

Oxon Fourth



Oxford Anglican Cursillo

Issue No 12

Affiliated with the British Anglican Cursillo Council
Registered Charity No. 1117925

Autumn 2010

Reg. US Patent Office



From the Lay Director

So much has happened this year that it is difficult to know where to start! The Day of Deeper Understanding was an excellent event, with a good mix of new and seasoned Cursillistas. The talks were excellent – even after a few years as a Cursillista and serving on a Team three times these still brought out new aspects of Cursillo and I hope everyone who attended found the day worthwhile.

We were thrilled with the positive response to Bishop John's Clergy Taster Day from across the Diocese – and most grateful to Bishop John and Wendy for offering the hospitality of their lovely house and garden; we were blessed with a beautiful day and able to take our lunch out into the garden. Gilly and Janet prepared and served a superb lunch and many of those who attended seemed reluctant to leave at the end. We were fortunate to have both the National President and Spiritual Director with us for the day and grateful for their valuable contribution. A number of clergy expressed interest in signing up for a weekend and four of the guests on Oxford 8 will be attending as a result of that event. All Matthew's hard work organising the day has been well rewarded.

After a spate of monthly Ultreyas early in the year they became less frequent but the Diocesan Ultreya and Picnic was as always an enjoyable event and it was lovely to meet up with Cursillistas from across the Diocese and also some visitors and prospective guests. I look forward to the time when Ultreyas are happening on a regular basis across the Diocese but recognise that there are still large areas of the Diocese where there are few Cursillistas, so this is an ongoing task.

Matthew and Peter continued to put in a great deal of work on the planning for Oxford 8 throughout the summer months and it seems that all manuals and weekend material have had a thorough "spring clean".

I hope you all have Clausura on 24th October in your diaries – our first weekend at Douai Abbey is going to be very special and a good attendance at Clausura to welcome our new Cursillistas will make it a real celebration of Cursillo in the Diocese.

Following Oxford 8 the next important date is the AGM on 6th November; please note the change of time; as the Soltau Centre is booked shortly after lunch we thought it would be better to hold our meeting earlier, so we will start with breakfast from 9.15 a.m. and the AGM will be at 10 a.m. Although this means you will not get a Saturday lie in it does free up the afternoon, so I do hope we will have a really good turn out.

Cursillo in the Diocese of Oxford is in good heart and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Douai Abbey in October.

Alison Shaw

Time to Listen -Time for Reflection

It's always a great temptation to turn a Group Reunion into a time for discussion but, as with everything in Cursillo, it has been well thought out, tried and tested and uses the format for very good reasons.



In allowing each person within the group to speak without interruption or comment gives them an opportunity to really focus and reflect on their own personal relationship with God more fully and to discover more about themselves in the process within a safe and secure environment. Often it is in the speaking out aloud that we discover far more about ourselves and our faith than we ever thought possible which means that it's very important to be able to do this in an atmosphere of confidence and trust. It is the responsibility of each person in the Group to listen attentively and to give space, time and silence to the speaker as this is part of the vital work of sustaining the sacred centre for each of us - listening carefully to one another increases our capability and capacity to listen to God.

It's the task of the leader for each meeting to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to speak if they wish to and to discourage any discussion or hi-jacking of someone's space. Of course we're in the business of love, care, companionship, sustaining and encouragement of one another but listening with, and in, grace is an essential part of that.

With the permission of the Group members it's always possible to have discussion after the Reunion, perhaps over coffee (& cake), but the main work remains personal reflection and attentive listening.

Angela Linton

Spiritual Director for Cursillo in Oxford Diocese

'The first duty of love is to listen' Paul Tillich

Diocesan Ultreya & Picnic



When I joined the secretariat at the last AGM I had no clear idea of what being 4th Day Organiser would entail. I'm not sure that I'm much the wiser now but I've had some interesting experiences on the way. Most of the Ultreyas have happened without any assistance from me: my grateful thanks to those Cursillistas who have organised them, and welcomed us with open arms from all corners of the Diocese. I'm sorry I didn't manage to get to all of them.

The date for the Diocesan Ultreya and Picnic had been in my diary for a little while before it sank in that it needed organising. Whoops! Although I made my Cursillo in Gloucester a while before the first Oxford weekend, it's not very long since I found the Oxford Cursillo community, so I don't know everyone yet and I'm a bit shy, so I wasn't sure who to ask to give the witness talk. It occurred to me that I wasn't happy to ask someone to do something I had never done myself, so I volunteered and then realised I had no idea what to say. The words came, though, and it was one of those times you realise you are not alone. It was humbling to listen to Angela's response and I am more than grateful to her for stepping into the breach at short notice when other arrangements didn't work out. Thanks also to Linda for the music.

Giving the talk was actually slightly less scary than being in charge of the keys to Church House, after a crash course in operating the alarm etc. the previous afternoon. I was so relieved that we got in without any mishaps that I stopped worrying.

We were lucky with the weather and had our picnic in the Church House garden in the sunshine. We were a good crowd, although several people were on holiday which is a problem with events in July and August.

(Should we try September next year?) I love bring and share meals: there's so much variety to choose from, and so many opportunities to talk to old and new friends. And most of the food gets eaten and people always help with the clearing up at the end!

We are planning next year's programme and I should particularly like to hear from anyone who could host an Ultreya in 2011. It doesn't have to be a Saturday, it doesn't have to involve a meal (although coffee and biscuits would be welcome) – you could have an evening meeting, a breakfast, anything you like, all suggestions welcome. Contact me via 4th.day@oxfordcursillo.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you!

Gilly

Where possible, join with others:
one single bloom can catch the eye of
a searching soul, but a field of vibrant blooms,
expressed in harmony,
gathers the spirit into the joy of friendship.
To stand alone is courageous,
together is triumphant.

© Mary Wainwright & Ann Napier 2009

Has your re-union group thought about hosting an

ULTREYA?

If you think you would like to there is nothing in the diary before the end of this year or early next year.

Contact Gilly for information

(Email: 4th.day@oxfordcursillo.co.uk)

ULTREYA GB 2010

On Saturday morning, 4th September, I opened the curtains of my bedroom in a lovely B & B just outside Ripon to see a car which had arrived the previous evening sporting a GB Ultreya programme, complete with Rainbow, on its dashboard. The party from Edinburgh all remembered Matthew and Miriam, and we found plenty to talk about at breakfast.



The day started at Ripon Grammar School, with registration and coffee in the Assembly area with Alison Askew, whose mother was on the organising committee, doing “step duty”. We moved to the Sports Hall, complete with a climbing wall which looked as if it had been decorated for the occasion with brightly coloured handholds, etc. As always we started with singing – all the old favourites plus a lovely hymn “Colourful Lord” which had been written for Wakefield #18 by Pamela Greener. We were welcomed by Lay Director, John Speller and Spiritual Director, Wilf Gowing, as well as by the Mayor of Ripon and Bishop John Packer who spent the whole day with us. The thought of hundreds of people holding group re-unions in the Hall was mind-boggling, but it worked surprisingly well – something about the acoustics made it possible for us to be in close proximity with each other but still manage to hear ourselves and others in the group speak. Two friends who used to live in Standlake and discovered Cursillo in Derby joined the group I was in, so that made it very special.

The Action Talk was given by a lady who very simply lives a life of Action for the Lord – seeing needs and meeting them in the people she comes across in her daily life; this was followed by the Gospel response in which we learnt more than we needed to know about Paul Kennington's feet (!) before he talked about Jesus washing the feet of those He served.

Lynn Radcliffe's Presidential Address included the introduction of the National Spiritual Director elect, Bishop Idris, recently retired Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway and Primus of the Episcopal Church of Scotland, who had been nominated by the Oxford Secretariat – Matthew and Angela both know him and his wife well.

The morning programme ended early (a first?!) and I caught up with Angela Linton briefly before going our separate ways for lunch, which

could be at the School, in a Church on the way to the Cathedral or in the town, before gathering in the Cathedral for the Service. There was a short procession of witness by banner bearers and supporters down a pedestrianised street opposite the Cathedral – the cost of closing roads in order to process further was prohibitive. The body of the Cathedral was packed, the only spare seats being in the side aisles. It was a lovely service, with prayers and singing by the Northumbrian Community. The Dean of Ripon started his address telling us about his involvement with the church as a boy: he failed to gain entry to the choir because he could not sing; he was sacked as a server for being the only person to “put out the Light of the World” and as an acolyte for setting fire to the crucifer. Despite this, God had plans for him and eventually he was ordained and after “failing as a parish priest” he became Dean of Ripon Cathedral. He then preached in more normal vein, on the readings from Ephesians chapter 4 and John 21:15-17.



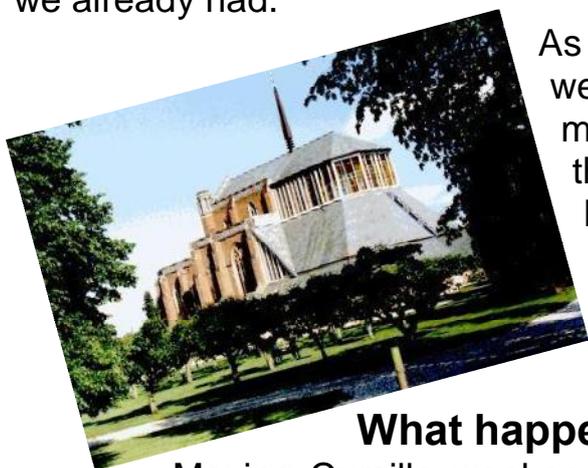
During the rousing rendition of “Thine be the Glory” the banners were processed out of the Cathedral and we all departed, some going home and others staying for a Hog Roast and Barn Dance in the evening. It was an extremely well organised event and very uplifting.

Next year GB Ultreya will be in Lincoln. Do think about going – it is a wonderful experience.

Post-card from Douai #2

At the time of writing, Oxford #8, our first weekend at Douai, is not many weeks away. We have a full complement of Guests and will be running the weekend with three tables. The team is in place and has already started training for the Weekend.

That we have got to this point is the result of a lot of hard work behind the scenes, much prayer, and many long conversations deep into the night. As we had always suspected, the move to Douai has given us the opportunity to do rather more than fine-tuning what we already had.



As you know, the essentials of the three day weekend are the fifteen talks, five meditations and daily Eucharist. Strangely, then, it is often the add-ons that have become part of Cursillo that occupy a lot of the thinking and energy, and that is where we have to place the focus of much of our attention.

What happens next?

Moving Cursillo weekends from one venue to another is almost like putting on another #1. However much we have planned for the change, it is only when we have run the weekend that we know what really worked and what didn't. At that point we can run a thorough review, and make any adjustments that are necessary, and consider any changes that were made during #8, to see if they should be retained. No small task, with the next weekend already only six months away.



What can you do next?

Oxford #8 was fully subscribed four months in advance and several people had to be disappointed. We can therefore expect much earlier applications for future weekends. So, if you are thinking of sponsoring someone for #9, **now** is the time to start praying about it, thinking about it, and doing something about it. And if you feel you may be called to serve on the team for #9, get in touch with Rob Turtle: he'd love to hear from you. And, oh yes - pray!

Matthew Caminer, Lay Rector, Oxford Cursillo #8

Poems, Verses, Quotes & Testimonies

I have been living in Oxford and worshipping in Cowley St John parish for over 30 years, and I made my Cursillo over twenty years ago in Gloucester. I was the only one from the parish who went but there were some people from Cowley parish and we formed a small group and kept in touch – but there weren't any e-mails or websites then, and when the Cowley people all moved on I lost touch with everyone. Gradually Cursillo became just a fond memory.

I had no idea that Cursillo had come to Oxford Diocese until two years ago when I was talking to Sr Barbara June over coffee after a Sunday morning service. She had been talking to an ex-curate from our parish who had said 'Oh, Gilly knows all about Cursillo'... Well, I had done but was very out of touch. This was not a chance conversation: it was an answer to prayer. I was looking for guidance as to what I was supposed to be doing next in my Christian journey but not trying very hard, and now I had had a shove in the right direction. I found the website, discovered Cursillistas on my doorstep, was absorbed into a reunion group and was back in the fold. When I went on my own to my first Ultreya I walked into the room feeling quite apprehensive as there was no-one there I knew. I needn't have worried: the love which greeted me was almost tangible – I have never felt so welcomed anywhere.

I was very pleased to be invited to be on the staff at Oxford #7: being Rollo Room Gofer meant I had a chance to be part of a weekend and it brought back a lot of what I had experienced so long ago. It was also a chance to find out what was different about an Oxford weekend.

My friend, who was a guest on Oxford #7 had such a wonderful experience on her weekend and was bubbling over so much that people were asking her what she'd been up to. She asked me why I had sponsored her at that particular time - which was because I had just found my way back to the Cursillo community – and it was her enthusiasm that stopped me from taking a back seat and letting everyone else do it all.

My favourite place is in the background being unobtrusive, but if you stay in the background it is much more difficult to make anything happen. I realised that I had something important to talk about, and that what I wanted to do was share Cursillo with as many people as possible. That was my task and I needed to think about how to do it.

As a result Janet and I held a Parish taster evening from which a lot of interest was generated . We planted the seeds and will water them to help them grow, maybe by writing something for the parish magazine, and encouraging people to register for a weekend.....

From there I have become 4th Day Organiser, which entails all sorts of things including co-ordinating the lunch catering for Bishop John's Clergy Taster Day. I am very grateful that I was led to Oxford Cursillo, welcomed unconditionally, and have made so many new friends . I sincerely want to help to spread the news of Cursillo in the Diocese and will do what I can to do so. I know that this will mean doing things that I find difficult I know I will be able to do so, supported by faith and prayer.

(Gilly Robinson)

*Look up with wonder
Look back with gratitude
Look around with love
Look within with honesty
Look ahead with anticipation*

© Jim Graham (after a reflection on Hebrews 12:2)

Bishop John:

Cursillo is one of God's secret gifts to his Church. It has a wonderful contribution to make in renewing faith and planting joy and gratitude at the heart of the Christian life. I do hope many will come and taste this bubbling spring water and help to re-energise the churches of our diocese.

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

Cursillo 4th Day - Reunion Groups

It is important to ensure that all Cursillistas have the opportunity to join, or form, a reunion group - the heartbeat of the Cursillo method. Regular meetings of small groups of people who share their spiritual journey encourages individuals to engage with their spirituality and develop a rule of life based on piety, study and action.

If you do not belong to a re-union group please contact Gilly Robinson (Email: 4th.day@oxfordsursillo.co.uk)

Did you Know.....

That because of regular monthly giving all of our administrative costs are covered and also a large proportion of our weekend costs as well.

If you would like to ensure that this continues please contact Margaret (Email: treasurer@oxfordcursillo.co.uk) for a form.

And if you want your donation to really count and you are a tax payer you can also fill in a gift aid form and get money back from the government. Which means that for every £ you donate Cursillo receives £1.28p

How good is that!

Dates for your diary

21st -24th October

Oxford 8 -

Douai Abbey

Saturday 6th November

Ultreya and AGM

9:15 Breakfast for 10:00 start

The Soltau Centre at St James the Less, Henley Road, Stubbings, SL6 6QW

5th-8th May 2011

Oxford 9

Douai Abbey

3rd-6h November 2011

Oxford 10

Douai Abbey

26th-29th April 2012

Oxford 10

Douai Abbey

We are now in the delightful position that we have a waiting list for Cusillo weekends so if there is anyone that you would like to sponsor please book early. See www.oxfordcursillo.co.uk for the latest updates

If there is anything you would like to contribute to the next issue of Oxon Fourth, any thoughts, prayers, study recommendations or action tips that you would like to share please send to: communications.rep@oxfordcursillo.co.uk by end March 2011.

Oxon Fourth is published by Oxford Anglican Cursillo

The views, opinions and statements expressed in Oxon Fourth are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect opinions or policies of the Editor or Oxford Diocesan Cursillo

Deadline for next issue: March 1st 2011