAMINO**

Come and meet inviting others

Saturday 12th July

2:30pm till 5pm

Church of the Good Shepherd
Shoreham beach
BN43 5LF

Bring a friend, relax and enjoy.

Refreshments provided.

All welcome

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

Then let's do something about that!

The 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' e, 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)**

Cursillo
in the Diocese of
Chichester
A movement of the Church encouraging people to know, love and follow Jesus

11th Oct 2025

Ultreya Gathering:

- St Thomas à Becket Church
Church Lane, Pagham PO21 4NU
- Coffee from 11 am
- Eucharist 12 noon
- BYO Lunch 1pm
- With Fun, Fellowship
Singing & more to follow!
- Tea & Cake before we leave
at around 4pm

For more info please talk to:

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Your Secretariat.

Lay Director	Trudi Kearsley
Spiritual Director	Helena Buque
Secretary	Mo Hatzfeld
Treasurer	Linda Tempest
BACC Rep	Irene Adams
Bookings Rep	Annette Thomas
Fourth Day Rep	Maggie Williams