

LEICESTER ANGLICAN CURSILLO - NEWS

AN UPDATE FOR MEMBERS

The Secretariat would like to share with you some of the information which was given to members who attended the recent AGM.

For those who were not present please find attached some of the reports

If you know of a fellow cursillista who does not have access to the internet, please consider printing a copy and giving it to them so that they too can be informed as to what is happening.....

This report covers the period from the last AGM, September 2018 to the AGM of June 2019.

The last year has been one of continued progress and success for Leicester Anglican Cursillo. During the period the main events/meetings have been:

- Two fully booked Weekends at Launde Abbey,
- Two sets of training for 40 staff for Weekends,
- Five Ultreyas across the diocese,
 - Hosting the AGM of the British Anglican Cursillo Council (BACC),
- Seven meetings of the Secretariat (over 9



months).

Secretariat After the AGM 2018 there were several vacancies, at the first meeting it was decided to invite 3 people to become co-opted to enable a working number to be achieved. The initial lower than optimal number and subsequent induction resulted in a slower establishment of the Secretariat. The job-sharing **Spiritual Director** role was discussed and quickly established. It is regarded as a positive development and one which enables significant clergy involvement overall, without (hopefully) being excessively demanding on any one individual.

The three **secretariat sub-groups** have been established and are in various degrees of development. Presentations about Cursillo have been given to Sparkenhoe East deanery, to raise awareness of the clergy of Cursillo. Support and guidance has been given to Lay Rectors in preparation for Weekends and there has been discussion of Weekend content and delivery. There has been work and preparation for a Day of Deeper Understanding (DDU) which it is hoped will take place in autumn 2019.

Nominations for the 2019 AGM are also low, but with the appointment of **Adrian Trotter as the next Lay Director** and the experience which he will bring to the position, it is anticipated that there will be good progress in the future.

Weekends LAC continues to enjoy fully booked, successful Weekends at Launde Abbey, 32 participants have attended on two Weekends since the last AGM. Across the country there are dioceses which have significantly lower numbers and some Weekends have to be cancelled elsewhere because of low numbers. We should not become complacent, but it is felt that we should recognise what we are doing well.

Weekends are not just for the participants but also serve as further opportunity for staff to gain new and enriching experience of Cursillo, serving others. Weekend staffing is essentially about sacrificial service for the benefit of participants. Forty Cursillistas have staffed since the last AGM.

We are very grateful for the Bishop's active involvement in Leicester Cursillo and the contributions which he has made, including the attendance at and officiation of the Clausura service by Bishop Martyn and Bishop Guli. It is noted that the participants (and the congregation) have been very grateful and positively affected by their attendance and service. Three future Weekends are booked until Spring 2021. The dates will be:

- LAC 47 Thursday 30th January to Sunday 2nd February 2020 LR Richard Tabberer
- LAC 48 Thursday 13th August to Sunday 16th August 2020 and
- LAC 49 Thursday 22nd April to Sunday 25th April 2021.

ULTREYAS:

There have been five Ultreyas during the last period at different venues across the diocese. These have all been very well attended, resulting in there being standing room only at one church ! One of the Ultreyas was accompanied by a bring and share lunch and was particularly enjoyable and rewarding. Witness speakers continue to motivate and encourage members who also enjoy the opportunity to meet others in small group reunions. We continue to try to hold Ultreyas in new parts of the diocese.

BRITISH ANGLICAN CURSILLO COUNCIL (BACC):

LAC has been able to continue to draw on the support of BACC and our representatives have attended BACC meetings. LAC hosted the BACC AGM at St Botolph's, Shepshed in the spring at which we combined an Ultreya. In recent times Leicester Cursillistas have been BACC officers for secretary, treasurer and national spiritual director.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communication with members is now good after our data base has been overhauled and revised. It is hoped to re-establish the publication of the LAC magazine which will be distributed electronically and perhaps on paper to some members who do not have email. Improved communication will enable a variety of faith and Cursillo topics to be discussed which it is hoped will deepen understanding. It is thought that this may be of particular benefit to our membership; to this end, in spite of the possible costs, we are going to consider the feasibility of producing a paper, versions of "Forethoughts" and/or "Morethoughts" (previous LAC publications), once a year, at least.

THE FUTURE:

Cursillo is not just about Weekends, although they are a crucial stage of peoples' journeys. Fundamentally, Cursillo is about supporting people on the rest of their Christian journey through life and the Christian action which they can perform. It is hoped that LAC will be able to support members more at parish level, helping people to encourage one another through Group Reunion and more.

There are parts of the diocese where Cursillo is not present and many churches, congregations and clergy know nothing of Cursillo and the personal and parish benefits which can result. We hope to be able to make some progress in these matters.

Roger Pullin

BACC report for AGM

After coming into the role of BACC representative in the last 12 months, it has become clear, what a fantastic movement we have within the Anglican church, with such a lot going on within the various diocese. Nationally, one of the first events I attended, was the National Ultreya 2018 in Chelmsford. We were represented with around 10 from LAC. It proved to be a fantastic weekend, we were well looked after over the weekend and entertained on the Saturday evening.

At this point I would like to give a plug to the 2019 National Ultreya, which this year will be held in Chester, on Saturday August 31st. If you've not already booked or thought about it, then please give it some thought as it should be a wonderful day in the lovely city of Chester, held in the fabulous cathedral. Details can be found on the BACC website or Chester cursillo website.

This year has seen it all change on the National Standing Committee at the National AGM. The BACC AGM was held this year at Shepshed, a big thankyou to all at St Botolph's for making everyone from all over the UK welcome, which after a rewarding and encouraging day, left everyone coming away, richly blessed.

At the AGM we said goodbye Nationally to Revd. Cynthia Hebden after her three years as Spiritual Director. Cynthia is succeeded by Revd. Stephen Bowring, who has been shadowing her for the past 12

months, Stephen is no stranger to Leicester, having served as Spiritual Director in both Leicester and Ely dioceses. Jane Wrigley also steps down as National Treasurer after serving not just for three, but for four years in the role. Jane is succeeded by Cheryl Goddard from the Peterborough Diocese where she has served as Cursillo Lay Director.

Billy Hollis is also relinquishing the post of Webmaster, where he has done a grand job over many years, keeping the BACC website up to date, and if you haven't viewed the BACC's website recently, it might be worth taking a look. Steven Ridley takes on this role, professionally Steven is a freelance web designer and has a vast experience of website maintenance.

Steven along with his wife Dawn are currently joint lay directors of Ely cursillo, and it was great to meet them at Shepshed. I'm sure we all add our thanks to all three for their work, and continue to pray for those taking on their new roles.

Like the National Ultreya, the AGM was a wonderful opportunity to meet with Cursillistas from all around the country and learn of their faith journeys and experiences in group reunions.

Pilgrimage;

The Canterbury Cursillo are organising a pilgrimage this year entitled Becket and beyond and will be based in Dover. It does sound quite exciting and takes place in mid-August, it will visit historic sites in East Kent and Canterbury Cathedral. As numbers are limited it may be too late for this time but may be worth making contact if you would like to join in, details on the website.

The resource manual underwent a great review in 2017/18, and is now available, it has been completely rewritten, in all aspects of Cursillo. It is a great resource in understanding cursillo, and if anyone would like to know more each individual section is downloadable, or I can help if necessary.

The Cursillo Leaders Workshops continue to be well supported and again three have been held this past year. People attending say there is great benefit from sharing with those from other diocese, those taking up roles within Cursillo, leaning more about what it is, how it works, and providing an authentic Cursillo experience.

Three more CLW's are planned in the coming months, at Shallowford House, near Stafford, in July. Pleshey, near Chelmsford in November and again at Shallowford house in March 2020. I myself will be attending in July, along with a fellow secretariat member and we look forward to sharing more about it in the weeks to come. Our very energetic and enthusiastic President Trevor King, is on his final year as president and will step down at next years AGM. Our president elect is Beth Roberts from Chester and is looking forward to shadowing Trevor over the coming months.

Can we continue to pray for Cursillo, and in particular The British Anglican Cursillo Council and all those involved in developing and encouraging the forward movement of Cursillo ,Nationally and Locally. We ask Gods blessing on all involved Nationally. Ultreya

A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR NEW LAY RECTOR

Adrian shares some
of his reflections on
Cursillo



The Stretcher Christ at Launde Abbey

We parked the car just after 6-00 pm – the instructions had said *We would be grateful if you could arrive between 6-00pm and 6-15pm and no earlier.....* As I stepped out of the car, a friendly face approached me and offered, nay insisted on carrying my bag. It was dark, it was wet, and I wasn't all together sure why I was there, but when Helen and I stepped into the Old entrance hall at Launde Abbey (now the library) I was presented with this name badge.... It was the 13th January 1994, and over 25 years on I am still wearing the name badge, and the cross that came to accompany it 3 days later and I am proud to do so.

We did not know it, but we had arrived at Leicester Anglican Cursillo Number 1.

At the end of that first weekend there were only 16 Leicester Cursillistas – the staff for the weekend having made their cursillos in the USA, Wales, Chester, Coventry, and Southwell.....

3 years later, between the 20th -23rd November 1997 I served as Lay Rector on LAC No 8.

To be honest, I had no idea what that “Oh so innocent suggestion that I might like to go on a Cursillo weekend” would lead to? I can still vividly remember key elements of

my Cursillo, it opened my eyes in a new way. Some things were immediate, other components continued to be unpacked in the days and weeks to follow, but what I did learn was that it was not just about the weekend..... – my fourth day had begun “Bloom where you are planted”, “we are all called to be saints”, prayer, study and action..... the tripod underlying everything - phrases I have never forgotten. Initially as Churchwarden, also as a Trustee of a local Charity, now as Church Treasurer, Chairman of that Charity, and as a Trustee of Launde Abbey I hope I continue to bloom....and now is the time to bloom afresh for Cursillo as your Lay Director.

God has blessed me with my Church Family, and my Cursillo Family and as I look around the room it gives me joy as I see people I have come to know and love over those 25 years and I have come to look on you as family, but I am also saddened as I look around the room and see faces missing – connections that have been lost.

G.D.P.R has been a nightmare for all organisations that keep a database, as if maintaining a database of and by volunteers was not difficult enough, and I pay tribute to the work by Margaret and Roger that has been done to rebuild the Cursillo database, but I would like to breathe still new life into our communication, and website so as to reach those parishes where Cursillo is dormant or even

unknown. (**Go to the BACCS Website anglicancursillo.co.uk and look at the Promotional Video**) It would be great to have a direct link to it from our own website.

I know small rural parishes get a tremendous boost coming together with other cursillistas to worship in larger numbers. I would like to see Cursillo supporting some of our churches where perhaps there are only one or two Cursillistas by holding Ultreyas across all the deaneries. I will be speaking to Sarah with a view to fixing dates for Ultreyas for the whole year in advance on given dates and then asking churches from a specific Deanery to offer to host the one in their area. It might not work but I think it is worth a try! I would like to see Cursillo pro-actively out there engaging with parishes, maybe even venturing into parishes where we have no current cursillistas?

I know the secretariat would like to reintroduce a newsletter be it Fourthoughts, More thoughts or something completely new..... and I fully support them so watch this space, and if you would like to be involved please have a word with me.



I have just spent four very enjoyable days at Launde Abbey as part of the 900th anniversary celebrations, the weather was amazing and we had a good mix of worship and celebration, but we were warned against focusing too much on place by the Bishop of Peterborough in his address on Saturday. Yes Launde is special, but our love of a place be it Launde, be it a church, or be it an organisation such as Cursillo must not get in the way of growing our relationship with Christ. Christ must be at the centre of all we do and not get overlooked with our individual fixation with our personal agenda.

So I take on this new role 25 years after my Cursillo, proud of all Cursillo has done for me and for others BUT, fully aware that Cursillo is not an end in itself but rather a means to an end – it is about helping people grow in their faith, about nurturing our brothers and sisters in Christ, that in love and service they might help to bring about Gods Kingdom here on earth.

My wife Helen sends her apologies this evening, as a foundation governor at our Church Academy she is presently in a Governors' Meeting along with my Vicar The Revd. Bryony Wood. They are blooming where they have been planted – having seen the size of the agenda they might wish they were here but that is where they can best serve this evening. It is the same for many of us, cursillo has enriched our lives, helped us to grow in faith and sent us back to our parishes where the real work is to be done. We need to remember we are a servant community.

Looking to the future, we have need of people willing to take on roles within our community so that we can continue that valuable work – Mike has stood down as treasurer – as we have heard the finances our sound but we do need a Treasurer going forward.

Our Secretariat is light – to function effectively we would benefit from a cross section from across our membership – is that you?

We need to put in place Lay Rectors for future weekends – Is that you? The secretariat would appreciate receiving your nominations.

I must also pay tribute to Roger who has navigated Cursillo through some rough waters, and thanks to him calmer waters lie ahead of us but there is work and healing still to be done, so please bear with me as we move forward united in our mission and purpose

Finally, and this is typical of me as I should have done this first, please pray for me as I take on this role. As I answer this call may I do so in humility, may the Lord lead me as I hold his people in my heart. – for remember – We have a Gospel to proclaim.

Ultreya....

Adrian Trotter