

Lay Directors Report 2020

I have been associated with Leicester Anglican Cursillo for the whole of its 26-year history, but strangely I have never before served on the secretariat. It was whilst I was taking part in the Diocesan Journey in Faith Course in 2019, and an evening specifically set aside to explore individual vocations that I received a phone call from the Rev. Jane Wood asking me to serve as the Lay Director of Leicester Anglican Cursillo. The call interrupted our meeting and I hastily switched my phone to silent, only listening to Jane's message after the session had ended..... It was one of those God instances

Since taking up office as your Lay Director I have endeavoured to facilitate and encourage my fellow cursillistas and we have successfully run Ultreyas, a Day of Deeper understanding and LAC 47 with Richard Tabberer as Lay Rector. We joyfully welcomed the participants from Lac 47 to our fourth day community in early 2020, and we had lots of plans for the rest of the year.....

The year has however been unique in so many ways, and not what any of us had expected or anticipated. We now know how to conduct Zoom Meetings, and sadly LAC 48 had to be postponed until 2021, but as a 4th Day Community we are still operating, and we will face up to new challenges, whatever they may be.

It might be dispiriting to see, weekends, national conferences, training days and events cancelled, but our disappointment is short lived. The world is still rotating and in the short term we have our work cut out encouraging one another and serving our local church communities in new and exciting ways. Cursillo has yet to play its part in the Bishop's initiative "Shaped Together by God", but as individuals we contribute to much of the church's work throughout the diocese and I am sure Cursillo will have a contribution to make.

So, to all members of the Fourth Day Community, may I thank you for all that you have done, all that you are doing and all that you will do. My thanks especially to The Rev. Dr Ed Bampton for his service to Cursillo as Spiritual Director, and to Julie Rock who has lived up to her name being an invaluable aid to the secretariat fulfilling the role of secretary, roles they both relinquish at the forthcoming AGM.

So, let us encourage one another as we look forward. The delay in being able to host our AGM has meant that the Advent season is almost upon us, and what better time is there for us to look forward. We have 2 Cursillo weekends planned for 2021 in April and October, so it is time to start praying for the participants and encouraging others to book their places.

In the New Year the secretariat have agreed to look, along with the Lay Rectors at how to deliver Cursillo in an ongoing Covid Environment, and they are also keen to look at ways of making Cursillo more widely accessible, and how to enable it to reach parts of our Diocesan community who have yet to hear of Cursillo, whilst ensuring that cost is not a barrier to an individual attending a weekend.

So as we pray for those caught up in the Covid pandemic and remember with gratitude those in the fourth day community who have died this year, as we a servant community step out with confidence in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Ultreya!

Adrian Trotter