

Oxon Fourth



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Welcome to the 2019 autumn issue. Inside we have a report and photos of the National Ultreya at Chester, and welcome news of a new date for Oxford's forthcoming weekend. Below, our spiritual director, Tony Price stresses the importance of the Fourth Day. My Editor's Interview features Andrew Foran, a retired prison chaplain. So, plenty of good reading! Please send articles and ideas to me at magazine.editor@oxfordcursillo.co.uk

Deadline for the spring issue is **March 15th** for publication in April.

Vivien Leeming, Editor



Message from our Spiritual Director,

the Rev Tony Price

Fourth Day First!

Really?

I've been trying to RTFM. Which is Geekspeak for 'Read The Fine Manual'. (At least, that's the more polite version of what the initials stand for.) Last year the British Anglican Cursillo Council revised the Cursillo manual, and made it available on their website at <https://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/resource-manual.php>. It's interesting reading, and I would encourage you to have a look at it if you would like a refresher course on what Cursillo is all about, and how we can follow best practice in doing the things we want to do, to make Oxford Cursillo the great resource it can be.

You will probably remember from the weekend when you became a Cursillista, that the first two days address the question 'What is a Christian?' Answer: "One who lives by grace." Until the end of the second day, the talks then explore just how that works, through the 'three-legged stool' of piety, study and action. The third day looks at how we can take that life of grace out into the world, to play our part in transforming the world for Christ. Another way of thinking about the three days is that they represent the Triduum of Easter: the three days from Maundy Thursday through Good Friday, Easter Eve and Easter Day. However we experience them, those three days all point to what comes afterwards: the Fourth Day, AKA The Rest Of Our Lives.

You may (or may not) be surprised that the manual says this is really the most important part of Cursillo. The section of the manual which describes it, calls the Fourth Day a 'unique method' which the Cursillo movement offers to the Church. While there may be many means which exist to encourage Christians to grow as disciples - to say nothing of the different diocesan programmes that bishops like to promote - the one thing that is unique to Cursillo is the Fourth Day and its activities.

When Cursillo was first developed in the Spanish Church in the 1940s, it began with the intention of growing mature Christian leaders, people who would be witnesses in the world, taking seriously God's call to bring the living Christ into their daily situations. Every part of the Cursillo method starts with that end in view, which is the 'Fourth Day'. Without that as the main focus of Cursillo, the three-day weekend is no different from, no more than, any other Christian course. This should be obvious really. Cursillo doesn't exist just to make those who belong to it feel good, but to equip them for service in the world. The Fourth Day is where and how the actual work gets done.

The manual lists five ways through which the Fourth Day works. Some of them are familiar in other ways of discipleship; some are special to Cursillo.

1. Regular meetings with a few friends or colleagues to share how we're getting on in our Christian lives: in study, or action, or to share moments we have felt close to Christ. This is the Group Reunion. Its great strength is to hold us accountable to fellow Christians.
2. Planning Christian action together. The group reunion is most effective if it is not only a support group but also a working party.
3. Meeting together with a larger group of Cursillistas from the diocese, at the Ultreyas. These are meetings for worship, prayer, fellowship and encouragement, with input about some particular form of apostolic action that someone is involved in. The Ultreya is the main opportunity we may have to continue to grow in our understanding of the Cursillo method.
4. A Rule of Life which we're encouraged to adopt, and continue to fine tune as we go on with it.
5. Finding a Spiritual Director to be a soul-friend.

I'm pretty sure that most Oxford Cursillistas are as fully and actively involved as they can be, in transforming the world for Christ. But I wonder if we are making as much use as we might of the 'unique method' that Cursillo offers to help us in that work? If your Group Reunion sometimes feels like a chore, or the next Ultreya is just too much of an effort in your busy life... Please stop and think and pray again. Every part of the Fourth Day is there to support and encourage you... but it's also there as a way you can support and encourage your fellow Cursillistas.

The manual also reminds us that when we sponsor a pilgrim on a weekend it's our responsibility to make sure there is appropriate Fourth Day provision for them after the weekend. We should introduce them to a Group Reunion, and encourage them to attend Ultreyas. Maybe help them with transport to make sure they get there, and then go with them as they meet all those strange new people? Let's make the Fourth Day work the way it should.

Ultreya!

**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.**

National Ultreya 2019 at Chester



Oxford Cursillo was ably represented at Chester Cathedral by six of us: Elaine Mordaunt, Jan Jefferies, Lizzie Bordon, Barbara Essam, Johanna Raffan and Pauline Stanton-Saringer. I counted 23 banners at the service, but I might have missed some.

The first session included news from Trevor King, our National Director, and other BACC information which can be found on the BACC website. Then there was an inspiring account about the work of Kairos Prison Ministries. We heard how Cursillo have taken this on board and have a team which presents an “adapted Cursillo weekend” over a series of weeknight meetings as a way of bringing the Gospel to prisoners. People’s lives have been changed as they come to faith and the Team are welcomed by the prison authorities. [For more information Google Kairos Prison Ministries or Kairos and Cursillo].

At 11am the banners were paraded from the Cathedral and around the adjoining streets, including the famous Eastgate. The Chester Silver Band were just outside the Cathedral to add hymns to our march. Unfortunately, the rain also chose to accompany us, but it only dampened our clothes not our enthusiasm!

After our “picnic” lunch indoors there was a chance to view Cursillo merchandise and also to catch up with friends.

The service at 2pm was led by our National Spiritual Director and the Bishop of Chester preached. It was a time of praise, worship and a great sense of fellowship amongst us. It is always an encouragement to be reminded that we are part of an active and effective organisation seeking to promote the spiritual growth of “ordinary” Christians in our churches.

We all enjoyed the day and we had all, separately, decided to “make a weekend of it” by staying in the Chester area for at least 2 nights with a chance to explore a bit.

Next year’s National Ultreya is in London, based on Southwark Cathedral and promising the banner walk over the Millenium Bridge!! Let’s all try to get there.

Report by Pauline Stanton-Saringer

It's full speed ahead for Oxford#19 Weekend!

March 5th-8th 2020 at Cold Ash

At the time of writing we have 8 guests signed in. The OLR, Angela Smith, who is from Bristol Diocese and is our Regional BACC rep, is hoping to bring 2 or3 guests with her. So, if you have any guests in mind, please get their applications in to Alison Shaw as soon as possible.

Jan Jefferies is doing a super job keeping the majority of her original team together and finding a replacement Rector's Gofor [Peter Watsham!] since Ali Askew and her husband are moving abroad. Please pray for Jan and the Team and for Ali and Nathan.

Bishop Colin has willingly agreed to preside at the Clausura as Bishop Steven is unable to make the date.

Please put Sunday, March 8th in your diaries now and do your best to get to Clausura to welcome the new Cursillistas into their 4th day. It makes such a difference to have lots of people there.

Pauline Stanton-Saringer

Application forms are available on the Oxford Cursillo website.

For more information about the weekend contact Pauline on pmsaringer@btinternet.com.

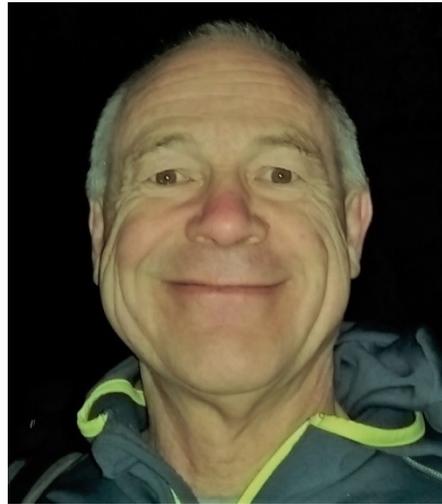
National Ultreya at Chester

Left to right:

Johanna Raffan, Barbara Essam and
Lizzie Bordon in the cathedral.



When our plans don't work out!



Paul Sugden

I remember it well... it was a dark January day, and the rain was pouring down. I was at home from University for the weekend and staying at my Mum's house. We had made plans to go for a long walk in the country followed by a pub lunch. But this was clearly not very appealing now, and we were struggling to think of alternative things to do. I was disappointed and it wasn't what I had planned or expected.

Then my Mum said she had just heard on the radio about a giant cactus at the Oxford Botanical gardens which had come into flower for the first time in 100 years. On a whim we drove to Oxford to see what all the fuss was about.

We were not disappointed.....as we walked into the glasshouse, filled with cacti of all shapes and sizes, we looked up at the tallest one and there sitting on top of the 20ft high cactus, was an enormous, magnificent, colourful flower which stood out so prominently against the green background of its neighbouring cacti on a dull, wet January day.

The cactus had stood, looking rather uninspiring for the last 100 years, being watered, kept warm and nurtured by many dedicated horticulturalists, but, with no discernible change or evidence that it was going to ever flower....and yet, in its own time, in God's time, it had finally come to realise its true potential and beauty and to be seen in all its glory and majesty.

No doubt we have all had times of disappointments and frustration when things have not turned out as we had planned or wanted. But it is perhaps more poignant and difficult to accept our disappointments when we are trying to take forward our apostolic action, as disciples for Christ when we want to serve God. Sometimes things just don't seem to be going right, and there are long periods when nothing seems to be changing or happening. I have found myself saying "I don't understand, God, why you are not making this work for me, after all I'm doing it for you!"

But I am often reminded of how in the bible the Jews didn't expect their 'King' to be born in a stable, or to be a carpenter, and to mix with the poor, the sick and tax collectors; how the disciples were devastated when Jesus was crucified, leaving them alone to fend for themselves.

But ultimately they found God's plans were more glorious than they could ever have imagined.

In the past year I feel that I have been learning how to deal with, or perhaps make sense of, times when my intended apostolic action has not turned out as planned, when I have hit 'dry' times in the wilderness when nothing seems to be changing or happening. I have been learning that sometimes the best 'action' is to be patient and to wait.

Recently I've been working with our Vicar to start a new family service, held at 4pm, which we thought would attract those who had other social and sport related events on a Sunday morning. The services have been well received by those who have attended, but unfortunately we have had lower numbers than we expected. I was disappointed - it wasn't what I had expected or planned.

But we certainly haven't given up, we are reviewing our plans and learning from the services we have held. We are also coming to terms with some hard truths about our parish and the lower than expected numbers of interested families we have on our e-mail list.

But **more** fundamentally, we recognise we need to exercise Christian discernment, to focus on God and Jesus to guide our plans and decision making. And we need to be open and willing to accept that maybe it is God's will that the time is **not right** for the 4 pm service. We need to be patient and bide our time. Or perhaps we need to look where God's Spirit is working and where he is calling us. Is it to establish a service at 4pm? Is it to build relationships with families by other means, or is it working with churches outside our parish?

It could be any of these things....at the moment I'm not sure where God is leading me, but I need to put my faith and trust in Him, and be patient for Him to lead me in the right direction.

And of course, like many of you I'm sure, I have also been disappointed that we did not get enough guests for our Cursillo weekend in April. Jan had brought together a great team, full of enthusiasm, devotion and many different talents. But the delay of the weekend was - again - not what we expected or planned. But we have now a new date, the team are still together, and if we look for God's discernment, for His truth and His will, we will be guided by Him and I am sure we will make the next Cursillo weekend as successful as the last one.

I am learning that sometimes life throws so many things at us that all we can do is hold on. And when life and its disappointments drain us, we need to hear the call of Christ to return to our centre, to stick to our faith, be unflinching in our conviction and wait patiently for the time when God chooses for us to flourish in our apostolic action.....perhaps like the cactus in the Oxford Botanical Gardens but I am sure we will see many of our actions flourish and flower in less than 100 years!



OXFORD#19 Cursillo Weekend
March 5th – 8th 2020 at Cold Ash near Newbury
Further details from:

Editor's interview: Andrew Foran, Retired Prison Chaplain

Prison was Andrew's "parish"

Andrew Foran recently retired after 21 years as a prison chaplain, almost 10 of them at Bullingdon



Ordained 30 years ago at Chelmsford, Andrew worked in parishes before finding himself strongly called to the prison ministry. He had worked part-time at Send Women's Semi-open Prison near Guildford in 1997, and then went full-time two years later. Andrew now lives in Bicester and worships at St Egburg's where Cursillo group reunions are held.

Q: What drew you to work in prisons?

A: I found prisoners generally very open and frank about their situation, and I felt I could help them. Chaplains always look for the good in people, encouraging a positive attitude, and this was very attractive to me.

Q: What was it like at Bullingdon?

A: Bullingdon, with up to 1100 prisoners, was like an enclosed parish with its own church. Services would draw over 60 people. I was also there for the staff, Governors and civilians, who all had a lot of stress. In fact my first Governor I worked with there described the chaplaincy as the "heart-beat of the prison".

There was a mix of short-term and long term prisoners, including lifers, also sex offenders, and some on remand, for example. These were only supposed to be there for a very short time but sometimes it was months. We had a Young Offenders' wing, too; because of a drop in young offenders there had been cuts in special prisons for them. The population make-up was never stable as prisoners were always going to and from the Courts.

There was a level of violence, most of it drug related, which disrupted all the routines. Suddenly

everything would close down, including the chapel! There were long hours of work much of it very stressful, and when I first retired I slept such a lot!

Q: What did you find most challenging?

A: We did a lot of work with prisoners receiving news of serious illness, or death, of a relative. Very often this would be a grandparent who had brought them up, due to the chaotic state of their parental home. They would want to go to their funerals, but the rules sometimes forbade this – only parents' funerals could be attended – and this they found terribly hard.

And gradually during my time as a chaplain, the provision of resources got much worse – many long serving Prison Officers left, meaning reduced personnel taking on resulting additional work. As a result prisoners would be more confined to their cells for longer periods, and things like educational facilities were reduced, all resulting in increased stress and frustration levels all round.

Another casualty was things like seeing a prisoner playing table tennis with the Wing Prison Officers. This helped so much in the development of good relationships inside the prison as also social skills in preparation for release. It became much more difficult to maintain good morale in the prison generally.

Q: What were some of the highlights?

A: Many had some kind of awareness of Christianity and they did realise there was another way of life. Baptisms and confirmations were truly wonderful experiences, and the one-hour bible studies revealed some amazing insights into their lives. I was able to use the liturgy, too, to bring things home to them. I loved Holy Week and Easter when the altar was stripped, reminding us of Christ's death and his visit to the already dead – this really caught on, that Christ made time to do this, to show that the dead could also rise, even the spiritually dead!

When I was preaching there could be lots of interruptions as they called out! I quite enjoyed that! It was really a privilege to serve them.

We had a very good team of volunteers including from St Aldate's, Oxford who ran Alpha Courses. And during my time there the chaplaincy became very multi-faith; we had corresponding faith chaplains ministering to Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, even Pagans. There were some 180 Muslim prisoners, and their Chaplain had a hard time, coming up against extremist type thinking.

I also liked helping train ordinands – every ordinand should spend time in prison!

Q: Sometimes the public get agitated about prisoners having so-called luxuries, like phones, or access to phones – are you in favour of this?

A: Yes, certainly. The phones are monitored, only specific numbers can be called. When prisoners arrive they are each given a minimum loan of £2 to use the payphones on account on every landing and this enables them to keep in touch with their families, which does seem to reduce re-offending. Relationships are so important. But sometimes there are long queues, and it can mean a prisoner has difficulty phoning at the best times for their families to be available. Or they find a bad situation at home and while they

are talking about it they run out of credit! That can leave a prisoner in emotional turmoil.

Q: Do you think we should be building more prisons?

A: No, certainly not! We have to have prisons as a sanction for when everything else has failed, but there are other ways of dealing with offenders, such as Restorative Justice work. We, as with many prisons, ran one such course called "Sycamore Tree" using a Bible Study of the story of Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Tree (St Luke chapter 19) when prisoners are invited to focus on their victims, to really understand and come to terms with the effects of their crimes and in some way make amends. I have seen some spectacular results. And then there are Prison Counsellors, and Prison Visitors, all volunteers (and all of whom we managed in the Chaplaincy department). They are usually mature people with plenty of life experience who can help prisoners – I am training for this myself.

Q: So, Andrew, you will be going back inside!

A: Yes, I feel I have the experience to do this.

Q: What other things are you doing in your retirement?

A: I like singing in choirs – I was part of the massed choirs at the Royal Albert Hall last December singing Handel's Messiah, that was wonderful! I like walking and gardening, and of course I will have more time for Cursillo reunions. I made my Weekend at Douai, Reading in 2012. My work schedule and tiredness prevented me participating very regularly, but even so it gave me wider sense of community and was a lifeline for me.

The Oxford Festival of Prayer 2019

Held at Ripon College, Cuddesden, in July, this festival organised with the BRF proved to be a thought provoking way to spend a Saturday. Attended by about 100 people there were sessions in the morning and afternoon with inspiring and challenging speakers. Lunch was a picnic in the very pleasant grounds and we were blessed with lovely weather. There was also a bookstall to browse. We were welcomed by Pete Greig, award-winning author and founder of the 24-7 Prayer movement. His latest book, HOW TO PRAY, has been enthusiastically received.

We then split up for our chosen morning sessions. I went first to "Being real with God and letting God be real with you", given by the Right Rev John Stroyan, Bishop of Warwick, who said God loves us passionately just as we are. We should not let our failings discourage us, they just show us our great need of Him. He passionately wants a personal relationship with us.

My second session was "The Contemplative Response" led by the Rev Ian Cowley, who said that in modern Western society's hedonistic approach to life we need to discern what God wants for us. Are we serving God or ourselves?

My afternoon session was "Exploring the Enneagram for spiritual growth.

I shall certainly sign up for next year's festival!

Report by Vivien Leeming



Getting a country-wide view of Cursillo

Elaine Mordaunt

Oxford's representative on the British Anglican Cursillo

Being the BACC Rep is a great job. I love getting round the country meeting Cursillistas from the many other dioceses. I've been able to bring back some really good ideas, both spiritual and crafty!

In this role I'm invited to attend the Full National Secretariat Meetings, along with our Spiritual and Lay Directors of the Oxford Diocese. This year Pauline and I went to its AGM in Shepshed in Leicestershire where we discussed proposed changes to the BACC Constitution and had a study session looking at the content of the Cursillo Weekend. I'm looking forward to the next meeting in York in November.

In June, Pauline, Tony, Victoria and I attended a Group Meeting near Chippenham with other Cursillistas from Exeter and Bristol Dioceses. It wasn't a large gathering but we had a very useful discussion with the National Spiritual Director, Stephen Bowring, about the trials and tribulations of running Cursillo Weekends. Angela Smith, who is the Group Leader and also Lay Director of Bristol, organises these meetings so well. We are looking forward to seeing more of her as she is on the Team at our next weekend.

An added bonus for me is what else I discover when taking extra time out from the locations I'm visiting. Whilst at the National Ultreya in Chester recently, I was shown where to find the carved elephant with hoofs! Just as in the past, we all have to imagine things which we don't quite understand. Then, next morning, I attended a Communion Service at Northop, just into Wales, where we sang the Gloria to Men of Harlech and Agnus Dei to The Ash Grove! At least I knew the tunes!



Delegates find a Cursillo Leaders' Workshop a rewarding experience

Those who attend a CLW usually find it a helpful way to understand Cursillo and its place in the church. Recently a delegate commented that they wished they had done it 18 months previously as it would have helped them when they staffed on a weekend as a table leader. Often the feedback from delegates comment on the benefit of sharing with those from other dioceses, understanding more about the Cursillo method, what Cursillo has to offer the church, the emphasis on Fourth Day and the importance of ensuring that weekends provide an authentic Cursillo experience.



Who should attend a CLW?

- Those undertaking a major role in their diocese, region or nationally e.g. it is an ideal thing for incoming Lay Directors and Spiritual Directors to do, along with BACC reps, other secretariat officers and members
- Lay Rectors ought to do it, preferably well ahead of undertaking that role
- Those preparing to staff on weekends e.g. table leaders
- Anyone who is interested in learning more about Cursillo, what is about, how it works, and what it has to offer the church
- Those who continue to be involved in Cursillo are advised to attend every 3-5 years; it is continually being updated and revised in response to feedback and in the light of changes in how Cursillo is working locally and nationally.

Where do CLWs take place?

- Retreat centres in different locations around the country
- We try to move them around the country to facilitate as many people as possible being able to attend
- We choose locations which are accessible by car or train and will endeavour to pick delegates up from nearby railway or bus stations

Future CLWs are planned for:-

- **15th – 17th November 2019 at Pleshey** in the Chelmsford diocese,
- **27th – 29th March 2020 at Shallowford** near Stone in Staffordshire,
- **9th – 11th October 2020 at Shepherd's Dene** in Northumberland

Bookings are being taken now; more information and the application forms are on the BACC website.

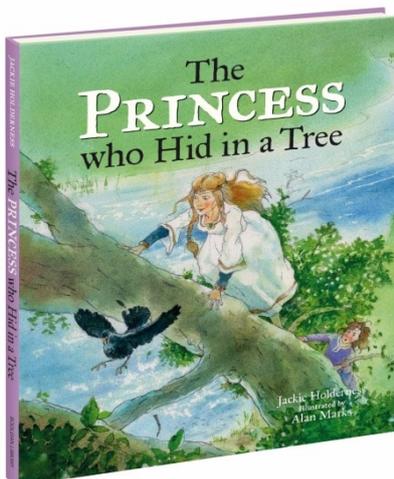
We look forward to welcoming you on a CLW soon!

Rev Judy Craig Peck, CLW Convener

The inspiring story of Oxford's Saint Frideswide



At the launch of her book for children, *The Princess who Hid in a Tree*, Jackie Holderness shared a “book” cake!



REVIEW by Vivien Leeming

Published by Bodleian Children's Books, this is very attractively presented with an exciting story in good clear text, wonderfully illustrated on every page by Alan Marks who is an award-winning artist. St Frideswide comes across as a lively, resourceful girl who was both brave and kind. I also liked the historical background tucked in at the back, for older readers like me!

It costs £12.99. See www.bodleianshop.co.uk



Jackie Holderness, education officer for Christ Church, shows a party of schoolchildren around the Cathedral, pointing out the wonderful stained glass window depicting St Frideswide, a Saxon princess who founded a church on this site. In a recently published book for children Jackie tells the exciting story of the saint's escape from Algar, the King of Mercia, who wanted to marry her.

Read what Jackie has written below for OxonFourth readers.

The religious foundation at Christ Church, Oxford, has a long history, stretching back 1,300 years, combining worship and study, healing and pilgrimage, tradition and reform.

In my current role as Cathedral Education Officer, over the last few years I have worked with thousands of local school children, but very few of them are aware that the Cathedral 'belongs' to the Diocese as well as the College. Even fewer of them have come across the story of St Frideswide until they encounter the key episodes of her life which were captured by pre-Raphaelite artist, Edward Burne-Jones, in his magnificent stained-glass window in the Latin Chapel.

Frideswide was an Anglo-Saxon princess, born in the late 7th century, in Wessex. Her name means 'Great Peace', being a compound of two Anglo-Saxon words meaning peace (frithe) and strong or wide (swithe).

According to the story, Frideswide wished to serve God and live as the royal Abbess of a religious community, but Algar, a pagan ruler in neighbouring Mercia, was determined to abduct her and force her to marry him. To escape, the princess travelled along the River Thames, and hid deep inside a forest, perhaps at Binsey, Bampton or Benson, or at Frilsham, near Yattenden, where she may have stayed for as long as three years, possibly working as a swineherd. Thankfully, through her prayers and God's protection, the legend says that the princess managed to evade capture and was able to establish a church beside the river, where Christ Church now stands.

The religious foundation at Christ Church, Oxford has a long history, stretching back 1,300 years, combining worship and study, healing and pilgrimage, tradition and reform.

Like many early saints, Frideswide was associated with various miracles. After her death, her burial site attracted increasing numbers of pilgrims, and her medieval shrine is still a focus of pilgrimage today. When the cult of Frideswide was at its zenith in the Middle Ages, thousands of pilgrims visited her shrine each year, and an annual Frideswide Fair was held in her honour, with a procession through the town.

Today, the city still marks the saint's patronal festival with a Civic Service, during which the congregation is invited to lay a stem of rosemary, for remembrance, upon the shrine. Some pilgrims also visit the 'triale' or healing well in Binsey, which is also known as the 'treacle' well in Alice in Wonderland, who is also connected with Christ Church. Interestingly, Alice Liddell, the real-life Alice, who was the daughter of the Dean of Christ Church in Victorian times, carved an image of Frideswide rowing down the Thames. Originally on a door made for a church in London, this image of Frideswide can be seen in the church of the same name in Botley Road.

Writing my book, my intention was to reach children and families and to share Frideswide's example of a life of faith, in an appealing and accessible way. Perhaps it will awaken greater interest in Pilgrimage, past and present and lead to the saint's connections with the Cathedral and Oxford being better understood. In my retelling of the story, I highlight the saint's bravery and zest for life, but I also emphasise her inner peace and trust in God.

ST FRIDESWIDE EVENTS

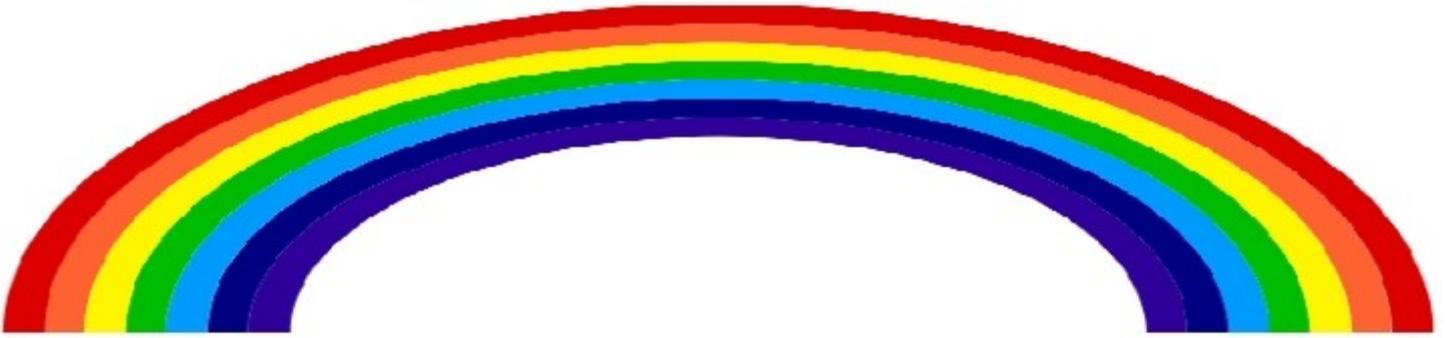
The patronal Eucharist will be on October 17th at 6pm.

The most exciting event, the 2019 Diocesan Pilgrimage takes place on the Saint's anniversary day, October 19th

The Civic service will take place on Oct 22nd at 6pm.

The leaflet can be found here:

<https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/Frideswide%20Pilgrimage%20Launch%20Leaflet.pdf>



A new verse for De Colores!

*No Calories, in Cursillo at least that is what we are led to believe,
No Calories, well if you think it's true then it's only yourself you deceive,
No Calories, in each gateau and pastry and succulent chocolate éclair,
And I think that it's fair and my duty of care to issue some advice and a warning.
So enjoy while you can, every woman and man, 'Cos your diet will start Monday morning!
Au Lait!!*

Visitors from Chichester led this rousing rendition of De Colores at an Ultreya in Kidlington in June, when Maggie, their guitarist explained it was written by Derek, one of their fellow Cursillistas. Thanking everyone for their warm welcome she noted that in Chichester refreshments were definitely high calorie biscuits and cakes, but in Kidlington there was also a healthy option of strawberries and grapes!

Absolutely no attention would be paid to calories at Chichester's next ultreya September in Goring. Healthy options were unheard of in Sussex which is why this new verse worked so well for them.

Maggie said that when she made her Cursillo weekend she was told there no calories in Cursillo!

"When I next saw the Spiritual director who told me this, I told him that this is not what was said on my return home. Without a moment's thought he replied: Ah! But were they using Cursillo scales?"



Pictured at St Mary's, Kidlington,
with Jan Jeffreys, centre, are,
left to right Irene, Lauren, Maggie and Marie.

Good Morning Baarbara!



This morning I found a lost sheep. Her name is Baarbara.

She had been gone for some time. I was delighted to see her. I had missed her and wondered where she was. She was given to me some years ago now by a very dearly loved friend as I was about to undergo major surgery and face an uncertain future. She was stuffed from nose to tail with love and prayers. She is small and soft and fits snugly in a hand which might be attached to a person in need of comfort. She has been with me ever since, has been on holidays, back in hospital several times and finally moved house with me. So I was very upset to find her gone.

However this morning, I was doing some rather more thorough cleaning than is usual with me and there she was, down by some dusty plugs behind a chest of drawers. She was greeted with joy and taken into the bathroom for a much needed wash and brush up and is now restored, fresh and clean, to her place beside my bed.

As I gently cleaned her silly face I was struck again by the parable of the lost sheep. The shepherd's joy resounded in me as we found our lost sheep, silly, soft but so dearly loved. Some hours later, as I write this, I am still filled with pleasure at the restoration of a small soft toy which means a lot to me. How much greater the Father's joy at the return of a beloved child.

Jan Jeffreys

Dates for your diary

Cursillo Weekend

Oxford#19

March 5th – 8th, 2020

At Coldash, near Newbury.

Further details from:

Pauline Stanton-Saringer

pmsaringer@btinternet.com

Application forms from

Oxford Cursillo website

Ultreya at Quainton Parish Church
near Aylesbury

November 30, 2019

Further details:

Mrs Vivien Leeming

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Cursillo Leaders' Workshop

November 15 – 17, 2019

Diocesan Retreat House, Pleshey, Chelmsford

March 27 – 29, 2020

Shallowford near Stone, Staffordshire.

October 9 -11, 2020

Shepherd's Dene, Northumberland.

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**Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue of OxonFourth.
The next issue is planned for the spring and items for inclusion should be sent to:
magazine.editor@oxfordcursillo.co.uk to arrive not later than March 15th, 2020.**

Please contact me with ideas for articles well before this date.

Telephone 01296 655342

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