

Lay Directors Report 2022

We continue to live in strange times but after a number of deferments Lac #48 eventually took place in October 2021 and has been followed by Lac #49 in May 2022. Some degree of normality has returned with Ultreyas taking place in Leicester Cathedral, Fenny Drayton, Smeeton Westerby and Thurnby Lodge as well as those held on line by zoom. We have found new and effective ways of being Cursillo and it has been a joy to welcome 28 new cusillistas to our 4th Day Community.

The National Ultreya, which in 2020 had to be abandoned, took place on 4th September 2021 at Norwich Cathedral which I was delighted to attend, and I have also attended two Cursillo Leaders workshops, the first as a participant at Shepherds Dene in Northumberland, and the second as a member of the Staff team at Wistaston Retreat Centre in Crewe.

It has been so beneficial to meet with secretariat members from across the country to discuss the challenges which Cursillo has faced in a post Covid environment, and the message coming from the Cursillo Leaders workshops is very much around the importance of “nurturing the 4th Day Community”. Perhaps in the past we have been so focused on the Cursillo weekend itself we have failed to support our 4th Day community as we should, and the weekend only lasts for 3 days whereas the 4th Day is for the rest of our lives.

Cursillo held a National Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, attended by 5 members from Leicester and again it was helpful to meet with Cursillistas from other diocese and listen to their experience and discuss the challenges we all face. We heard a very lively discussion led by Sheffield Cursillo around the challenge of encouraging younger participants. Amongst a number of initiatives Sheffield have adopted the practice of providing free places on a weekend for youth workers from across their diocese, as they seek to tackle the challenge of introducing the concept of Cursillo to a younger age range.

Our own secretariat, having started a conversation around making Cursillo more widely accessible, have agreed to trial a shorter form of the weekend in February 2023. The required content of 15 talks and 5 meditations will remain, but the weekend will commence on a Friday evening rather than from a Thursday evening, and the hope is that this will make the weekend more accessible for those working and who might struggle to get time off work to attend.

At the moment LAC#50 is seen as a “trial” and I am grateful to Richard Rock for working with the secretariat to put a revised timetable in place and we will evaluate if it is successful in reaching a wider audience once the weekend has taken place. At the moment it is intended that Lac #51 in November 2023 will be held from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th November.

So, as we pray for Cursillo, we remember and give thanks with gratitude for those in the fourth day community who have died this year, and we pray that we as a servant community may step out with confidence in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Ultreya!

Adrian Trotter