

Easter 2018



Th

# BACC Pages



## New Cursillo promotional film to be released

An exciting new film highlighting the fruits of Cursillo is set to be released at the BACC Conference at Swanwick in May. Filmed at a Greater London Regional Ultreya in February, it is introduced by the Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Rev'd Alan Smith and features a number of Cursillistas testifying to the effect Cursillo has had on them and the various forms of ministry into which they have been led. Dioceses will be able to download the film for their own use and it will also be available on YouTube and social media. Well done to everybody who took part in it.

| INSIDE THIS EDITION |  |         |
|---------------------|--|---------|
| Intro.              | From the National Spiritual Director             | 2       |
|                     | National Spiritual Director Elect                | 3       |
| Prayer              | Prayers  | 4       |
|                     | Book Reviews and The Stream                      | 5       |
| Study               | CLWs—Report & Information                        | 6 & 7   |
|                     | The First CLW in Great Britain                   | 8       |
|                     | Cursillo World Wide                              | 9       |
|                     | Pilgrimage to the Holy Land                      | 10      |
| Action              | Resources 2018                                   | 11      |
|                     | The Mystery of God's Tapestry                    | 12 & 13 |
|                     | "Come and See" - an invitation                   | 14      |
|                     | National Ultreya GB 2018 Chelmsford              | 15      |
|                     | Annual Conference & AGM, May 2018 & Booking form | 16 & 17 |

## BACC Conference 18-20 May

There are still places available at our biennial Conference at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire. This year we're focusing on 'Successes and Challenges'; we'll be launching our new film, the revised Resources Manual will be available and there'll be time to share ideas with folk from all over the British Anglican Cursillo Movement. There's also a Ceilidh on the Saturday evening. **You need to book if you're coming just for the day. See p. 16 for full details.**

## Ultreya GB 2018 Chelmsford

Bookings are now being taken for this year's National Ultreya at Chelmsford Cathedral, Essex. There'll be a banner procession through the town centre, with a brass band, and a 'Ceilidh with supper' in the evening. There's limited accommodation at Anglia Ruskin University (see the booking form) or there are plenty of hotels in the area. **See p. 15 for detail and go to Chelmsford Cursillo's website to book.**

*Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone.*

## From the National Spiritual Director

*Rev'd Canon Cynthia Hebden*

Somebody said to me that if you don't like the British weather you should wait an hour and it will change. How true is that? In fact, not only timewise, but area-wise as well. The other week I was driving through a blizzard, with the roads instantly getting frighteningly slippery, only to find that just before I got home it stopped. It was as if a line had been drawn.

As I write this, mid-March, we have just recovered from a bad spell of snow, wind and cold, and are enjoying a spring like feel of warmth and sunshine; only to be told by the weather people that it's going to be all change again and we should expect more snow and cold weather.

On reflection, I have to say that I like the contrasts; I don't think that I would like to live in a country where it is always cold or always hot – and anyway what would the British people have to talk about? I was born in August 1947 and my mother told me that it was a really hot summer preceded by a really cold winter. One of my sons was born in 1976 and that too was a hard winter followed by a hot summer; so, my natural optimism gets me through bad winters with the expectation of a hot summer to follow.

I think that life is like that. So often things seem to fall about around us, and we wonder what we are going to do. Later when things get better we look back and the bad times do not seem so terrible. Life is about death and resurrection and that is what we are celebrating yet again this Eastertide. I always tell my people that you cannot celebrate Easter without going through the horrors of Holy Week. We need to feel the pain; the whipping, the nails, the sense of rejection and despair.

Often, we talk about our Cursillo weekend as an Easter experience. It can for many people be a time when they look back on their lives, repent of the things that have gone wrong, but see a brighter future with Our Lord Jesus Christ. That is why Cursillo is such a wonderful tool. When things go wrong, when we get things wrong, we often think that our lives are worthless; it's only when we look at the cross and see the resurrected Lord that we can feel affirmed in his sight and go on to do big things for him.

So, as we rejoice in the resurrected Christ, may I wish you every blessing of Easter.

*Cynthia*



### Contacts

**National President:** Trevor King [president@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:president@anglicancursillo.co.uk) 07941 338466

**National Spiritual Director:** Revd Canon Cynthia Hebden [nsd@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:nsd@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

**BACC Secretary:** Linda Ross [secretary@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:secretary@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

**CLW Convenor:** Revd Judy Craig-Peck [clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

**Resources Officer:** Revd Canon Tony Tucker [resources@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:resources@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

## National Spiritual Director Elect

*Time seems to fly by and it's nearly two years since Cynthia took over as our National Spiritual Director. It is the usual practice to seek to have the NSD's successor in place 12 months early so that they can shadow the incumbent. So, with the AGM in May, we sought nominations / volunteers earlier this year and one brave soul stepped forward.*

*I'm delighted to announce that Rev'd Stephen Bowring, currently SD of Ely Cursillo, is the man. Many of you will know him but for those that don't here he introduces himself.*



My wife, Lesley, and I have been passionately involved Cursillistas since we made our Cursillo together on Leicester #1 in 1993. In former years I was a secondary school teacher (music and I.T.). Since ordination in 1992 I have held ministry appointments in Leicester, Canterbury and Ely Dioceses, and the Cursillo movement has been our joy and support throughout.

I am currently (until Easter 2018) Spiritual Director for Ely Cursillo, having held the post once before, and before that also in Leicester Diocese. I have been privileged to serve on team in weekends in seven different dioceses: Leicester, Worcester, London, Canterbury, Ely, Norwich and Peterborough – including gifting in two cases. I have served on a Tres Dias ecumenical weekend and was peripherally involved with Kairos in Brixton prison at one time. Lesley and I also gave an encouragement day in Chichester Diocese on the role of the Fourth Day.

I shall be retiring (early, age 63) from my full-time post of Vicar of seven parishes in Cambridgeshire at Easter, and relish the opportunity to bring my breadth and depth of experience in all things Cursillo to work with BACC in this pivotal role.

Cursillo is, I believe, at a significant crossroads now and in the near future. We face together an enormous challenge and a challenging opportunity: the challenge (in common with most of our churches) of an ageing membership and our failure to find ways to make this precious gift available and attractive to younger people; and the opportunity offered by a church that is opening up to new ways of being church – something to which we have contributed since the last century. We already ARE a Fresh Expression! This will be at the heart of my ministry as NSD.

**STOP PRAYING FOR PEOPLE,  
BE THE PRAYER.**

*If they hurt, comfort them;*

*If they need help, help them;*

*If they are lonely, spend time with them;*

*If they are sick, be there for them;*

*Only then will your prayers be heard,  
for you are the answer God provided.*

## Obituary: Fr Gareth Bevan



*Fr Gareth Bevan, Spiritual Director, with Revd Alison Christian on London # 27 in 2014*

The whole Cursillista community mourns the loss of Gareth, Spiritual Director in the Diocese of London (Jan 2013 to May 2016) whose funeral was held on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Gareth gave generously and cheerfully to Cursillo and helped many clergy to recognise the benefits of Cursillo for their parishes.

His enthusiastic commitment to Cursillo is an example for us all to follow. He is already greatly missed.

His funeral was full of holiness and song, reflecting well his life and passions. Many Cursillistas attended, a number of whom joined the choir, contributing to the beautiful music.

## Judy's Prayer

*Judy Short read this out at a recent Chelmsford Cursillo Ultreya, and has kindly agreed for us to include it in the newsletter, I am sure most of us can identify with the situation and make use of it when frustrated with our computers!*

As I sit here in front of screen,  
And enter into world's unseen,  
Keep my focus on you, dear Lord,  
Impatient frustration I can ill afford.

Keep me centred calm and still,  
May my work be to your Will,  
And if I sense your call to go,  
May I, with pleasure simply flow.

Along with you and stop and stare,  
Knowing that 'later' is always there,  
If you are in my work, I'll know,  
Your glory, from it, will be on show.

Judy Short

*(Taken from Newsletter of Chichester Anglican Cursillo, Autumn 2017)*

*[BACC Pages Ed: I completely agree!!]*

## Please pray for:

- Those in our own Cursillo communities who have recently died, for their families and friends who will miss them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- We also remember those who are ill, but who have given much to Cursillo in our own Dioceses and in National roles in Cursillo.
- Those on the BACC Standing Committee, for their next meeting and for the full BACC meeting in November.
- The Cursillo Conference and AGM at Swanwick in May.
- All of the team in Chelmsford Cursillo preparing for the National Ultreya 2018 in September.

**‘Struggling to be Holy’ – By Rev’d Canon Judy Hirst**

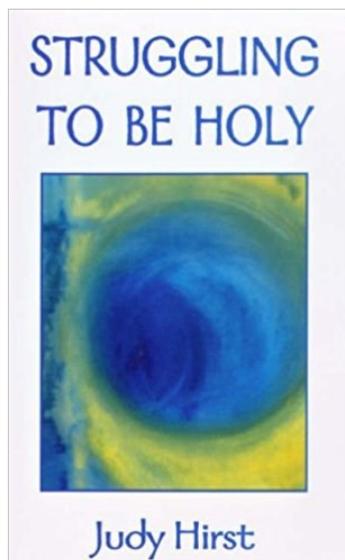
This is an honest, wise and compassionate book about the struggle to live lives of faithful discipleship. Drawing on her own experience as a teacher, counsellor and priest, as well as on literature and the Christian tradition, Judy gives a compelling and challenging account of the joys and struggles of the Christian life, which always keeps as its focus the love and wonder of God.

Don’t be put off by the pious sounding title. Although it has become much loved, Judy feeling way out of her comfort zone tried everything to avoid writing this book. (*Know the feeling?*) If I say one of Judy’s favourite prayers is, “Here I am God – what a mess,” you might feel less inhibited. I would recommend this book to anyone who is seeking to engage more effectively with God and with others, and anyone who needs reassuring about the love of God.

I’m very glad I’ve read this book; it’s so honest and informative, and leavened with lots of humour. Judy, in sharing her life, tells us how it is, not just for herself but for lots of us to; wonderfully joyous at times but maybe also sometimes hanging on to faith with our fingertips. Following faith isn’t always easy. Talking candidly about her struggles, Judy challenges readers to be honest about themselves and about the realities of life and I found it’s helped me to go forwards with fresh vigour.

Already I’m looking forward to re-reading this book. It’s structured as a series of short reflections and the new edition now includes discussion questions to aid deeper consideration of its main themes. That will be useful because a couple of our house groups have decided to combine so that together we can share with more prolonged discussion. Maybe your house group might want to give it a try – or even your parish group reunion.

*Judy Hirst, a Curillista, is the local Church Growth and Development Adviser for the Diocese of Durham.*



## The Stream

*Written by David Jones    Inspired by God as David stood on  
the bridge below the waterfall at Rydal Hall.*

I stand in my favourite place  
Gazing in awe, and wondering why  
You who lifts the seas  
You who carries its cargo aloft  
To be deposited in mountain tops  
Unnoticed, unwatched, ‘cept by the birds  
What was once a salty brine  
Becomes a torrent of pure life giving beauty

This unseen benevolent act, done by you  
Without thanks, without thought by those who gain  
Done to give life to such that you created  
Started unclean, made pure by your hand  
I stand and ponder why such an act  
Of pure kindness was done at all:  
That I might continue to live,  
Live such a life free to choose my own path.



Then suddenly as soon as you seem fit  
It dawns, in this simple frail mind  
That is what you did with me,  
Unclean as I was and am, you lift me  
Carry me aloft, purifying with your love  
Your grace, your compassion makes new  
I am flowing in your love over rock and gravel  
Down stream, ready now to give life to others.

# Cursillo Leader's Workshop (CLW) at Shepherd's Dene, 23 -25

**March 2018** By Revd Dr Judy Craig Peck , CLW Convenor

We had a very blessed time at Shepherd's Dene in March for our Cursillo Leaders Workshop. A beautiful venue, lovely weather, extremely helpful and flexible Shepherd's Dene staff, a great collection of delegates and wonderful Team members, along with some fun and games on Saturday evening.



The feedback was very positive, people who came all seemed to think it was worthwhile, that they had learnt a lot and enjoyed sharing with those from other dioceses. Many of the challenges facing delegates turned out not to be unique and talking together about

how to face them seemed to encourage people. The topics we gathered had helped the most were thinking about the importance of the Fourth Day, looking at what constitutes an Authentic Three Day Weekend, thinking about sponsorship and quite a few folk said they went away much more confident about what Cursillo is about, what it has to offer the church and their place in it all.

I urge you to listen to those who have attended a recent CLW, to what they have gleaned and how it can inform how you work in your diocesan Cursillo community.

## Have you ever done a CLW?

If you haven't been on one in the last 5 years, or indeed have never done one, we would highly recommend that you consider attending one.

### ***Who can come on a CLW?***

Anyone who has done a Cursillo weekend and wants to know more about how Cursillo works is welcome to apply. It is recommended that anyone stepping into leadership roles in their secretariat should attend, especially **Lay Directors**, **Spiritual Directors**, and **BACC reps**, however anyone serving on their diocesan secretariat should be encouraged to come.

It is suggested that anyone preparing to be a **Lay Rector** (LR) for a weekend would find it useful because it helps put Cursillo into context. This is not about learning how to do that particular job, which is learnt locally; a future LR will learn about the role and how to do it by staffing on other weekends, including acting as Observing LR and learning from previous LR in their diocese. Obviously sharing with other people who have done the role may be part of the CLW, so tips can be picked up, but that is not the main purpose of the CLW.

### ***What happens on a CLW?***

The style is informal with talks, group discussion and worship. Many delegates report the most useful aspect of the CLW is sharing in groups; there are plenty of opportunities for small group discussions following the talks. Topics covered include emphasising the importance of good sponsoring for participants, highlighting what is needed to ensure an authentic weekend is experienced by everyone and generally helping people understand more about Fourth Day activities, especially Group Reunion and Ultreya. As with all things Cursillo there is plenty of singing and fun, along with prayer and hard work.

### **Who runs the CLW weekends?**

BACC is responsible for the workshops. There is a CLW convenor who organises the weekends and a team of three people staff on the CLW weekends including a Spiritual Advisor.

### **Practical arrangements**

CLW weekends take place around the country 2-3 times a year. There is a cost for the CLW and many Diocesan secretariats sponsor members to attend. Applications are made to the CLW administrator Paul Thacker, details on the BACC website.

Those who come almost invariably report how informative they found the experience, especially meeting with folk from different dioceses, sharing ideas, challenges, joys and struggles. Look at your diary and book a place now, you will be very welcome.

## **Upcoming Cursillo Leaders' Workshops**

**Friday 28 to Sunday 30 September 2018**

at The Cold Ash Centre The Ridge Thatcham Berkshire RG18 9HU

**Friday 22 to Sunday 24 March 2019**

at Wistaston Hall, Crewe. CW2 8JS

**Friday 5 to Sunday 7 July 2019**

at Shallowford House, Stone, nr Stafford. ST15 0NZ

## **Further information about CLWs**

Bookings should be made no less than 2 months before the week-end and places are allocated on a first come first served basis. (Though last minute places are sometimes available – contact Paul Thacker to enquire).

### **Contacts**

**CLW Administrator:** Paul Thacker, Chapel Cottage, Chedburgh Road, Chevington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5QU. Email: [admin@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:admin@anglicancursillo.co.uk) Tel: 07909 730973 / 01284 850384

**CLW Convenor:** Rev. Judy Craig Peck, The Vicarage, 15 Church Mount, Guilsborough, NN6 8QA.  
Email: [clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk) Tel: 01604 743734

*Further information and application forms are available on the BACC website [www.anglicancursillo.co.uk](http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk)*

**Prayer, STUDY, Action**

# The First CLW In Great Britain

The editor recently received the following email from a retired Cursillo priest in the USA.

*“Yesterday was full of surprises for me. I found a long lost folder with material from the first CLW in Llandudno, Wales, in 1987 in which I was one of the four team/staff. A search through the BACC website led to the discovery of how amazing the growth in the UK has been over the past 30 years. I hadn't realized how it has prospered. That there are annual national meetings and several CLWs gave me great pleasure. As BACC President I thought you might have an interest in some of the history, particularly Dale's summary. Rev Ed Walker.”*

~~~~~

The Cursillo Leader's Workshop (CLW) in Great Britain was held on December 4-6 1987. The workshop was hosted by Cursillo Movement in Wales and held at the Loreto Center in Llandudno, Wales. The Center is a Roman Catholic Convent which sits at the base of the Great Orme, a mountain overlooking the Irish Sea. The CLW was attended by 33 people, 7 from Wales and 26 from various parts of England. The setting was very beautiful and the people attending were very friendly, enthusiastic, and thirsty for more knowledge about the Cursillo Movement, its methodology and strategy. The CLW team was led by Dale Traven, Diocese of Ohio; Doretta Kreuter, Diocese of New Jersey; Pollyann Matson, Diocese of Atlanta; and the Rev. Edwin Walker, Diocese of South Carolina.



Cursillo has been operating in Great Britain for the past six and one half years, and was introduced into Britain by the Diocese of Dallas, Texas. At this point in time Cursillo has spread to three Dioceses, starting with the Diocese of Wales (Cymru), then going to several others including the Diocese of Gloucester. By the summer in 1988 the Cursillo Movement will have spread into four new Dioceses. The first being scheduled for London, Feb. 18-21; Blackburn, April 7-10; Chester, also in April, and then this summer the first Cursillo is scheduled for Scotland.

We found the leaders of the Cursillo Movements throughout Great Britain to be very knowledgeable in regard to the material available to them. There is, however, a distinct lack of Cursillo literature in Great Britain. The material that they do have is shared and read enthusiastically. The CLW Team was very impressed by the fact that the leaders of the Movement in Great Britain were extremely interested in using Cursillo in the way it was intended and by the fact that they are striving to make their Movements as authentic as possible.

We did have the opportunity to speak to Brian Frank and Patrick Dennis, who were just elected President and Secretary, respectively, of the British Anglican Cursillo Council (BACC). This is a National Council very much like the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC). This body is charged with coordinating the various diocesan Cursillo Movements throughout Great Britain. Both Brian and Patrick have as their top priority the organization of the BACC by a set of By-Laws, and then discussing with the NECC and Gerry Hughes how they might sign a legal agreement to make Britain's Cursillo Movement as authentic as possible. They wish to receive a license to operate and the right to purchase literature from both the National Secretariat and the NECC. It is their hope to host more CLWs and sometime in the future to be able to put on CLWs of their own.

It is my belief that the people of Great Britain are well on their way to using the Cursillo Movement as it was intended, to renew the face of the earth for Christ, starting in Great Britain. I ask each of you to pray for all of them, especially for their new diocesan Cursillo weekends, their new Secretariats, and especially for Brian and Patrick as they work toward achieving this commendable goal. May the Lord bless their efforts.

Dale Traven

### Rev'd Steve Niland, National Spiritual Advisor for Australia

Over the years my husband and I have had the good fortune of travelling to Australia, firstly visiting my brother in N.S.W. and latterly our younger daughter in Melbourne. Traveling so far we usually go for around six weeks which gives us time to get over the jet lag ready to suffer again on the homeward journey.

During our time there we attend the local church and have become members of the congregation, being made most welcome. People want to talk and tell us about their families who emigrated long ago on the '£10 Pom' system. Talking to the priest in charge, Rev Steve Niland, after service over coffee we explained that we had recently moved from North Lancashire in Blackburn Diocese to Dursley in Gloucester Diocese. As the conversation continued we mentioned we belonged to Cursillo and he replied saying he was the Spiritual Director for Newcastle Diocese, New South Wales. As you can imagine we spent some time exchanging the experiences we had both had. Australia weekends are separate Male and Female and they create a new banner for each weekend.

On returning home we have kept in touch with Steve who now informs us he had been made National Spiritual Advisor for Australia. For his commissioning he took a flight from NSW to Perth then a couple of hours car journey. This is one of the many wonderful powers that Cursillo has of drawing people together in fellowship.

If anybody is visiting Australia Steve is now Priest in charge of Raymond Terrace, which is North of Newcastle, NSW. Do make contact with him.



## HOW IS YOUR RENACITY TODAY?

In September Kathye and I had a three-day mini-vacation at a guest house on the coast of Maine. One morning a man at the next breakfast table was wearing a tee shirt with the word **RENACITY** scrawled across the front. I was intrigued, and asked him what the word meant, so he told me this story.

Recently their six year old granddaughter was being taught some new words to expand her vocabulary. Two of the words her parents were teaching her were **tenacity** and **resilience**. Later, when they asked her to repeat the words, all she could remember was **renacity**. She had combined **tenacity, which you might call stick-to-it-iveness**, and **resilience, the ability to bounce back**. All she could remember was a combination of the two words. He was so tickled by her response that he had the tee shirt made.

Hmmm . . . **tenacity and resilience**. These two attitudes are helpful in our fourth day faith walk. We want to be tenacious in our faith and actions, no matter what difficulties arise. And yet we have down times when we feel away from our Lord, and need resilience to bounce back. We want again to experience the joy of worship, the insight of study, and the adventure of action.

As fourth day Cursillistas, our plan is to be steady in our piety, study, and apostolic action. But sometimes something gets in the way, and throws us off the track. It might be a temptation, a perceived insult, a setback in work or family, or even a happy event. It can be anything that directs our attention to this world and the issues we face in it, and takes our eyes off our Lord. A book on prayer I recently read gave this example: "But what about those times that feel decidedly unspiritual – when we have a confrontation with the children or a disagreement with our spouse, for instance?"

In any case, something distracts us, and we fall away. We slack off in that time of prayer, or omit that Bible reading, or don't make that call to someone who needs to hear from us.

What do we do? Just ride out the storm, and hope the days get better? This is where resilience comes in. It's the ability to recover and return to our fourth day practices. God recognizes we're off the track and guides us back. Our Lord can use many things to re-capture our attention. Maybe help will come through the kindness of a friend, a Bible passage that speaks to us, a chance to show the Lord's love to someone else.

Whatever it is, the resilience in our faith guides us, giving us the ability to return to the actions and practices that keep us close to our Lord.

So, to have **tenacity is to stick to our plan or beliefs or course of action. And to have resilience is to bounce back to them when we go off track.** My hope for you and for myself is that our Lord will guide us in continuing **Renacity** as we walk with him day by day.

*By Jack Foster, taken from the Episcopal Cursillo Movement (USA) '4th Day Magazine'.*

*Originally printed in THE TRIPOD Newsletter of the Diocese of Massachusetts Cursillo movement.*

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND 13-22 November



Rev'd Keith McNicol, Spiritual Director of Canterbury Cursillo, is leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November 2018. Keith has a wealth of experience and the planned itinerary looks really interesting. Please click on the link below which gives full details and booking information. Keith will be delighted to hear from you should you have any questions.

<https://darwin.eecsoftware.com/clientsites/mccabe/brochures/1113%20McNicol%20Tiberias%20first%2010%20days.pdf>

## BACC Pages

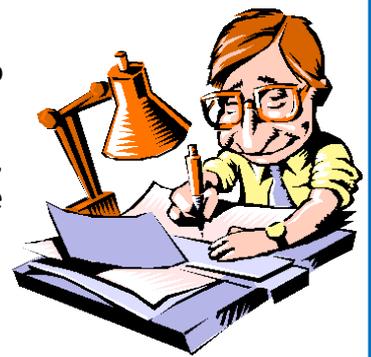
is the bi-annual magazine of the British Anglican Cursillo® Council. Thank you to all our contributors for this issue.

If there is anything you would like to contribute to the next issue, any thoughts, prayers, study recommendations or action tips that you would like to share please send to (preferably by email) to either of the following addresses:

**Email:** [president@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:president@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

**Post:** 28 Duchy Ave, Scarborough, N. Yorkshire. YO13 0SE.

**Phone:** 01723 375852 or 07941 338466



® US Patent Office © British Anglican Cursillo

#####

## Job vacancy—BACC Pages Editor

This edition of BACC Pages had been put together by me, Trevor King. Whilst I enjoy using my creative side on things like this (and I did the job over 20 years ago) I would prefer it if someone else with appropriate desktop publishing experience and a love for Cursillo were to volunteer to become the Editor. If you think this job is for you please contact me as above.

## Resources 2018 *Canon Tony Tucker*

I was asked last year to be the resources Officer for BACC which basically means I am the person who posts out to people, crosses, badges, resource booklets and any other paraphernalia the Diocesan Groups might require. I also support the CLW weekends with workbooks and other material. I perhaps should point out that some years ago I got involved in producing parish magazines as a parish priest who wanted better quality parish magazines available to the villages I served. The project grew as other parishes asked us to produce their magazines and service material.

When I retired in 2015 from parish ministry we resolved to set up a small not for profit company which goes under the title of Jubilate Communications. As a Community Interest Company (CIC) all its resources are applied to improving communication between all sorts of different groups. I have access to a substantial printer which folds and staples and is ideally suited to the task of producing the booklets which make up the BACC Resource Manual. Of course other sorts of printed material are available; cards, car stickers and flyers to name but a few.

Last year the British Anglican Cursillo Council (BACC) Standing Committee resolved to revise the booklets in our Resource Manual. Sally Henniker-Major chaired a group of people drawn from that committee as they tackled the task. Sally asked me to join the group reviewing the booklets. It's been a privilege to work with members of the committee as they worked diligently to revise and re-present information that the old resource books held within them.

**The rewritten booklets together with a revised list of Resources will be available at the BACC Conference in May and they will then be available from our website. Hard copies of the resource booklets as well as crosses, badges, group reunion cards and rule of life material can be obtained from the resources officer. [resources@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:resources@anglicancursillo.co.uk)**

I learnt long ago when it comes to manuals people fall into two groups; those that read the manual before they set out on a task and those who only read the manual when having set out on the task and find they have lost their way.

I suppose I fit into the second group of people. This task proved to be both technically interesting, in that the content of the booklets had to be shaped so that they could be both printed and available to be downloaded from our website. I found myself reading material that I had not read before. The booklets constantly remind us that Prayer is at the centre of every action undergirding and sustaining.

It has also been very encouraging as I met members of the Standing Committee and shared with them in Piety, Study and Apostolic Action. It has been very refreshing.

I know that at the heart of evangelism it can be said that we find one beggar sharing with another beggar where to find food. Using the Cursillo method as a tool, we can focus our action in the communities in which we find ourselves.



*"Every time we see a rainbow, listen to me, it represents the victory of grace over judgement"*

*John MacArthur*

## The Mystery of God's Tapestry *Trevor King, National President*



One of my favourite images of God working in our lives is the picture of God weaving a beautiful tapestry. As we live our lives we can see only the back of the tapestry; knotted ends and apparently random stitches that just look a mess. If we could see the front of the tapestry though we would see the whole picture and we'd see that God is doing something wonderful, creating a clear picture, a work of art, that only makes sense when it is seen as a whole.

The back of my tapestry is a right mess! No obvious picture at all, and the knotted ends are numerous! They include 3 entirely different significant periods of employment (college lecturing, managing a church based charity and bus driving), plus a number of shorter aborted false starts. I've lost jobs and been unemployed twice, have had two periods of quite serious depression, one of which led to me losing the job that I

know God had called me to, and worst of all, my first wife Steph died at just 46, 17 years ago.

On the brighter side there's two very happy marriages, two wonderful sons, and 3 gorgeous grandchildren. I have a real sense of achievement having set up The Rainbow Centre charity in Scarborough, I've been a Borough Mayor and I've been actively involved in Cursillo for over 25 years, serving as Lay Rector twice, as York Diocesan Lay Director and now National President.

I know that I won't see the whole tapestry picture until I'm in Glory, but as I get older and look over my shoulder so to speak I start to get occasional glimpses of the front and it starts to make some sense, the picture starts to come together.

As a child my parents brought me up to go to church regularly, I sang in the choir, went on church youth weekends and as a family we started going to Scargill House in the Yorkshire Dales, a Christian holiday and retreat centre. When I went off to polytechnic I stopped regular church attendance but the year I graduated, 1979, Steph and I went to Scargill for a week's holiday and it changed my life.

The sermon on the Sunday morning was on 'justification by faith alone', the simple fact that we can do nothing to earn God's love, we can only be saved by His grace. We just have to accept the fact that he sent his son Jesus to die for us to show just how much he loves us - all we have to do is to say "Yes". Then in the evening, in a beautiful chapel on the hillside looking across the valley as the sun went down, a young lady on the community danced to a song by the Christian writer Adrian Snell called "Jesus is the song I'm singing, come look to the sea and the hills". It was so powerful and beautiful that I gave my life to Christ there and then.

We started going to church regularly again, I got involved with the PCC, the singing group and so on. Then in 1991 Steph came across this Cursillo thing and decided to go on a weekend. It had such a profound effect on her that I decided that I wanted a bit of it too and so in February 1992 I went on Chester #10 at Savio House, Bollington near Macclesfield: my life was changed again.

There are many ways of describing a Cursillo weekend. Some liken it to the journey from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday, others say it's like the climb up the Mount of Transfiguration and back down again. For me the weekend asked 4 questions:

- Who am I?
- Who is Christ?
- What has he done for me?
- So what am I going to do about it?

I was 35, I'd had a mixed career including a wonderful job that had all gone wrong after just 3 months, I'd spent 18 months unemployed and I had just become a bus driver. And now I was being challenged to think very seriously about my response to what Christ did for me, how it should affect my life, what I could do to

serve our Lord! I realised even during the Cursillo closing service that I wanted to use my gifts and abilities, whatever they were, in some way for the Lord in His Church.

I didn't have much idea how (I quickly dismissed ordination) but I started to look for a suitable admin or management job. After 5 years searching, which included a lot of disappointments and 2 false starts, I finally found the job I believed the Lord had for me and we moved to Scarborough in 1997 when I was appointed Manager of a new church based charity for the homeless that became what's now The Rainbow Centre.

There was no Cursillo movement in York diocese but we quickly linked up with a couple of other Cursillistas and started growing the movement there. Again I served on the Steering Group, this time as Chairman, and York #1 was planned for May 2002. I was to be the observing Lay Rector on York # 1 and then serve as the first Lay Director and lead York #2.

Before that happened though my life changed again, very suddenly. Steph died after 11 days of illness in July 2000. Of course I was devastated but the Rainbow Café was due to open at work in the October so I kept going for about 12 months before hitting the bereavement depression brick wall. Although I did staff on York #1 in 2002 I was in no fit state to take on either being Lay Rector of York #2 or Diocesan Lay Director.

Happily I recovered, mainly because I had found a new soul mate, Anna, and in 2003 we married. Anna moved to Scarborough and life became 'normal' again, albeit a new normal. I served on the York Secretariat and I staffed on weekends, being Lay Rector of York #7 in 2006.

Then in 2007 my mental health fell apart again. After 9 years running the Rainbow Centre we hit problems with some European funding, I believed it was all my fault, became seriously depressed and eventually had to leave. I was offered long term sick leave, but I soon went back to bus driving as a way of getting better and after 18 months ended up back in adult training for the last 6 years of work before retirement.

A couple of months before I retired at the end of 2014, out of the blue I was asked to consider becoming the next York Lay Director. I hadn't been a member of the Secretariat for a while and had thought that my time had passed but God had different plans. And then York Cursillo was asked to host Ultreya GB 2016. We said yes and had a wonderful time organising it and then welcoming nearly 500 Cursillistas to celebrate in York Minster and University.

Many people were very kind and complimentary about our efforts and I think it was as a result of that that Sally Henniker-Major asked me to consider being President. But if it hadn't been for Anna's support and encouragement I wouldn't have taken it on.

Going back to the tapestry image, I now look back and think that if that wonderful job that I lost in 1990 had worked out it wouldn't have been so obvious to me on my Cursillo weekend 2 years later that I should seek a job serving the Church. If any of those false starts had been successful I wouldn't have ended up in Scarborough. If I hadn't suffered bereavement depression in 2001 I would have been York Lay Director then and probably not been involved with, let alone in charge of, organising the National Ultreya in York 15 years later. And I wouldn't have come to Sally's notice to end up as President now!



God has a purpose for all of us, he knows His plans for us and they are wonderful, despite the mess we often make of things and despite life events that deflect us from His path. Even if life doesn't turn out as you planned it, the tapestry He weaves in it will be wonderful, as long as you trust in Him and decide to follow Him. But beware, when He's in charge fasten your safety belt. You never know where you'll end up!!



## What my Cursillo Weekend meant to me

I was particularly struck by our table leader's witness about a Street Ministry. When I came home I attended a Listening Course organised at my church, Christ Church, Abingdon, and I received the basic training in Banbury.

I have been out on the streets a few times now. The Cursillo course has given me courage and I have discovered that it is a joy to be helping people in trouble late at night in practical ways and chatting to them meaningfully. We hand out lollipops, as well as flip-flops and water as needed. Last time some girls thought we were doing a Trick or Treat stunt!

*Sally, Oxford Diocese  
Taken from 'Oxon Fourth' magazine.*

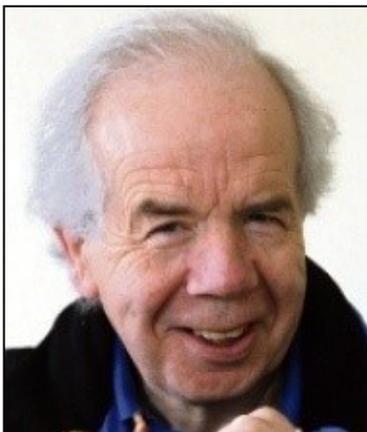
**What sort of fellow was Jesus ?  
Or other people in the bible?  
Would we recognise them today?  
Were they like anyone we know?  
To the first people who asked  
him about himself, Jesus said**



# ***“Come and See”***

COME AND SEE some of the characters and stories from the gospel of John taken off the printed page and brought to life by professional actor TIM BARKER.

In modern language and with more laughs than you might expect.



**Tim is also the Lay Director of Cumbria Cursillo and he has made a very generous offer:**

“If any Cursillo or other church group would like me to visit, please get in touch. There would be no fee. The entertainment (that's how my professional director said he thought of it) is aimed at people who don't know the bible as much as at churchgoers so could fit into a mission programme.

Running times are part one 30 minutes and part two 20. It could stand alone or be combined with music, worship, food (!) or even discussion.”

Contact Tim at [ld@cumbriacursillo.org.uk](mailto:ld@cumbriacursillo.org.uk)



## Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018, Chelmsford Cathedral

*By John Tomlins, Chelmsford Diocese*

**We are really looking forward to hosting the National Ultreya in 2018.** So much will have happened since we gathered in Southwell last year. Events on the day start with registration in Chelmsford Cathedral at 9:15am but for those staying at Anglia Ruskin there will be the opportunity to register on Friday evening.

Please to book as soon as possible by downloading a booking form from

[http://www.chelmsfordcursillo.com/ultreya\\_18.html](http://www.chelmsfordcursillo.com/ultreya_18.html) or go to the **Ultreya GB 2018** page on the BACC website .

This would be really helpful and for the evening entertainment numbers are limited. When downloading a pdf file it may be necessary to save the form first before filling it in. If you have difficulties or do not have an email address, please call **01255 554921** or **07963 707825** and leave us a message. We will return your call and help you through the process.

There are plenty of places nearby in Chelmsford for lunch but if you have brought a packed lunch, you will be able to eat it at the Cathedral.

If you would like to join us for supper and the Ceilidh in the evening in the Cathedral you will be most welcome, (please see link to 'Ceilidh & supper' on the website) and please book on our booking form.

### **Travel Information**

The train and bus stations are a 5 minute walk from the Cathedral. Chelmsford railway station is on the Great Eastern Main Line connecting to Liverpool Street Station in London.

For those arriving by car there are a number of options for parking, please see link to Parking. ([Parking](#))

### **Accommodation**

Please see link to Accommodation on the website. We have laid on accommodation at Anglia Ruskin University Student Village and there are a number of other options in the area listed.

***We hope there will be a large turn out and that Ultreya GB 2018 will be another memorable occasion.***

# ULTREYA

**ACTION # 15 # ACTION**



The British Anglican **CURSILLO**<sup>®</sup> Council

## ANGLICAN CURSILLO NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM # 7

**“Successes and Challenges”**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Sunday 20<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

*The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire. DE55 1AU*



**We look forward to sharing time with you at our biennial conference.**

The Hayes, in Swanwick, Derbyshire, has been a Christian Conference Centre since 1911. Set in beautiful Derbyshire countryside with easy road, rail and air links, the Centre is comfortable and well equipped. You can get directions via the Hayes web page. [www.cct.org.uk](http://www.cct.org.uk)

The BACC biennial Cursillo Conference and AGM is primarily for all Diocesan Lay Directors, Spiritual Directors & BACC Reps and all Standing Committee members but other Cursillistas are encouraged to attend as well.

The conference aims to inspire you through teaching, workshops, worship and prayer.

**The theme of the weekend is ‘Successes and Challenges’ and will be led by our National Spiritual Director Rev’d Canon Cynthia Hebden and our President Trevor King.**

***With a Ceilidh on Saturday evening.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**The full cost is £175 per person.**

(This covers accommodation and all meals from Friday evening dinner to Sunday lunch)

**Saturday Day Visitor £30.00.**

(Includes lunch and afternoon tea. Spaces are limited so please reserve early).

\*\*\*\*\*

***Bookings to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018.***

***A booking form is on the last page of BACC Pages.***

# ANGLICAN CURSILLO NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM # 7

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Sunday 20<sup>nd</sup> May 2018  
*The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire. DE55 1AU*

Full cost: £175.00. A non-refundable deposit of £60 to secure a place to be paid on booking and the balance by 30<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. Or you can pay the whole amount on booking.

Name & Address: .....

Email Address: ..... Phone: .....

Cursillo Diocese: ..... Post held (e.g.) LD; SD; BACC Rep: .....

Approx. Time of arrival: ..... (Registration is from 5.00. Dinner at 6.30 on Friday)

Dietary or Personal Requirements .....

**BEDROOMS:** All rooms are ensuite.

*(We have some disabled access and single rooms and but these need to be booked early.)*

Please tick here if you would like a room for a couple.  If you need a single room.

If you are willing to share twin room.  If you would prefer a ground floor room.

If you need a disabled access room.

**DAY VISITOR:** £30.00 Includes lunch and afternoon tea - spaces limited so please reserve early.

All cheques should be made payable to 'BACC'. Or you can pay by bank transfer:

Sort code: 20-29-68 A/c no: 70425907 Please put your name and 'AGM' as your reference.

Priority bookings (LD; SD; BACC Reps; Standing Committee) to be received by 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Bookings from other Cursillistas to be received by 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**It is important to have holiday insurance as cancellations are not refundable.**

Date: ..... Signed: .....

Post to: Jane Wrigley 11 Little Lunnon, Dunton Bassett, Lutterworth. LE17 5JR

Or scan and email to: [finance@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:finance@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

***BACC looks forward to welcoming you at the Conference.***

A graphic with a yellow cross background. Five colorful butterflies are arranged vertically on the left side of the cross. On the right side of the cross, there is a white text box containing a Bible verse.

God raised him on the third day and he appeared to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses.  
Acts 10.40-41