



Leicester Anglican Cursillo

Leicester Anglican Cursillo – Newsletter November 2022

Thought for the Day – *Taken from Celtic Daily Prayer Book 2 – Living the Questions*

In the age of celebrity everyone needs to be someone, to have public significance, to be **the** name in which there is a sense of security and worth. To not seek this, to be deliberately insignificant in the world's eyes, is, to some, an incomprehensible death of the self. Yet, this is the first step on the road less travelled, to seek God instead as the one thing necessary, and out of this hidden place will come something beautiful, and with purpose.

A big 'Thank -You' to St Philip & St James, Ratby who hosted our Ultreya and Study Day on Saturday 29th October, and a special thanks to Matilde de Sousa Fernades from St Mary's Hinckley who gave the witness talk. It is 3 years since we were last able to hold a Deeper Day of understanding, and in a slightly revised format we enjoyed an Ultreya and also some reflection around the weekend talks on Group Reunion, Ultreya together with a look at the importance of Personal Contact and Sponsorship. We looked at the Flow the Message over the weekend with some reminders regarding our own Rule of Life. On the day a paper was circulated which The Revd Clive Watts had prepared as a handout which I believe deserves a wider circulation and is to be found below.

The place of Cursillo in the World.

Cursillo is often described as a 'movement of the church'. – And that is precisely what it is.

Cursillo is not an alternative to church, it is a part of the whole body of Christ, working in harmony with the whole church. It doesn't seek to influence or change the church but to serve the whole as a part of the body of Christ. Neither is it a special club for selected members, it welcomes all and serves the whole church, whilst recognising that our weekends and fourth day may not suite everyone just as other expressions of discipleship won't suit everyone. Cursillo is sometimes described as a Lay Movement, and it is true that a weekend is led by a Lay Rector and we have a Lay Director for the diocese, however as a movement of the whole church it includes roles for all people lay and ordained, and operates under the permission and guidance of our diocesan bishop.

As such Cursillo has an important part to play in the whole mission and ministry of the church, and here in Leicester we seek to serve the vision and ministry of the whole Diocese. Our principles of 'piety, study and action' and our ongoing discipleship of 'the fourth day' are just one way of realising and putting into action our diocesan strategy of 'Everyday Faith'. That strategy has three strands, the first of these is 'Everyday Prayer'. Piety is all about that everyday prayer, seeking to encounter God in our life of prayer and worship. We share these encounters in group reunion to help build one another up in our life of discipleship and everyday prayer.

Our diocesan strategy of everyday faith also talks about 'Everyday Witness' and 'Everyday Action'. It says, "As we focus on everyday faith we want our whole lives to speak of Christ in words and actions." In Cursillo we speak of 'leavening environments with the Gospel' and you will recall Rollo's on Environments, Leaders, and Community in Action. This is about that everyday witness, having faith conversations, asking questions and sharing stories. Perhaps it is best summed up in the little saying "make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." Likewise everyday action is reflected in the Cursillo concept of action, offering ourselves in whatever way we are able and God is calling us, in loving service of our community and the world around us, communicating our faith in action as well as witness.

In Cursillo we recognise that we need to be resourced and equipped to do this, we do this in two ways, by focussing on Study; what helps us to learn and grow in our faith. And secondly by supporting and encouraging one another through our regular group reunions and ultreyas. As a diocese we speak of this as deepening our discipleship. There are many ways of doing this and Cursillo includes many of those whilst also offering a structure to enable that deepening of discipleship.

So, you see Cursillo really is a movement of the church, enabling each of us to play our part, not just, in our diocesan mission strategy of everyday faith, but importantly in the mission of God, often called the 'Missio Dei' which Rowan Williams famously defined as "finding out what the Holy Spirit is doing and joining in."

As a movement of the church, we have structures and organisation that help us in doing this, just as the church of God has diocese, and benefices and is seeking to be shaped by God Together in Minster Communities. BACC, the British Anglican Cursillo Council, is our overall governing body, and each Diocese we has a Secretariat, with a Lay Director and Spiritual Directors to help lead Cursillo within the diocese. But we each have a part in that too, as members of the Servant community, offering our support and leadership to the Cursillo movement in whatever way we are able and are called to do.

At its heart our Cursillo movement, is a movement of the church. Our methods of piety study and action, coupled with group reunion and ultreya seek to equip and enable us in deepening our discipleship and a life of everyday faith. Cursillo gives us structure to help us join in that Missio Dei, actively engaging our faith with the world around us and joining in our diocesan strategy of everyday prayer, everyday witness and everyday action by focussing on life as disciples of Jesus, called to serve one another and our world, and called to a vocation of witness.

Ultreya is the greeting shared between pilgrims on the Compostela de Santiago, it is a cry of encouragement to continue in the life of pilgrimage and discipleship, to live that life of prayer, witness and action, follow the vision of everyday faith. So – ULTREYA!

Seed Groups & Group Re-Union

Would you like to join an online group?

I have become increasingly aware that some of us have found it difficult to maintain a regular slot for Group Reunion, perhaps members of a previous group have died or moved away, or it may be that “Covid” broke our routine or served to prevent our getting started in the first place. Whatever the reason, you might appreciate the opportunity of being part of a group with members on line, which may involve members outside your immediate Church Fellowship.

It has been pointed out on more than one occasion by Cursillo’s National Spiritual Director that “Zoom” is the perfect vehicle for Group Reunion. It avoids the need to travel, so limits the time commitment to the length of the meeting. The free Zoom Facility is limited to 40 minutes, so there is no time for Gossip, with only 40 minutes one needs to be focussed on the matter in hand.

So, in attempt to assist anyone who would like to take advantage of the offer of Group Reunion online, I have set up a Zoom Link for the **3rd Saturday** of the month to operate from **9-30am – 10-15am**. Subject to numbers, we can if

necessary introduce break out rooms, so that we maintain the principle of small groups.

If Saturday is not a convenient day for you but you would like to be involved at another time, please let me know, and I can see what interest this suggestion generates and potentially put you in touch with someone else for whom Saturday is not convenient..

For link details contact laydirector@leicestercursillo.org

Why not try something new? A Refugio

Sadly, it has not proved possible to host an Ultreya during November, either in person or on Zoom. So why not try some thing different instead? Following a conversation at the British Anglican Cursillo Council meeting I propose to borrow an idea from the Ely Diocese and hold a Refugio, an Hour of Quiet Worship and Advent Reflection to be held online, an opportunity for some Soul Space an otherwise very busy period. To be held on **Monday 5th December 2022 at 8-00pm.**

You are invited to an online Service by Zoom.

Topic: **Cursillo Refugio**

Time: Dec 5, 2022 08:00 PM London

For link details contact laydirector@leicestercursillo.org

Appeal for Placements

Can you remember the pleasure of turning over your Placemat at the end of a meal on your Cursillo? Did it speak to you and did you take it home as an additional item of Palanca? Could you create a placemat for someone else? Our supply has become somewhat depleted over time and needs some creative flair

If you would like to design, draw, construct an A4 Landscape placemat, the House keeper on the next weekend we would be delighted to receive it. Please contact the Lay Director to arrange for postage details or to arrange collection.

Leicester Cursillo Crosses and Nametags

Since the first Leicester Cursillo Paul Taylor has very kindly hand crafted every Cursillo Cross and nametag for a total of 49 weekends. Paul is nothing if not efficient and has a good supply in stock comprising 70 Crosses fitted with screw eyes, 90 multicoloured wool cords (always made by Janet Laing in Castle Donington) and 70 Nametags fitted with screw eyes and marked with Cursillo rainbow along with 100m of silver ribbon (1m per nametag).

In theory this should be sufficient stock to see us through the next 4 Cursillos including a few spares for any non-Leicester staff, losses, errors or breakages etc.

However, Paul and Della Taylor will shortly be moving out of the area to be closer to family, and we are looking for a volunteer within the 4th Day Community to take on the role. For the next 4 Cursillos all that would be required of someone from the 4th day would be to fit the cords to the crosses, fit the ribbon to the nametags and to write the participants name and Cursillo number onto the nametag.

When the existing supply is exhausted, we will be looking for a volunteer to manufacture the crosses thereafter. Paul has offered to provide any assistance required to any volunteer coming forward.

Ultreyas for 2023

Thursday 23rd February 2023 Post Weekend Ultreya St Botolph Shepshed

Wednesday 19th April 2023

Tuesday 13th June 2023 Ultreya & AGM

Saturday 2nd September **National Ultreya** Rochester Cathedral

Wednesday 4th October 2023

Tuesday 5th December 2023

Are you willing to host an Ultreya? If you would like to host and Ultreya on one of these dates, please contact the Lay Director.

Leicester # 50 Celebration Ideas

Thank you for the feedback I have received to date. It has been suggested that we might like to host a number of smaller gatherings across the Diocese, where Cursillistas in a group of parishes might come together. The Chichester Diocese call these events **“Camminos”** when they get together for Tea, Cake and Conversation usually with some “singing” added to the mix. Very informal, but with a chance for some conversation and encouragement. Could you host some thing for all or part of your deanery? If so please contact the Lay Director.