



Leicester Anglican Cursillo

REPORT to BISHOP MARTYN, for 2020-21

This report covers the period from the last AGM, October 2020 to the AGM of June 2021.

This report covers a shorter than normal period, due to the delay of the 2020 AGM in light of the COVID 19 pandemic. Some Activities of Leicester Anglican Cursillo have been curtailed during this time as a result of that pandemic. However, we have continued to meet and remain active in the diocese utilising Zoom. The main activities since the AGM in October last year have been:

Six Ultreyas on Zoom, attracting Cursillestas from across the Diocese.

Four Zoom meetings of the Secretariat.

A 'Taster Session' held on zoom for those interested in Cursillo but not already involved.

WEEKENDS:

LAC#48 was due to be held in August 2020 and was postponed to April 2021 in light of the COVID 19 pandemic, with LAC#49 booked for October 2021. Due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic and necessary restrictions on public gatherings, these dates have been postponed once again. LAC#48 is now booked for Thursday 28th October to Sunday 31st October 2021. A further weekend, LAC#49, is arranged for Thursday 19th May to Sunday 22nd May 2022, a further weekend will hopefully be planned for February 2023. Diocesan representative's involvement with the Clausura is appreciated and valued by all involved, and we look forward to your attendance in October, and that of Archdeacon Richard in May 2022.

LAC continues to enjoy successful Weekends at Launde Abbey, reflecting the strength of the Cursillo movement within the diocese. 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.

ULTREYAS:

The word "Ultreya" originated from the Camino de Compostela where it was a cry of encouragement from pilgrim to pilgrim, roughly translated as "onwards and upwards - keep on going". That sense of encouragement has been very welcome during the pandemic. Since the last AGM we have held six Ultreyas on Zoom which were very well attended. These have provided an opportunity to gather, pray together, encourage one another and hear inspirational witness talks. The Zoom sessions have been hosted by the Harborough Anglican Team, as they hold the necessary licenses and have access to in-house music and worship songs and hymns - and Cursillestas do like to sing! We are delighted to have been able to share our learning with other diocese as they have sought to take their Ulreyas on line. We look forward to being able to meet together in person again soon and to resume travelling around the diocese and introducing Cursillo to new parishes.

FOURTH DAY COMMUNITY RETREAT DAYS:

We are planning a new initiative following the COVID 19 pandemic. We are holding two one-day retreats at Launde Abbey on 2nd and 3rd June, with the expressed intent of encouraging members of the Fourth Day Community in their continued discipleship, particularly as we emerge from the restrictions and difficulties of the pandemic. Fourth Day, refers to our continued journey of faith, calling and discipleship following the three days of a Cursillo weekend, perhaps best described as the Cursillo way of referring to 'Everyday Faith'. The days will include a mixture of Bible study sessions and meditations, worship and prayer exercises and time for quiet reflection and personal prayer. These days will be led by the Spiritual Director team and the Lay Rector and we particularly welcome the video message you are recording for these days, and we look forward to welcoming Rev'd Liz Rawlings in her role as Discipleship and Vocations Enabler

SECRETARIAT:

Secretariat have continued to meet, on Zoom during the pandemic, under the very able leadership of Adrian Trotter as our Lay Director. Following the retirement of Julie Rock from the secretariat we are actively seeking a new secretary but as yet nobody has stepped forward to take on the role of Secretary. As an interim measure Madeleine Wang has agreed to takes notes of our meetings and circulate papers. The secretariat have been pleased to launch a new LAC website <https://leicestercursillo.org> and are continuing to develop our communications. A small working group have been

established to look at accessibility to Cursillo in terms of geography and diocesan spread, diversity of ethnicity and other factors among Cursillestas and whether it is becoming exclusive in terms of cost.

We have also continued to support Jan Harding as the Lay Rector for the next planned weekend. The Spiritual Directors for Cursillo are Rev'd Alison Iliffe, who will be due to stand down in September 2021, together with Rev'd Clive Watts and Rev'd Noel Colley.

DAY OF DEEPER UNDERSTANDING:

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. As we have been unable to hold a Cursillo weekend during the COVID 19 pandemic, no Day of Deeper Understanding has been held during this period.

FINANCE:

LAC is almost wholly faith funded and at present the finances are sound. The bank balance as of April 2021 was £21,580.56. Debe Dean is the Leicester Anglican Cursillo treasurer. We continue to support some participants and some staff who would not have otherwise been able to attend or staff on weekends. We are grateful for a further generous donation which enables us to offer a bursary fund for the Fourth day Community retreat days.

BRITISH ANGLICAN CURSILLO COUNCIL (BACC):

Following the recent death of our dear friend Derek Forster a who served as our representative attending the British Anglican Cursillo Council we have co-opted Jacqui Johnson to serve in this role alongside the Lay Director. A National Ultreya is planned for 4th September this year at Norwich Cathedral.

THE FUTURE:

Last year Rev'd Alison Iliffe wrote "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." This has remained true as the pandemic has continued to impact all of our lives. Through local group reunion and ultreyas our 'fourth day' encourages us to keep on going on the Christian journey through prayer, study and action, this has become increasingly important to many Cursillestas during the last year. We look forward to being able to meet together again in person and the safe relaxing of restrictions. We hope and pray for all that God has for the future of LAC, confident that whilst we may not know what the future holds, we can trust the one who holds the future.

Bishop Martyn, we remain grateful for your continued pastoral care and interest, which is greatly valued by the Secretariat and Cursillestas. We assure you of our continued prayers for our Bishops and for the wider leadership of the diocese, particularly as we seek to continue to be shaped by God together.

Revd. Clive Watts, on behalf of the Spiritual Directors of Leicester Anglican Cursillo.