

# LEICESTER ANGLICAN CURSILLO

## REPORT to BISHOP MARTYN, for 2019-20

This report covers the period from the last AGM, June 2019 to the AGM of October 2020.

In common with many other organisations our AGM, due in June 2020, was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Leicester Anglican Cursillo have however continued to meet and the main events/meetings since the AGM in June 2019 have been:

- A fully booked Weekend at Launde Abbey (with another cancelled because of the pandemic),
- Training for staff for the Weekend,
- Eight Ultreyas, 4 in person across the diocese and 4 on Zoom, attracting Cursillestas from across the Diocese,
- Eight meetings of the Secretariat, 4 in person and 4 on zoom,
- A 'Day of Deeper Understanding'.

### WEEKENDS:

LAC continues to enjoy fully booked, successful Weekends at Launde Abbey. LAC#47 took place at the end of January 2020 with 15 participants and 19 staff. The high number of staff reflects the importance we place on participants being well looked after and comfortable, accompanied on this experience as faith is shared. A Cursillo weekend is not a retreat, although there are times of reflection and silence, but a time away from our everyday lives with opportunities to listen to a series of meditations, talks and discussions, each of which builds on what has gone before and also to share and laugh together. As the weekend progresses, we find that a real sense of being a Christian community and fellowship naturally develops. The whole weekend is underpinned with the prayers of the wider Cursillo community and the calm influence of the Holy Spirit. We find that Cursillo weekends have a profound effect on the on-going Christian pilgrimage of both participants and staff. It was a privilege to welcome Archdeacon Claire to our closing service on the LAC#47 weekend, underpinning the growing relationship between the Diocese and Cursillo which we value.

We were also due to hold a weekend in August this year. Jan Harding the Lay Rector for the weekend had gathered her team and was ready to begin with training days when we had to make the difficult but sensible decision to postpone the weekend because of the Covid situation. We have however transferred our booking with Launde to April 2021 and also have a subsequent weekend booked for October 2021 as we now have more people wanting to make their Cursillo than we have places which reflects the health of Cursillo in the Diocese. We will be very grateful for the attendance of yourself or one of your representatives at our closing Clausura service at these weekends. The dates will be:

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021.

## ULTREYAS:

Before lockdown we held 4 Ultreyas across the Diocese which were very well attended. This is an opportunity to gather, pray together, encourage one another and hear inspirational witness talks. We also like to sing! When lockdown happened we decided to try an Ultreya on Zoom just to see if it would work. The response was so positive we were asked for more and had other Dioceses asking about how it worked. Like everything else Ultreyas on Zoom are different to what we are used to, however the break out rooms give the opportunity to split up for small group reunions which are invaluable to help us keep in touch with God and with one another. The downside of not travelling around the Diocese is perhaps that we don't have the opportunity to introduce Cursillo to new parishes which is something we will need to address when thinking ahead in the future.

## SECRETARIAT:

Secretariat have continued to meet, either in person or more recently on Zoom. Under the very able leadership of Adrian Trotter as our new Lay Director we have discussed a number of different areas relevant to Cursillo, including: communications and the website; presentations to Deaneries; where Cursillo is not representative in terms of geography and ethnic origin and whether it is becoming exclusive in terms of cost; linking in with Kairos prison ministry – a version of Cursillo for prisons; VAT exemption for weekends; membership of Secretariat. We have also continued to support Lay Rectors as they plan for weekends. The job-sharing Spiritual Director role continues to work well. This year we thank Revd. Jane Wood and Revd. Ed Bampton for their commitment to the role and welcome Revd. Clive Watts, and at the AGM Revd. Noel Colley.

## DAY OF DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

The post-weekend team organised a Day of Deeper Understanding in October 2019. This was an opportunity for those who had more recently been on a Cursillo weekend to find out about the ongoing ministry and work of Cursillo across the Diocese.

## FINANCE:

LAC is almost wholly faith funded and at present the finances are sound. We have been able to continue to support some participants and some staff who would not have otherwise been able to attend or staff on Weekends.

## THE FUTURE:

Whilst a Cursillo weekend is often the beginning of people's journey with the movement, the focus is really about the 'fourth day' which encourages us to keep on going on the Christian journey through prayer, study and action. Covid has impacted us in some respects but there is a depth to LAC which is proving important at this time as we have relied on local networks and relationships to offer support and pastoral care. We have enjoyed a more settled year where we have come together as we look forwards with hope to whatever the future might look like, always with the unchanging hope for tomorrow found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We thank you Bishop, for your continued pastoral care and interest, it is greatly appreciated.

Revd. Alison Iliffe on behalf of the Spiritual Directors of Leicester Anglican Cursillo.