

Chester Diocese Cursillo AGM and Ultreya Minutes

Saturday, 18 May 2024 at 10:30am at St. Luke's Church, Willaston

Present: Carol Thayer, Joan Clare, Janette Webster, Rachael Armstrong, Julie Brunt, Anne Marshall, Veronica Hydon, Sue Lewis, Rita Stubbs, Tony Rablen, Marion McCall, Sue Caunt, Jill Cooper, Denise Harding, Bev Nixon, Jenny Clews, Caroline Coutts, Vicki Schofield, Sue Hutt, Nick Hutt, Beth Roberts, Janet Thompson, Alan Thompson, Gill Appleton, Rachael Armstrong

Apologies: Tracy Fisher, Tony Fisher, Ruth Arthur, Ian Arthur, Anita Oxford, Sheila Capper, Maggie O'Donnell, Caroline Bennett, Peter Bennett, Kate Ingleby

Bev introduced the order of the day. Revd Tony led the opening prayer and Invocation.

Minutes from the last AGM – Saturday 10 June 2023 held at St Luke's, Holme Chapel, were approved after correcting Marion McCall's name. Proposed - Veronica Hydon Seconded – Julie Brunt

Treasurers Report was accepted. Proposed - Carol Thayer Seconded – Tony Rablen
Discussion about running as deficit at the moment. Cursillistas to be encouraged to donate for future weekends with monthly giving. Query – Do Lichfield Cursillistas get sponsored for weekends as Chester Cursillistas do? This to be discussed at the next Secretariat Meeting.

Bev thanked those members of the Secretariat who were stepping down - Julie Brunt & Janette Webster

Elections -

Weekend Co-ordinator Role – to be shared by Veronica Hydon and Carol Thayer

Secretary – Janette will act as Secretary for the next Secretariat meeting and will then stand down. No nominations were received.

Lichfield Cursillo are to have a Cream Tea inviting all to a Taster Cursillo Session – Saturday 29th June 2024 at Milton Parish Church, Stoke on Trent.

Witness Talk – Fiona Todd told us about how Cursillo had influenced her faith. Tony then gave the Spiritual Response.

Floating Group Reunions were held.

Eucharist Service led by Revd Tony Rablen completed the day.

Lay Directors Report for AGM 18th May 2024 Bev Nixon

I would like to start by thanking you all for coming today and thanking you for all the apostolic action that you are doing in your churches. There are some great things being achieved throughout our diocese by the 4th Day communities.

It's hard to believe that I have almost completed my first year as LD. Thank you, Carol, for your support through the first six months while I was finding my feet and getting to grips with some of the tasks expected of me. I now feel that I have settled in and am really starting to enjoy the role.

We have held three diocesan Ultreyas over the past year. Last November we met at St John's, Norley, where Carol gave us a talk on her epic Saharan Adventure. In February we went to St Thomas, Henbury, Nr Macclesfield. It was lovely to re-engage with 2 Cursillistas from there that we hadn't seen since pre-pandemic times.

Today we are here at St Luke's Willaston, and will be having a talk later from Fiona Todd, the first 'Virtual cursillo' participant. I have tried to visit all corners of the diocese so that we provide as much opportunity as possible for Cursillistas to attend an Ultreya near them. Of course, I am always open to suggestions on where to go next or offers to host an Ultreya – you'll find my contact details on the website!

Last October Sue Lewis successfully led weekend #64, at Foxhill, which had 8 participants.

In April we held another SCW at Wistaston, where the focus of the workshops was on nurturing our 4th day community. There was also time for personal reflection, prayer and worship. Carol organised a quiz for the Saturday evening when teams battled it out amidst plenty of fun and laughter! Sadly, this was our last stay

at Wistaston for the foreseeable future, as changes in their operating protocol means that we no longer feel able to hold Cursillo weekends there.

Last weekend Tony and I attended the BACC conference at The Hayes in Swanick. It was a lovely weekend, both in terms of weather and enjoyment of the conference. This was the first BACC conference that I have attended, and I especially enjoyed meeting Cursillistas from across the whole of the UK as well as the team from BACC. We came away with plenty of new ideas and encouragement to keep building and caring for our 4th day communities.

Looking to the future!

We have weekend #65 coming up in October and our Ultreya on 9th November in Stockport when Bishop Sam will be joining us. Please don't forget to put these dates in your diaries. All details are on the noticeboards. I would also encourage you to sign up for the National Ultreya in Sheffield Cathedral on 7th September as this promises to be an amazing experience with Cursillistas from all over the UK coming together to celebrate Christ's love for us.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the rest of the team, the members of the Secretariat. Janette, Julie, Sue C., Sue H., Denise, Vicki, Ruth and Tony. Without whom there would be no more Cursillo in Chester Diocese.

Ultreya!

At the meeting there was a brief discussion about how many weekends each year we could offer in the future as we will no longer be using Wistaston Hall. Possibly Chester and Lichfield could collaborate on some joint weekends from Spring 2026.

CURSILLO CHESTER

Statement of Financial Activity for period 01/04/23 - 31/03/24

Receipts			Expenses		
Charitable Activity			Charitable Activity		
GENERAL DONATIONS	532.00		CURSILLO #63		4425.00
WEEKEND #63	2120.00		CURSILLO SC 04/24 DEPOSIT Wistaston		200.00
WEEKEND #64	2825.00		FOXHILL #64		3958.00
WEEKEND SC APRIL 24	220.00	5165.00	BACC		550.00
REGULAR GIVING	2134.00		PRAYER CYCLE		202.62
			BACC Donations		20.00
			Administrative Activity		
			WEBSITE EDITORS		233.00
			INSURANCE		99.31
			SECRETARIAT EXPS		440.59
			BACC AGM expenses BN/TR		215.00
			ROOM RENTALS		274.00
TOTAL	7831.00		TOTAL		10617.52
NET INCOME	-£2,786.52				£19,183.97
BALANCE 31/03/23	£21,970.49				
BALANCE 31/03/24	£19,183.97				

Treasurers Report Final Accounts 2023/2024 for AGM 10th June 2023

Above find a summary of the Financial Activity for this past year to 31st March 2023.

Donations after Cursillo #63 and #64 were received within this accounting period, as were donations after the Servant Community weekend.

Please note BACC subscriptions for 23/24 (£250) and 24/25 (£300) were both paid in this accounting year.

Secretariat expenses include a Zoom Licence and the printing of materials for weekends etc.

We ended the year with a small operating loss but I am pleased that we were able to offer Cursillo weekends to many people within the year.

At any stage should you wish to contact me please email to treasurer@cursillochester.org

Ruth Arthur

Auditor's Report Chester Cursillo Accounts Audit 2023-24

I met with Ruth Arthur to discuss and examine the financial accounts for Chester Cursillo, documentation and financial records for 2023-24.

I can confirm that they represent a true and fair reflection of the operations of Chester Cursillo for the period.

During the audit I found the record keeping and accounting treatment to be well documented and the explanations of the processes are robust and well managed.

The adoption of the new presentation format of record keeping certainly assists in the examination of the organisation's accounts.

Once again, I would like to commend Chester Cursillo in the accuracy and operation of the accounts.

Yours sincerely **Anthony Fisher Auditor**

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Chester Cursillo Communications Officer Report for the AGM May 2024

3 Newsletters – Summer, Advent and Spring - were edited by Sue Lewis and sent out to Chester Cursillistas.

Sue Hutt handed over the work of preparing the monthly Deanery prayer letter to Joan Clare. Because the Diocesan handbook containing contact details of church wardens is not available any more, Rev Tony and Joan Clare have been meeting with Diocesan staff to discuss how Chester Cursillo can continue to encourage prayer for the deaneries. At the moment, the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer seems to be the way forward.

Blackburn Cursillo made a request to be linked to Chester Cursillo because they could no longer continue independently. It was decided by the Secretariat that there were other dioceses geographically closer to Blackburn than Chester.

I receive requests from time to time for contact details of people on the database. I refer the request to the person themselves to decide if they want to share their contact information.

There are currently 141 contacts on the Chester Cursillo email list and 320 people in the database. I get requests from people who want to be removed from both, and new people joining, but I think we need to consider using the same system as the renewal of the church electoral roll. We could decide on how often to do this, but it would keep the membership details more accurate.

Vicki Schofield

At the meeting – Vicki thanked all who have sent in articles for the newsletter.

Suggestion about possible renewal of Chester Cursillo Members List – as Church Electoral Rolls are renewed every 6 years. Discussion to be held at next Secretariat Meeting.

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Weekend Coordinator's Report to AGM Saturday 18th May, 2024

Over the last 12 months we've been blessed to be able to offer both a weekend for participants at Foxhill in October of last year as well as our second Servant Community Weekend at Wistaston Hall.

Weekend 64 proved to be a hugely successful event with eight participants providing positive feedback and the Servant Community Weekend was well supported by fifteen Cursillistas where some valuable discussions took place to help shape the way we work in the future.

Weekend 65 will be taking place on 24th October this year at Foxhill with Kate Ingleby as Lay Rector, with OLR still to be confirmed. Staff will be arriving from 9.00am to prepare for the weekend and participants from 5.00pm, from when we will have exclusive use of the building. As always with Chester Cursillo, the weekend is a gift for staff and participants. However, should they wish to contribute towards the cost for future weekends, it is anticipated at this stage that the weekend will cost £190 for participants and £216 for staff. There will also be an additional cost of up to £200 to cover tea / coffee / scones for visitors at the Closing Eucharist, which the secretariat have agreed can be covered within our own funds with visitors invited to make any contributions should they feel so inclined.

This will be my last report as Weekend Coordinator and I cannot finish my term of office without thanking Bev and Carol in particular for their invaluable support as well as Kath Higgins who was so helpful in guiding me. I will be more than happy to support whoever succeeds me in whatever way I can but regretfully cannot continue in the role.

Arrangements I have made to support the next Weekend Coordinator are:

- Booking the 'Cursillo Revisited' day at Foxhill on April 5th 2025. This will be a full day event with non-exclusive use of the building to minimise costs, which are anticipated to be in the region of £35.70 per person. This will include use of the York Pilkington Room, access to the Chapel (by arrangement) and grounds, refreshments throughout the day and a two-course lunch. A £50 deposit has secured the booking. I have updated the application form for this event which will need to be forwarded to Anne Vetter once the new Weekend Coordinator's details have been included.
- Booking Weekend 66 at Foxhill for the weekend of 24th – 26th October, 2025. The venue has been booked from 9.00 am that morning to facilitate staff setting up the weekend and we will have exclusive use from 5.00 pm when our guests arrive. The minimum number for exclusive use is 20 people; should there be insufficient participants, Chester Cursillo will be required to make up the deficit. It is anticipated that the weekend will cost £200 for participants and £236 for staff. Once again, I have updated the application form which as before will need forwarding to Anne Vetter once amended.
- Updated the memory stick with most recent documentation

Julie Brunt

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Safeguarding: Janette Webster Saturday 18th May 2024 AGM and Ultreya

I know of no Safeguarding issues this past year, but I know that you are all vigilant in looking after each other. Each one of us can be vulnerable at some stage in our lives. The Diocesan Safeguarding team are there to support us if needed, and each Church should have a Parish Safeguarding Officer. If you don't know who that is, then ask someone.

At least one member of staff at each weekend should have completed the on-line training for Safeguarding.

Renewal is every three years. You only need to renew the highest level in which you are trained. I encourage anyone to complete the Diocesan on-line training.

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Report to the Secretariat of Chester Diocese Cursillo of the BACC Biennial Conference and AGM – May 2024

“Well”, you are thinking, “what is all that gobbledygook at the top of the page?” And the answer is that every 2 years, the national council of British Anglican Cursillo holds its conference and AGM. So, BACC is our governing body, and we are represented on it by our leaders and 2 representatives. This year, Bev. and I represented you. And there were representatives from many dioceses from England, Wales and Scotland. We were a big and colourful group! The conference was held at The Hayes, near Derby.

It was entitled “Fit for Action”, and we had sessions covering most aspects of Cursillo life: how we fit in with our Diocesan Vision and mission; how we care for our 4th. Day Community; how we structure and maintain our own spiritual lives; a review of how each diocese is faring, post-pandemic; how we can improve things for the future.

And, as you’d expect, there was lots of glorious worship, lots of good food, lots of laughter and lots of stimulating conversations.....and, of course the odd slice of cake, washed down with wine.

Both Bev. and I came back encouraged and inspired, and you will probably become aware of the impact of the conference as we proceed.

At the AGM, our very own, home-grown National Lay President (Beth.) stood down, and has returned to the back benches, (but not retirement). Our new National President is Helen Taubman, from St. Asaph Diocese, in Wales. We pray for her.

If you would like to know more about the conference, or the work of BACC, or if you are interested in being one of our BACC Representatives, please talk to either Bev. or Beth. or me.

Tony Rablen

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Fourth Day Report for Chester Cursillo AGM on Saturday May 18th

Nine of Lay Rectors met for Eucharist led by Revd Tony Rablen on Thursday May 9th and felt much encouraged by this. We also swapped ideas and discussed as how to keep the word Cursillo known and active in our Christian communities and churches to encourage others to experience Cursillo.

We are all aware that over the decades Chester Cursillo ebbs and flows throughout the Diocese. It changes shape over the years and so we surveyed how many ‘active Cursillistas’ are involved currently. The answer is 83 in Chester Diocese and 14 in Lichfield Diocese. Personally I found this quite positive as the last figure I remember for this was in the low 90s, pre-Covid. Bearing in mind we haven’t been able to keep up the flow of Weekends, and therefore new Cursillistas in the same way as pre-Covid, this is not a great drop in numbers.

What is changing is the number of Fourth Day Communities. Pat and Lew Riches, from the Mid-Cheshire 4DC, explained that the time had come to step down from their role as Lay Rectors after many enthusiastic years. They remain Cursillistas in their hearts and we hold them in ours.

Kath Higgins and Sue Joy, Lay Rectors of Tameside, explained they had not been functioning as a ‘Fourth Day Community’ for some time now there has only been the two them to meet. Although they no longer wish be Lay Rectors they intend to ‘keep the flag flying’ in their part of Diocese and we can get in touch with them if we find we have any Participants in the future in their part of the Diocese. We shall still see them at Clausuras and Diocesan Ultreyas when they can make it; wonderful.

Cursillo Fourth Day Communities May 2024:

Chester 5 Bev Nixon and Joan Mottershead [Macclesfield and Bollington]
Anne Marshall [Crewe]

Ruth Arthur [Stockport]

Joan Clare and Beryl Smith [North Cheshire]

Sue Hutt [Nantwich]

Lichfield: 2 Revd. Jill Cooper

North Cheshire have had a lively programme of a mixture of Zoom and face-to-face meetings. They are looking into whether those who used to meet in the Mid Cheshire 4DC would like to join them on Zoom.

Sue Hutt

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Palanca Report – Chester Cursillo AGM

This has been my first full year as Palanca Secretary and I have to say it has been a very steep learning experience. In fact I must convey my thanks to Bev Nixon for her help, support and encouragement over the last year, especially as I tendered my resignation at one point.

I am trying to get e-mails out each month to Vicki to inform Cursillistas of the prayer vigils and weekends that are happening each month. Sometimes this happens, sometimes it doesn't. I promise to try harder during this coming year.

I have gone through the many folders of Palanca that we have received over the years and removed any that were dated or personalised. My next task is to merge the contents of the old folders with the contents of the new. This will make transportation of the folders easier.

I would like to design a new poster for Chester Cursillo to send out to other groups when they have weekends. As I'm not very artistic if anyone has any ideas for a design of a new poster please get in touch with me at palancasecretay@chestercursillo.org.uk

July 2023	Prayer vigils 5	Weekends 0
September	Prayer vigils 6	Weekends 2
October	Prayer vigils 6	Weekends 3
November	Prayer vigils 4	Weekends 2
December	Prayer vigils 1	Weekends 0
February 24	Prayer vigils 5	Weekends 1
May	Prayer vigils 6	Weekends 5

I dealt with my first Cursillo as Palanca Secretary last year in October and found this difficult at times, but I have learnt a lot. I would prefer to put on record my thanks to Bev for her help in printing off the Palanca as I didn't have access to a printer.

Denise Harding

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