

# Oxon Fourth



## Oxford Anglican

# Cursillo

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As I write this preparations are underway for Oxford #11. I think everyone will agree that the atmosphere at the Clausura in November was electric – it had obviously been an amazing weekend. What was particularly encouraging was that there were three clergy participants.

It was good to be able to fill all vacancies at the AGM, but a lot of work still needs to be done to build up the Servant Community. The meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January was very helpful in stressing the importance of a strong Servant Community and how this impacts on the movement as a whole; the future of the Secretariat depends on people being active in the Servant Community who can take on leadership roles when the current incumbents retire. It was encouraging that three people offered to fill vacancies.

Please pray about the role of Palanca rep; Terry is continuing to combine this with her new role of 4<sup>th</sup> Day Co-ordinator but needs to pass it on. Palanca is very rewarding – over time you form relationships with people all over the world and it is very heart-warming to receive all the messages of good will when we have a weekend. You do not need particular technical skill, just the ability to send, receive and print an e-mail with attachment, so I would urge you to give serious prayerful thought as to whether this is something you feel you could do.

Apart from preparing for Oxford #11 Cursillo seems to be rather quiet at present and I know that Terry would love to hear from anyone willing to host an Ultreya. The winter Ultreyas in Witney and Swallowfield were well attended and it was good to welcome new Cursillistas.

Mary and I are off to the BACC AGM and Catch the Vision weekend in May and I am looking forward to an exciting event.

I am also looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Clausura on 29<sup>th</sup> April when Bishop Andrew will be presiding for the first time and we will welcome our new Cursillistas. A “welcome” Ultreya is planned in Abingdon on 19<sup>th</sup> May when it is hoped new Cursillistas will come along with their sponsors to start their 4<sup>th</sup> Day journey.

Ultreya!

Alison Shaw

## The Week after Easter....

*'Twas the week after Easter  
and all through the house  
not a creature was stirring,  
not even a mouse.*



The rhyme doesn't really go like that, I know, but it struck me recently how appropriate the adaptation is. The round of post-Easter worship is so keen to 'hype' us up during the Easter season that we easily forget the tone and atmosphere of the 'fourth day' as the biblical story unfolds at the end of the Gospels and in the Book of Acts. The disciples leave Jerusalem for Galilee where Jesus has promised to meet them. And then what? The fact is, we don't know; we must largely surmise. Whatever went on during that period of six or seven weeks it somehow emboldened Peter to return to Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) and to begin an eloquent ministry of preaching. How can we account for that?

The most sensible view is that the 'fourth day', meaning the period after the resurrection, was a time for the disciples and other followers to piece together the startling and unexpected workings of God in Jesus of Nazareth; a time for weaving the extraordinary thoughts, words and deeds of their time with Jesus into a coherent case and message.

It is rightly said that the Cursillo movement is more about the Fourth Day than about the weekend itself. The Fourth Day is for the cursillista just what the fourth day was for the disciples: a time to piece together in a new, life-giving and share-able manner what following 'the Way' is about. That weaving-together task is vital if we're to speak of God's work from a point of interior authenticity. But that is surely the centre from which compelling discipleship flows. However living the waters may be, they issue from a silent, reflective source of Fourth Day experience: hidden, meditative, weaving the Scriptures into a mirror of Christ.

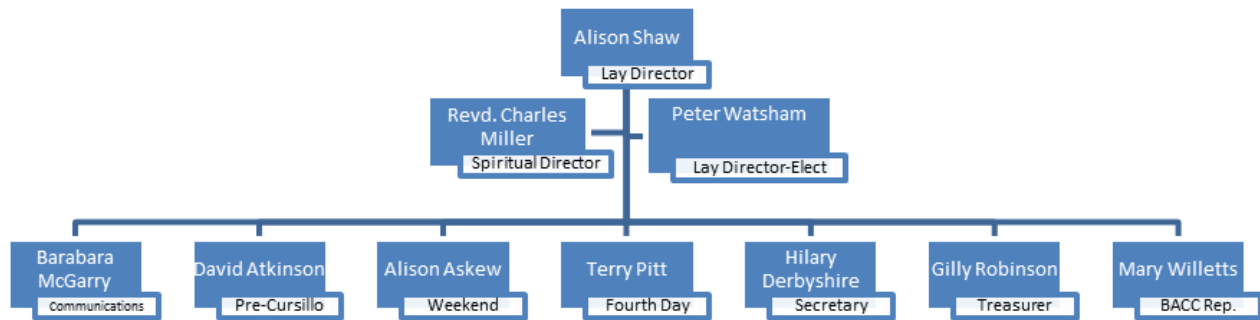
May this Eastertide be a Fourth Day season when we all work to piece together all that God did in Jesus, and consider afresh how it can make us resurrection's children.

Charles Miller  
Spiritual Director

# Servant Community Day



On the 28<sup>th</sup> January twenty-five Cursillistas met at St Helen's Church Centre, Abingdon to examine what being part of a Cursillo Servant Community involves and what creating one in Oxford could mean to the movement.



The Servant Community is an essential element of any Diocesan Cursillo Movement, without a support group of people dedicated to carrying out the essential behind the scenes work the organisation could not operate.

David Atkinson spoke on Pre-Cursillo, Peter Watsham (on behalf of Alison Askew) spoke on Weekends and Terri Pitt spoke about the development of the Fourth Day that would be possible given time and willing people. They all gave information about their groups and the volunteers that are urgently required at the moment. Elsewhere in this copy of Oxon Fourth you will find details of help that is needed that has come from the day, please consider if you can help.

Revd. Charles Miller presented the doctrinal talk on Vocation calling on us all to answer God's call to us, and Peter Watsham explained more of the detail of the Servant Community.

We then formed into groups to discuss a series of questions which produced some important and revealing answers, particularly that we need to increase our efforts to publicise Cursillo and the importance of ensuring new Cursillistas are supported in their Fourth Day, into Group Reunion and Ultreya!

Secretariat and the Servant Community will be considering the results of the questionnaire, together with those from the on-line survey and we hope to develop these new ideas over the next year or two.

David Atkinson

## The Survey

A big "Thank You" to everyone who took the time to respond to the internet survey - it is hoped your answers will guide and lead us to improve those areas within our Cursillo Group that are currently not as good as they could be.

*It is important to say that these notes are the personal observation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Convenor and should not be deemed to represent official opinion or policy.*

### General Assessment

The amount of useful information produced from this survey is very extensive and it will take a long time to effectively tackle all the "matters arising" which have been shown to be in need of attention and improvement. The following is a summary of a report given at the last meeting of the Secretariat.

From the information gathered the top priorities to be addressed were manifestly obvious by the volume of similar responses and the following conclusions may be drawn:-

- a) We need to acquaint everyone with information on "Days of Deeper Understanding" and arrange to hold a DDU as soon as practicable.
- b) A lot of constructive work needs to be done with Group Reunions - ensuring that everyone who wants to belong to one and meet on a regular basis is able to do so. We need to urgently address the situation of some cursillistas who want to be able to meet in a Group Reunion but currently find it very difficult to do so.
- c) Almost everyone who replied has attended at least one Ultreya and been in contact with the Cursillo organisation in the past year. A small minority of respondees are prevented at present and we need to find ways of facilitating their attendance.

This should be one of the areas which the 4<sup>th</sup> day team concentrates first.

- d) Whilst Oxon Fourth is read with great interest by the vast majority of Cursillistas, a preference for more personal and spiritual articles was expressed by many.

Perhaps some readers would care to submit articles of the type they would like to be included and there could be a regular column for Readers' Opinions, which would hopefully reflect the popularity (or otherwise) of subject matter.

This is not an exhaustive summary of the results received and it is hoped that an analysis of all aspects of the accumulated information can be analysed as an ongoing exercise over time.

Terry Pitt  
4th Day Rep

## HELP NEEDED!

For me, when I did my Cursillo weekend, it did exactly what it said on the box! Apart from making lots of lovely new friends who share my love of God and who help, encourage and support my faith journey through group re-union and ultreyas, it empowered me to take an active part in my church. Something I will always be grateful for. Cursillo helps me to keep my 'spiritual tank topped up'. Because of this I wanted to give something back to Cursillo which is why I became editor of Oxon Fourth.

For a long time, a very few have done so much to keep Cursillo alive and active in our Diocese. But now, as we approach our eleventh weekend, and the number of Cursillistas increases, the need has come to share the load so that 'the few' can lighten their load, remain active in their own churches, and keep their spiritual tanks topped up. So if you would like to give a little back and be a part of this ever growing movement we call Oxford Cursillo.....

### We are looking for help with:

#### Pre-weekend group:

- Someone to receive applications, check forms, and register people for the next weekend. Email access preferable.

**Contact:** David Atkinson at: [bdavida@hotmail.com](mailto:bdavida@hotmail.com)

#### Weekend group:

- Someone to recruit volunteers for Clausura etc
- Someone who can print material for weekends

**Contact:** Ali Askew at: [alison.askew@virgin.net](mailto:alison.askew@virgin.net)

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Day group & Palanca:

- 4th Day and Palanca are a huge part of the Cursillo movement and there are many jobs to be done. Please contact Terry for details

**Contact:** Terry Pit at: [terryandmelvyn@aol.com](mailto:terryandmelvyn@aol.com)

#### Communications Group:

- Someone to design posters and let Cursillistas know what is going on throuout the year i.e. ultreyas etc
- Someone who enjoys communicating with others and keeping others informed about what is going on
- Someone to keep in touch with 'The Door' and maybe write the odd article for them

**Contact:** Barbara McGarry email: [barbaramcgarry@btinternet.com](mailto:barbaramcgarry@btinternet.com)

**Or....** If you don't mind what you do but you would like to be involved get in touch with one of the names above and we will happily find you something to do. As the saying goes "many hands make light work"

Thank you.....

The logo for ULTREYA is displayed in a large, bold, multi-colored font. Each letter is a different color: U (purple), L (red), T (orange), R (yellow), E (green), Y (blue), and A (dark blue). The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a 3D appearance.



## Fourth Day in Action.....

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January I awoke fully intending to attend a course in Oxford, but God had other plans for me. I received some very clear instructions from God: I was to go to Starbucks at Peartree Services and He would send me someone He wanted me to meet. All I had to do was WAIT and God would guide me with the rest. I was torn between wanting to go to my course and doing what I felt God was calling me to do, especially as I wasn't entirely sure what it was all about. There was however really no decision to be made. I knew I had to go. Looking back I am so glad that I was obedient to God's call rather than pursuing my own interests as the situation taught me many things which have enriched my faith and encouraged me on my walk with Christ.

To cut a very long story shorter I went to Peartree armed with a couple of different versions of the Bible as I knew the 'wait' might be quite lengthy and it was a good opportunity for PRAYER and STUDY. The wait was indeed long but I was rooted to the spot. Besides I was actually quite enjoying reading 'Word on the Street' the street Bible my husband had thrust in my hand as I was leaving. Eventually, a man (later found to be called Keith) came and sat at the table next to me and again I wondered if this was the one I was to meet. I continued to wait for the 'further instructions' I had been promised. Finally I could wait no longer for the bathroom and praise God the instruction came. I was to leave the street Bible on the table and go to the bathroom but knew I was to return to the same seat afterwards. On my return Keith said "I'm glad you came back" Apparently in my absence he had discussed with his neighbour whether I would come back for the book. The other man had concluded that it was probably not a good book and that I had just left it. Keith had not been so convinced. I assured him it was actually a very good book and offered it to him. He looked tempted but didn't immediately accept the offer. I was convinced I was to give him the book and waited for the right time. As he stood up to leave he said goodbye and I again offered him the book, telling him that it was for him. Gratefully he accepted the offer and briefly examined the book. He quickly sat down again, clearly moved, and told me how appropriate it might be for him, as he had recently become homeless. Keith told me his story and I in turn told him about how I came to be there. Later we parted company and Keith left armed with a manageable version of God's word.

The reason I have related this story to you is not for any self aggrandisement but so that I can share with you some of the lessons I learnt. I discovered countless things, too many to detail here, but want to leave you with a couple of thoughts. I am not very good at 'letting go and letting God' but knew I had to leave Keith in God's hands. It wasn't about me bringing Keith to faith but it was about me making the introduction and leaving them to develop the relationship. Secondly, it was about the importance of having a support network for your spiritual journey. When I left Keith he had no network to support him. I resolved to pray for him and wanted others to pray too, hence my prayer request to all Oxford Cursillistas. I am extremely grateful I have Cursillo as my support network and would encourage everyone to make good use of it in this way. After all Cursillo is not just about the weekend - it is the 4<sup>th</sup> Day that matters.

**ULTREYA**

# Dates for your diary

## **Ultreya 19th May 2012**

10:00 for 10:30 start Ultreya followed by bring & share lunch  
St Helen's Church Centre Abingdon

## **Ultreya & Picnic 21st July 2012**

10:00 for 10:30 start Ultreya followed by bring & share picnic  
Diocesan Church House

## **GB Ultreya 8th September 2012**

To book look at: [Ultreya GB 2012 - Esgobaeth Llanelwy | Diocese of St Asaph](#)  
Or email: [uk-ultreya-2012@cursillo-stasaph.org.uk](mailto:uk-ultreya-2012@cursillo-stasaph.org.uk)

## **Oxford 12 25th-28th October 2012**

Douai Abbey

## **Ultreya & AGM 10th November 2012**

10:00 for 10:30 start  
St Helen's Church Centre Abingdon

### **Future weekend Dates:**

Oxford 13 - 11th-14th April 2013

Oxford 14 - 24th-27th October 2013

See [www.oxfordcursillo.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcursillo.co.uk) for the latest updates

**Cursillo is faith funded so thank you to the increasing number of Cursillistas who support Oxford Cursillo through Gift Aid donations, particularly by monthly standing order. Under Gift Aid, each £1 donated is worth £1.25 to Oxford Cursillo, the extra 25p coming courtesy of HM Revenue and Customs. If you would like to start making monthly donations, please contact Gilly at: [treasurer@oxfordcursillo.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@oxfordcursillo.co.uk)**

**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**

### **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:**

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](mailto:communications.rep@oxfordcursillo.co.uk) by the beginning of September 2012