



# the **BACC** pages

SUMMER 2014



the magazine of  
THE BRITISH ANGLICAN CURSILLO® COUNCIL

## **BACC Pages**

is the bi-annual magazine of the British Anglican Cursillo® Council.

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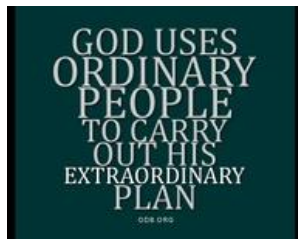
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# Prayers and Scripture



Teach me, my God and King  
In all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything,  
To do it as for Thee.

**George Herbert, Clergyman and poet, 1593-1633**

***PRAYER IS REQUESTED – For all those who have a need for prayer at this time.***

## ***Ongoing Prayers are requested for:-***

Canterbury Diocese as they begin the process of preparing for the National Ultreya on 30th August 2014 & for Blackburn who are hosting the 2015 National Ultreya!

## ***Please pray for:***

Please Pray For.....

All those on a journey – Newborn babies; new parents and grandparents; those who bring children safely into this world.

For those journeying towards the end of their earthly life, that they may have a peaceful ending and faith to carry them through. Those who mourn their passing and will miss their loved ones; those journeying with grief.

Those starting out in adult life - as they leave full-time education. Those who seek employment - and those who have found it.

<><

As Living Stones, bless those who strive to build Your Church here on earth

<><

Father, we ask a blessing on Sally and Rev'd Hugh as they take British Anglican Cursillo forward. Bless them with vision and with strength to see through their plans for authentic Cursillo. Bless them with courage to try new ways of encouraging others. Bless them with fortitude as well as faith and reliance on You.

<><

Father we hold up to you the places in our world where brother has turned against brother, people against people. We pray for all those war-torn countries and the

innocents caught up in battles which cannot be won. We pray for victims of hate, and for those who persecute them. We pray for the peace-makers. We pray for peace.

<><

Father we give thanks and praise for the laughter of children; newly created life in the natural world; the song of a blackbird in the evening; gentle breezes, warm summer days and beautiful butterflies. We give thanks for friends, for opportunities to be with You, for chances to Witness to Your Glory.

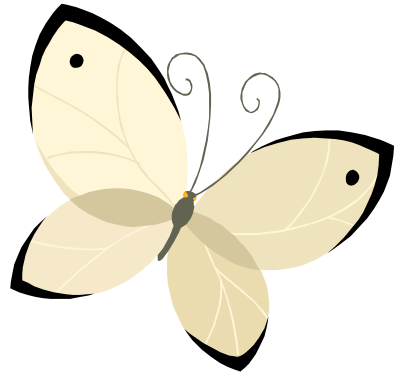
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## Word in Our Hearing

O Word eternally spoken,  
now a baby awoken,  
born a helpless stranger,  
inhabits a poor manger.

Grant us who hear the story  
to wonder at your glory  
wrapped in human frailty,  
disclosing to us deity.

O Word who spoke, creating,  
and Love forever inviting,  
grant us who hear the story  
to enter into glory.

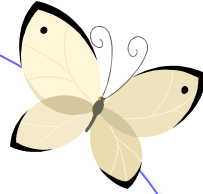


## Each Visit a Pilgrimage

Each visit a pilgrimage,  
and each duty a joy.  
I bless Him whom we know here  
and His saints at rest in hope.

Each encounter extraordinary  
and each moment a gift.  
Even the low days and ordinary  
yield their efforted fruit.

Each departure a commissioning  
and each leaving a truth,  
told in the language of glory  
and the metaphors of grace.



## Prayer in a Thin Place

In this holy place,  
may glory in fullness displace self-absorption.

In this holy place,  
may the energy of deposited faith refresh every soul.

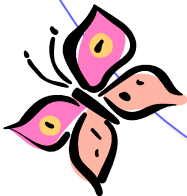
In this holy place,  
may the light of Christ Ever Shining drive all darkness away.

In this holy place,  
may the peace of Christ Reconciler enter every heart.

In this holy place,  
may the mind of Christ Eternal Word  
transform and renew us in his image.

And from this holy place,  
send us out to live justly, to love mercy and to embody the Kingdom,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, ever one God.



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## Drawing Closer, Please

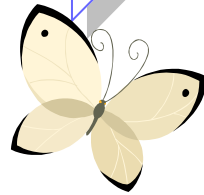
Like dry timber flame-leaping high,  
let my heart be.

Like a hot lover, elating a cry,  
let my soul be.

Like a bird swift-soaring from earth to sky,  
let my mind be.

Like a tough soldier, ready to die,  
let my strength be.

As empty hands grasping what others release,  
let mine, letting go, discover your peace.



*All poems (c) David Grieve. Used with permission.*



## Be in no hurry to pray

Be In No Hurry To Pray  
Wait till your body and mind  
navigate to your soul's anchor.

There may be nothing or much to say,  
plenty to hear, a barrier to unblock.

Lamenting or praising  
in litany or impromptu cry,  
you have prayed before you began.

God is near, and in weakness we attune.  
Christ is the attunement made long before.

# From the National Spiritual Director, Rev'd Hugh Burgess:-

Dear Friends

Recently one of my clerical colleagues began his sermon by asking his congregation if they knew which town in Wales has the highest incidence of shoplifting. Of course, they immediately supposed that he was going to say their town. He, of course, took great delight in saying that, No! and that, in fact it was another town some fifteen miles away where, apparently, Asda has the highest incidence of shoplifting of any shop in Wales. The shocking thing is that the vast majority of the items stolen from Asda are not high value but are food. (Mercifully, the police, I'm told, tend not to prosecute in such cases but to direct people towards the local Foodbank and other places where they can get help).



Foodbanks have sprung up all over the country, mainly under the auspices of the Trussell Trust. Foodbanks are an absolute lifeline to many people and the generosity of people in supporting our local foodbank has moved me enormously.

In Wales we are beginning a major transformation of the way we work as church under the title 20:20 Vision. This follows a major report by Richard Harries, former Bishop of Oxford and others. The thrust of that report was, in some ways, nothing new: We need to be mission orientated, standing at the door of the church looking outwards rather than inwards. While this is an old message (and indeed “go to the people” was Jesus’ habitual method of bringing God’s mission into the world), what’s new for the Church in Wales, I think, is the increased focus on lay leadership in and across parishes. We need to wait and see how this develops but there are (I hope) exciting times ahead.

“Where IS he going with all this?” you may well be asking, and that would be a fair question. While one of my wardens was talking to me about the Foodbank collections in our church recently, she made the very interesting observation that people in the community often just need someone to initiate action. That the simple act of putting out a collection box in the church is allowing people in the community to be involved to whatever extent they feel able. This has set me thinking about Cursillo and ways of “making friends, being friends and bringing our friends to Jesus” which is surely the mission not just of Cursillo but of all Christians.

Our mission as disciples seems to me to be about bringing the good news of Jesus to others, but that message can be delivered in many ways. The “make a friend” slogan reinforces a very important way of sharing our faith which is a natural, human way of coming alongside people and walking with them on their journey, understanding their



needs and lovingly and compassionately working to meet those needs. In our churches many people do this quite naturally but I suspect that a lot of people probably don't think that what they do is "mission". If we really are serious about "make a friend" then we need to be prepared to deal with physical as well as spiritual need.



If my warden was right that people need a focus for action, I wonder if Cursillo has something to offer in this? Over the last year or so, Exeter Cursillo has run a very successful series of retreats and Quiet Days for the Diocese as a whole. It's an idea that has been taken up by other Diocesan Cursillo and in St Asaph we are also planning to follow Exeter's lead early in 2015. Taking this idea of Cursillo acting as a vehicle to deliver retreats for the wider church, I wonder whether Cursillistas in some places might consider this as a model for other kinds of simple collective Christian action with a social focus that would energise people (inside or outside the church) to work together. Perhaps this is already happening. If it is, then please do let me know about it

On a not unrelated subject, and speaking of working together much excellent work has been done by the three Cursillo groups that are coming together in the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. There is a great deal of enthusiasm amongst those involved to overcome hurdles and to make Cursillo operate as a single entity for the new Diocese. It seems to me that there is a new wind of collaboration and cooperation in the church. We see this in the WYAD development; We see it with more and more Diocesan Cursillo groups working together with neighbouring Dioceses (sharing teams or running joint Clergy Taster Days). Recently I wrote to the Bench of Welsh Bishops to ask them whether they would consider sanctioning Cursillo to operate in the whole of Wales. I'm delighted to tell you that they have agreed this and the Welsh Dioceses will be meeting shortly to work out how this will work in practice, given the issues of geography. So within Cursillo we are already beginning to collaborate outside our traditional structures. I feel that this trend is to be encouraged and supported.

I began with the story of those who have to resort to stealing in order to feed themselves and their families. Foodbanks do a tremendous job but it's a sad reflection on our society that we need them. The Trussell Foundation, under whose banner many Foodbanks operate, is a Christian Charity that has as its by-line "Restoring dignity and reviving hope". This could just as well be a motto for Cursillo and indeed for the wider church. What can we do together or alone as disciples of Christ to restore dignity and revive hope for even one person?

With every blessing to you

Ultreya!

Hugh

# Cursillo Leaders' Workshops (CLW)

'An opportunity to re-fuel, get a tune-up and be off again on your journey'

At Holland House, in March this year, we had 29 delegates and four staff to see us through a wonderful weekend together as we got to grips with the 'basics' of what it is to be a leader in Cursillo. Actually, with 'George' (my butler) on hand, it was probably nearer five staff... which is normal for me at Thacker Towers in Suffolk, so I felt quite at home.

All that aside, it's a privilege to be taking over the Convenor role from 'our Jannit' with whom I have now worked on a number of memorable occasions – but even more gratifying to know she is continuing to administer from Scarborough on my behalf – 'for this relief, much thanks' (Hamlet, Act I, Scene I, which I feel is apposite at this juncture).

We have one more CLW to come in 2014 - October 10th to 12th at Wistaston Hall, Crewe – and it is already full to overflowing. In 2015, we have 3 weekends ready for you - and they are:

April – 17th to 19th – Shallowford House, Nr Stone, Staffs  
<http://www.shallowfordhouse.org/>

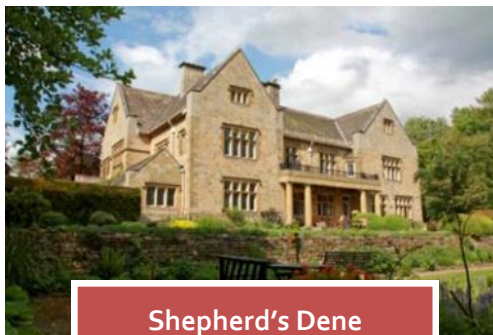
July - 24th to 26th - Shepherd's Dene – Riding Mill, Northumberland  
<http://www.shepherdsdene.co.uk/>



Wistaston Hall



Shallowford House



Shepherd's Dene

October – 23rd to 25th - Wistaston Hall, Crewe.  
<http://www.orc-crewe.org/>

All these venues have lovely web-sites, by the way, so I've put links under the dates for you – it's a bit like looking at your holiday destination!

If you've never been on a CLW, you'll have been told that BACC recommend that all prospective Lay Rectors and all Secretariat members should attend. It's not restricted, though, so you are still welcome if you are a Cursillista looking to offer yourself for more leadership responsibility. If it's been three years since you did your CLW we'd love to see you repeat it – a bit like the Speed Awareness Course I'm on next week! ;-)

Those of you who attended Catch the Vision and heard the 'scratch' band, will be pleased to know that if you are booked for a CLW and play an instrument, I will happily prepare you a straightforward instrumental part so you can join in if you'd like to – just let me know in advance... I've found that musicians often get a huge amount of joy from worshipping this way - so don't be shy, ok? – no pressure, honestly.

I'm looking forward to joining with you all in fellowship during the next three years – let's get the CLWs full to bursting and keep the enthusiasm rolling.

Much Love in Christ

Ultreya!

**Paul**  
**CLW Convenor**

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## UPDATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

### BACC

- ◆ Full council meeting is at St. Peter's Church, Sandbach in Cheshire on Saturday 22nd November
- ◆ Standing Committee meeting in Peterborough on 14th February 2015

### CLWs

- ◆ 17th - 19th April 2015, Shallowford House, Stone, Staffs
- ◆ 24th - 26th July 2015, Shepherd's Dene, Riding Mill, Northumberland
- ◆ 23rd – 25th October 2015, Wistaston Hall, Crewe

*As good practice Diocesan Secretariats should adopt a policy of actively encouraging leading members of the Servant Community, Secretariat and prospective Lay Rectors to attend a Cursillo Leaders Workshop before taking office*



# Cursillo Leaders Workshop

## March 14th-16th 2014

As I travelled from Wales to Cropton for the CLW, I was filled with some mixed emotions of what the weekend would hold.

On arrival I found myself in the most beautiful building and surroundings with a bedroom that overlooked the gardens and a beautiful view beyond. I could have sat there all weekend just taking in the peace and quiet, and letting my whole body soak up the atmosphere, and after a hectic few weeks just relax.

But as soon as the arrival time came (I had enjoyed a few extra hours at Holland House) I was brought back to the reality of what I was there for: the excitement, fellowship and learning at a speed that only Cursillo can muster!

It was a very special weekend of re-visiting all that we knew (or thought we knew) about the Authentic Weekend, Group reunions and Ultreya's. It was a confidence building series of talks to encourage us for leadership positions in Cursillo.

The large group consisted of Cursillistas from several parts of England and Wales and we all so easily interacted with each other. The series of 'Talks' made us seriously reassess the content that our own Authentic Weekends were made up of. We were reminded of the basic requirements being only 15 Rollo's, 3 Eucharist's and 5 Meditations, and anything else that was included was an add-on.

The small groups that we were allocated to following the talks soon became very lively discussions where we were all interested to learn how our own Cursillo groups operated. I think my consensus was that we thought some of our add-ons certainly did 'add to' the spiritual feel of the weekend.

One of Hugh's talks covered a new method of covering Piety, Study and Action in the Group Reunions and Ultreya. Instead of talking about them as separate identities, to look at them as one and how each one can support the other. I found this very interesting as it seems much more natural that what you do for Christ can be an action first which leads to some study and then prayer or visa- versa.

Ultreya,

Jenny Creed. St. Asaph #17

# The British Anglican **CURSILLO**® Council

## CURSILLO LEADERS' WORKSHOPS



### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND A CLW?**

The CLW is for all who want to know more about Cursillo. All are welcome, lay or ordained.

Those who have any leadership role should certainly attend before, or as soon as possible after taking office.

### **WHAT IS INCLUDED?**

An opportunity for sharing in worship & fellowship , hearing talks on the following and discussing their content with people from other diocesan / provincial movements:

- ◆ **The Purpose of Cursillo** including: Cursillo and the fundamentals of Christian Living, The Church and the place of the movement
- ◆ **Forming a Movement** including: The Fourth Day First, The Groups – Reunion and Ultreya, Spiritual Direction
- ◆ **Making the Movement Work** including: The Servant Community, The Pre-Cursillo, The Authentic Three-Day Week-end, The Cursillo Leader
- ◆ **Looking Ahead:** Taking the information and ideas back to the diocese and sharing them with the leaders there.

## WHO LEADS A CLW?

Those who make up the leadership of the presenting team for a CLW have themselves already attended a CLW and are leaders from within the British Anglican Cursillo movement. Three people make up the team which includes a Spiritual Director.

CLWs run from 5.30p.m. on the first evening to around 2pm on the final day. The full cost of the week-end is £160 (£175 from October 2015) which includes board and room. A £60 per person non-returnable deposit is required on booking. The balance is due one month before the week-end. It is recommended that private holiday insurance is obtained. Please send application forms with cheque for deposit made out to "British Anglican Cursillo Council BACC" to CLW Administrator – details on application form.

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 Jan Watts to enquire – details on Application form which can be found at: <http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/assets/documents/CLW-Application-Form-July-2014.doc>).

These two days are a lifting up of the ideals of the Cursillo method. A CLW can be an inspiring and spiritual experience, but does not attempt to repeat the Three Day Weekend experience

Please contact the CLW Covenor, Mr Paul Thacker for more information:  
at Chapel Cottage, Chedburgh Road, Chevington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP29 5QU  
Email: [clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk)  
Tel: 07909 730973



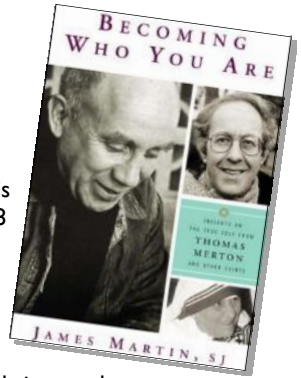
# Book Reviews

**Book review by Rt. Rev'd Bishop Mark of Jarrow**

**Becoming Who You Are – James Martin SJ.  
Pub Paulist Press ISBN-13 9781587680366**

This is a lovely book - at less than 100 pages easy to read - and is right at the top of my "Most Worthwhile Reads" over the last 18 months.

The author, Fr Jim Martin, is well known as a Christian and Catholic spokesperson in the media in the USA and his style is always easy to read and challenging in the best possible way. In this book he encourages us to be who we truly are, as that will bring us closer to God.



We are to become the person we truly are: not the person we think we ought to be; not the person others want us to be; not the person in the pew in front who always appears holier than I – but the person who God has made me to be. When I discover how to be that, I will no longer worry any more about pretending to be somebody who deep down I am not and I will no longer worry about comparing myself to other Christians and then I shall be more fruitful for God.

One of the blessings of this book is that it introduces us to two helpful twentieth century Christians both of whom write a great deal: Thomas Merton who after his conversion became a Trappist monk in Kentucky and Henri Nouwen who became a Pastor in the L'Arche community. What the author admires in them both is that both are honest about the daily lives, both are flawed and sinful and are not afraid to admit it.

Time and again Martin quotes Thomas Merton's dictum "To be a Saint means to be myself" I am not called to be Mother Teresa. I am called to be me and it is to the exciting adventure of discovering what that means and rejoicing in it that God calls me.

One of the gifts that Cursillo brings to the Church is the Proclamation that we are deeply loved by God. This book helps me to discover a bit more about the person that I am, who God loves so deeply. Definitely recommended

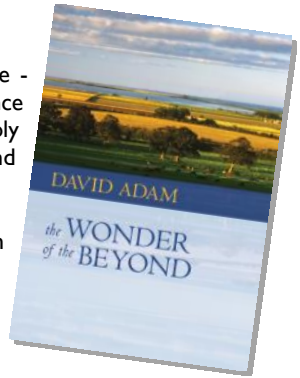
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**Book review by Rev'd John Morley**

**"BEYOND WONDER" (2011) and "OCCASIONS FOR ALLELUIA" (2012) by  
David Adam. Pub: SPCK**

In 2012 I made my first visit to Holy Island and Lindisfarne - why so long, you may ask! It was an unforgettable experience which I repeated last year. David Adam was Vicar of Holy Island for 13 years and most of us know him as a writer and pray-er in the Celtic tradition.

David writes that Beyond Wonder, whilst not an autobiography, "reveals point in my life when I have been nudged to open my eyes and my heart, to move in new directions and into a deeper awareness of all that is about me" He recalls leaving school at 15 and working in the Northumberland pits to earn money for the family. He remembers affectionately those, including his vicar, who didn't laugh at him when he declared that he wanted to be a priest and his training at Kelham with the SSM, his ordination and ministry. In all these experiences he traces God's action and guidance and his discovery of the Celtic saints and their traditions and the wonder of God's encircling presence. "To live without wonder" he writes, "is to be undisturbed and unchallenged by the beyond in our midst". Each chapter ends with a thought, some prayers and a contemplative exercise.



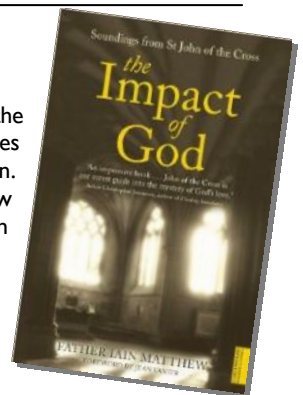
Occasions for Alleluia Develops this theme and does what it says on the cover! David helps us to recognise those precious moments in the ordinariness of daily life that are cause for thanksgiving, for an Alleluia. These occasions pop up uninvited through nature, friendships, through our Cursillo experiences of prayer, study and action. We can identify them in relation to our environments and in relation to God. The central chapter, Seeing with the eyes of the heart rather sums up the delight of this book. Again each chapter ends with prayer or a reflective exercise.

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## Book review by Di Murphy

Probably most of us have a favourite Christian book (besides the bible obviously) which we keep close at hand, refer to in times of crisis, and find that it speaks to us in many a life situation. For me, this book is The Impact of God by Father Iain Matthew – a biography and exposition of the life and teaching of St John of the Cross.

John of the Cross was a Carmelite priest who was a close friend and spiritual director of Teresa of Avila. 16th Century





Spain (his time and place) was a turbulent time and place to live, and John's relatively short life (he dies aged 49) bore witness to this. Unjustified and brutal imprisonment, harsh living conditions, misunderstanding and ill health took their toll of him physically. Small wonder then, that he is best remembered for his writing on 'the dark night of the soul'.

It's tempting to guess at what this means – darkness, suffering, loss – and then move swiftly on (or perhaps I am speaking for myself). But for John, the dark night of the soul is not primarily about suffering, but about joy, liberation and the mighty inflowing of God into our lives which is only made possible by our acknowledged need of Him when all else fails.

Iain Matthew skillfully uses John's story, rich with anecdote and quotes from John's lush, visual poetry, born in the darkness of his prison cell, to show how life's darkest circumstances can be doorways for God's transforming presence to flow in. Whatever form the night may take in our lives, it is not an annoying difficulty or catastrophic happening to be survived – somehow – but a chance for our life-changing God to come in and make all the difference. When viewed this way, night (which Iain Matthew observes happens every twenty-four hours whether we like it or not) is actually vital to our growth as Christians and our journey with God – and John's goal is not 'perfection' but 'union' with Him. Who could not want that?

This review is too short to for me to enlarge in detail on the quotations from John, illustrations, and Iain Matthew's own wisdom and humour which made this book such a delight for me – and also meant that I could rarely read more than half a page before pausing to reflect or pray. To be fair, I don't know for certain whether every reader would view it this way, or whether it happened to appeal to my personality type more than it might suit others. However, I do know that this book is regarded as a classic of Christian literature and my recommendation is to read the reviews about it, borrow it or even buy it for yourself and see. You may be very glad you did.

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## **Book review by Amabel Craig, Parish of Gateshead, Durham Diocese**

Those of you who know me, know that I'm passionate about books; I'm a bibliophile. If I'm honest, I own more books than I'll ever find time to read, no matter how much time I struggle to find. This year's New Year's resolution was to give up buying books for the whole year. It's not been easy but it's going well so far, although we've only just reached March...

I particularly love novels; entering into someone else's story, the power of words to create scenes in my imagination, following the narrative through, with the thrill of the chase, expectation, excitement, the unknown and unexpected. I can empathise with others; through a narrative structure I can see a pattern and direction in others' lives

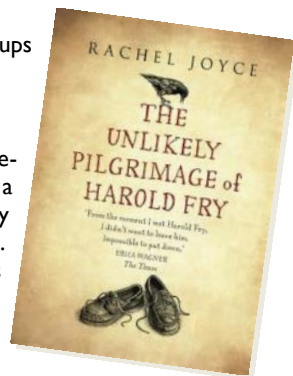
that I often fail to see in my own; there is conflict and (often) resolution. Imagination is limitless. When I gave the Rollo on Study on Durham #20, I argued that reading novels can – at times - be a valid spiritual experience.

Through the lens of faith in an incarnate God, a Trinitarian God of relationships, a God of love, even the novels we read - stories about people and their lives - can reveal fresh insights and challenges to our own pilgrimage through life.

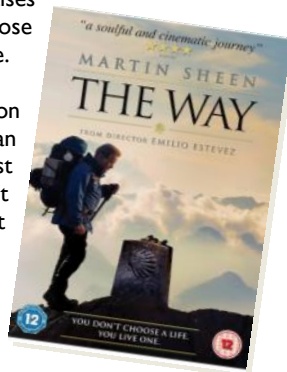
I belong to not just one but two reading groups. Both groups chose the same book for December last year:

### **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry.**

Some of you may have already read it. If you haven't yet, I wholeheartedly recommend it to you. It is an engaging account of a secular pilgrimage. Harold is recently retired, in an apparently loveless marriage, with a difficult relationship with his only son. As he posts a letter of reply to a former colleague who has been diagnosed with cancer, he – on a whim – decides to walk from the local post box in Devon to Queenie's hospice in Berwick. He's not entirely sure why or indeed how, but he walks. And walks. And walks. Although not a long book, it raises interesting issues about why we do things, how we love those around us and how we can make up for the mistakes we make.



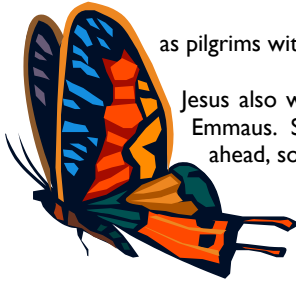
You may have seen Simon Reeve's excellent BBC series on Pilgrimage in December 2013. Over half term we watched an excellent film called 'The Way' about an ophthalmologist following in the footsteps of his son who died on the first stage of the Compostella de Santiago. It's a slow moving but emotionally resonant film about love, relationships, loss and unexpected joy. I highly recommend that too.



And pilgrimage is an excellent and widely used metaphor for the life of faith. We all start our pilgrimage enthusiastically, full of energy, vigour and joy. But at certain points we get tired and flag. We have a sit down and realise just how tired we are. We hit the metaphorical 'wall' and feel our legs can't move a step further.

We take sustenance. We break through that wall and continue. We join with others on our journey, sharing experiences, laughter, sometimes tears, perhaps our steps matching theirs for a time. We check our directions, consulting and interpreting our map, searching for signs and landmarks, taking stock of the view, how far we've come and how long we have to go.

We travel in anticipation, not entirely sure when our earthly pilgrimage will finish but



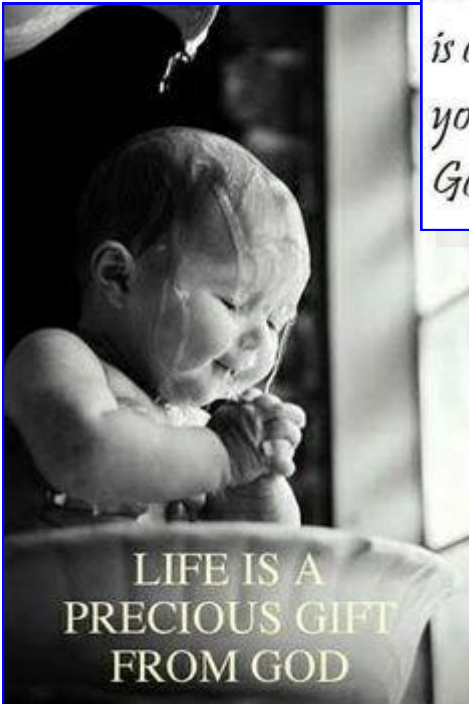
as pilgrims with Christ, we can be assured the destination is heaven-ward.

Jesus also walks alongside us as he did with his friends on the road to Emmaus. Sometimes we do not recognise him; sometimes he's far ahead, sometimes behind us. But we are never alone.

For me, Cursillo has been a significant staging post on my pilgrimage. If I was to draw one of those 'life maps' you're often encouraged to use to see God at work in your life, Cursillo would undoubtedly make an appearance as a staging post.

*Never be ashamed of the scars that life has left you with. A scar means the hurt is over, the wound is closed, you endured the pain and God has healed you.*

lovethispic.com



# The New BACC President

*At the AGM held on 31st May 2014, Sally Henniker-Major took office as BACC President.*

## Dear Fellow Cursillistas,

Where do I begin writing my first letter for BACC pages as your new President?

Firstly I must pay tribute to Lyn's work for Cursillo: I fear I have a hard act to follow as Lyn has so brilliantly and prayerfully held the post for the last four years, (having previously been secretary!) always looking at the whole Cursillo movement in the UK and keeping it true to the authentic Cursillo model. Lyn has incredible energy and despite enormous grief and upheaval in her personal life, continued unfailingly to lead Cursillo with love and gentleness, much prayer and her wonderfully generous smile. So a huge thank you Lyn for all that you have done to further Cursillo nationally and on a personal note thank you for keeping me in the picture this last nine months as I have shadowed you.



I am still feeling overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome given to me at the National AGM, and the sound of the applause is still ringing in my ears! I was profoundly moved by the Eucharist on that day as I administered the chalice, looking into so many hopeful and loving faces. Thank you all for your support and encouragement in prayer, palanca and in person. God does indeed put us in places that we never expected to be, and with God's help I will do my best to further Cursillo nationally. I am very pleased, too, to have such an enthusiastic and willing band on the standing committee – we have already started to think how best we can serve you, the wider national community.

The 'Catch the Vision' conference which was part of the AGM weekend at High Leigh, was a very uplifting and challenging experience. My thanks go to Rev'd Hugh Burgess for the teaching and worship, to Paul Thacker and his band of musicians for the music, and to Julie Robinson-Judd for being such an efficient bookings secretary. It was good to meet so many over the weekend and if I didn't get to speak to you, please forgive me!

The President's job is a very varied one and I am really looking forward to sharing with every Diocese in as many ways as possible. I have already had invitations to days of deeper understanding and to talk at an AGM, and have been alongside the new West

Yorkshire and the Dales steering group as they blend together three former Dioceses- Ripon and Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield- and then divide into five areas, each with a Bishop. WYAD are making amazing progress and are really excited at the new opportunities it will present for mission and developing Cursillo where it has not been before. They are inspirational in their clear thinking, enthusiasm and positivity as they work on this huge task, and are well ahead on planning joint weekends and Ultreyas and God's grace is truly working through them as they seek out even greater opportunities for mission through the Cursillo method.

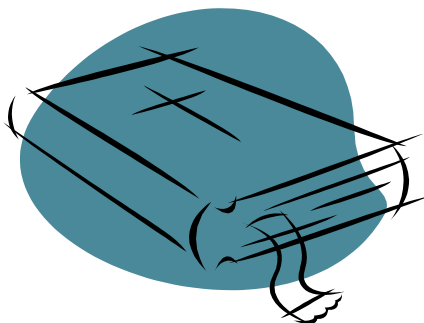
There are other exciting initiatives around the Dioceses: the gifting of Brecon is proceeding with Ken Bennison as Gifting Officer and Lyn is going to be Gifting Officer for Sodor and Man, so there may soon be two more Dioceses to add the list. Exeter are looking at ways to develop and share Cursillo in the furthest areas of the South-West. Please do prayerfully consider how your God given gifts can be best used and strengthened within your Cursillo groups and please ask if you would like me to come and support you in any way at all. BACC is here to serve you!

This week I have been taken aback by some meditations and short bible readings set for the day as the Bible readings in particular spoke to me directly:

Jesus said 'Love one another as I have loved you. By this everyone will recognise that you are my disciples'

'We advance by faith, not by sight'

'The greatest among you should act as if they were the youngest and the one who governs should be like the one who serves'



May I ask your prayers that in my new role as your President I can serve you all in ways that please God, and that we may all advance in faith and in love just as Jesus loves each one of us.

Ultreya!

With love and prayers

Sally

## A message from 70 years ago

When I had responded to the call to be President with a 'yes', I was more than a little apprehensive and worried that I would be up to the job.

I was spending some time with my nearly 90 year old uncle, who is busy transcribing some of my Grandfather's sermons. He showed me one of my Grandfather's books and my eye fell upon this in the introduction:

'We believe that God leads us in the decisions we make in life and that (we are) divinely led.....(we) are but fragments of the story of the universal Church of God, which is composed of men and women who lead strenuous lives in their several tasks of carrying on the life of the community; but by virtue of their attendance to the things of the spirit they introduce into that life the leaven which makes for happiness and justice, and fair dealing with one another, and also making their protest against the evil things in the world which lead to suffering and war.'

This was written in 1944 and yet it spoke to me of so much of what Cursillo is about - 'attendance to things of the spirit'- and about what happens if we do attend to that. I think my Grandfather would have approved of the principles of Cursillo, and of its emphasis on the interaction of prayer, study and action!

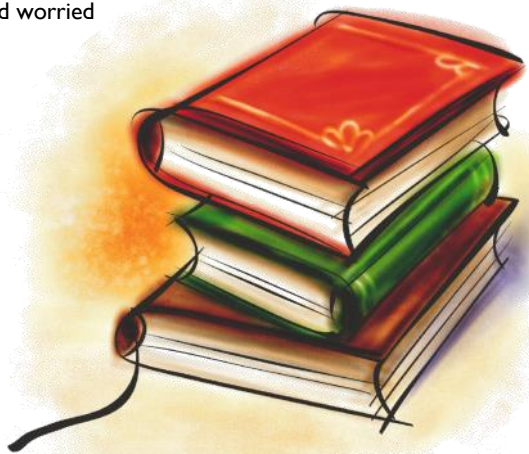
He concluded with these words:

'Let those of us who are members of the Christ's Church emulate our forbears in their loyalty to Jesus Christ, from which must arise a staunch loyalty to our convictions, and we may be sure that our witness, with theirs, will not be in vain.'

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, inasmuch ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" '

Well, here I am, endeavouring to emulate my forbears in love and loyalty to Jesus Christ by serving the national Cursillo community and with the hope that I will be able to 'abound in the work of the Lord' for all of you.

Sally



## Lyn's Farewell Message

“We'll Meet Again....”

As we are caught up in the memorabilia of the two World Wars at the moment, I use the focus of those words of that sentimental song sung by Vera Lynn “We'll meet again” to head up this message. The song was written in 1939, and the three song writers wanted to inject the feeling of hope and love into the hearts of those who lived very much in uncertain times.



Truth to tell, people are always living in uncertain times, for none of us know what is round the corner on our journey through this life. I refer to the words in my talk during the Saturday Eucharist at High Leigh, in which I quoted “A man (person) has to walk their own path, but it is God who directs their footsteps”. My life from now will very clearly be different, and yet in many ways, just the same, because Fourth Day Cursillo will still figure prominently in what I do – my role as President was part of my Fourth Day and now as Sally takes on that role – I am free to do other things to serve, travelling in Hope and Love. It will be a delight to be a Gifting Liaison Officer, and I am looking forward to that. I have become involved in my own Diocesan Cursillo too, and of course, I do hope that the people I count as my Cursillo family will keep in touch. So yes, I can sing along to the words of “we'll meet again” and feel the meaning in my heart.

I was overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity through the cards and gifts I received both through the post and at High Leigh. I think I had a full heart and overflowing eyes for a couple of days at home when I read and re-read the messages from you, so thank-you, and bless you for such thoughtfulness.

We are now able to go on under Sally's guidance as people of God who appreciate the true meaning of what authentic Cursillo can do for us, and what we can do in turn as we use the gifts He gave us in our Dioceses and Parishes; and in the wider community. If I could wish for anything, it would be that each and every Cursillista would sponsor at least one pilgrim to attend a Cursillo weekend in the next 12 months. So how about giving it a go? I will keep that in my prayers over the next year, and hope you will too. I leave you with another heartfelt word of thanks, and that is to everyone who has supported and guided me over the last 4 years. Bless you dear friends – and bless those who challenged me too – for you were part of my learning also. I look forward to seeing many of you at Canterbury, and I hope every Diocese will bring a coach-load!!

With every blessing, love and prayers,

Lyn

## Catch the Vision 2014. For the Journey

I arrived at High Leigh not knowing what to expect. I was to be with Cursillistas. What was there to fear?

After sharing a meal together, our first teaching session started with Hugh, our Spiritual Director asking a question –

Has Cursillo had its day? That stunned us into silence!!

He went on to say that many diocese are struggling and even more have issues. He wanted us to explore together what it means to be a 4<sup>th</sup> Day People.

We were to look at 4 Bible studies. But not your normal Bible studies! Hugh had interleaved a New Testament reading with its equivalent Old Testament reading. We split into small groups and discussed what we read.

Our first study was from Acts 16 and Psalm 45. This was to set the scene as it were. We experimented in different ways of reading these passages. We started with a group of about 20 of us standing in a circle. We read as we felt called to read a verse - slowly, individually, in one or two, as a group, speedily, reflectively, etc.

We found that the first time we read through it, the speed of Acts was balanced by the Psalm reading. The second time was more reflective or meditative. We all felt that when we were reading that there were only the people in the circle. Everyone else had faded away. Not what we expected.

This set us thinking that this is like Cursillo – not what we thought it would be. We reflected on the use of exclusive language in Cursillo and how it could alienate others.

Now we were eager to get to the rest of the sessions!

Saturday saw us looking at Discipleship and the 4<sup>th</sup> Day. Our reading came from Acts 3 and Isaiah 55. Our discussions led us to a realisation that as a church, we should always walk in expectation. We must not procrastinate or over process each situation. We should listen, do and live! God was saying to us as individuals that He can turn ugliness into beauty.





We next looked at Acts 10 and Deuteronomy 1. This discussion brought out many things about Cursillo. We must get back to authentic Cursillo and embrace the 4<sup>th</sup> day. We should be taking Holy risks. We need to be taken out of our comfort zone. We use displacement activity to avoid getting on with it! We are not looking after our existing Cursillistas. Could we maybe have a



weekend exclusively for them to explore their calling? We moved on to knowledge being power and how the laity for centuries was not involved. Some clergy, even today, are suspicious of Cursillo. There is no career progression in Cursillo and many find this difficult to understand. We are servant leaders. We must work alongside the clergy. Cursillo may take us out of church life in the short term but we are in it for the long term.

Sunday we looked at 1 Peter 2 and Isaiah 61. Again this spoke to us. We talked about the priesthood of all believers. How we need to get out there where the people are! We need some personal time to be with God. How we need to shut up and listen to Him more! Cursillo is an example of a full tool kit but not the be all and end all. As many are struggling, should BACC be worried or is it in God's plan? We need to be aware and do the right thing and offer it to God. We asked ourselves if when we are gifting Cursillo, would it not make more sense to gift the 4<sup>th</sup> day before the weekend.

But the weekend was not just Bible Study. There was plenty of time to catch up with friends old and new; for sharing the Eucharist together and for fun. Lyn hoped that it would be 'like an oasis in a Spiritual desert; a resting place for our secular lives'. It was that and more besides. We all returned to our home parishes refreshed and revitalised.

Ready for the journey!

Ready to do our bit to build up the Church of God.

And as for Hugh's question at the start of the weekend, we came to the conclusion that 4 words were missing!! Has Cursillo had its day in its present form? A challenge for us all.

Ultreya!

**Wendy Williams**

# 95 years of the Diocese of Bradford



On 12th April 2014 a service was held at Bradford Cathedral to celebrate the 95 years of the Diocese and to look forward to the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales.

It was lovely to see the Cathedral full and to enjoy the music of the Cathedral Choir and a Music Group from across the Diocese. People who have worked in the Diocese took part in the readings and prayers and Bishop Nick Baines in his sermon acknowledged all we have learned from past Bishops, Deans, clergy and laity.



Many had come from Parishes in the Dales and the urban areas of to thank God and celebrate the years of the Diocese. We then had the opportunity to look forward together to the next phase - with the closure of the old Diocese just before midnight on 19th April 2014 - and the New Diocese being born on Easter Morning 20th April 2014,

The hope and expectation is that the large Diocese will offer exciting opportunities for training and leadership - whilst the five Episcopal Areas will concentrate on pastoral care in smaller areas.

We pray that Cursillo will reflect this and be strengthened and used by the new Diocese.

Rita Bass

## The Story

The design brief required a number of key elements: rainbow colours, butterflies, the dove of peace and an olive branch of reconciliation, a cross and reference to the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich, perhaps St Edmund's crown and arrows. The shape, an offset lozenge, is the familiar shape of the pendants presented to the Cursillistas within the Diocese.

This design has been constructed by knotting strands of hand-torn, re-purposed fabrics and textiles; each strand reminding us both of the variety that life has to offer and that we are all different. Hand attached, each strand nestles alongside and supports the other in building the bigger picture. Expensive satins, silks, lace and ribbons nestle alongside wool, cottons, oddments of string, netting and selvedge; some shiny, others frayed at the edges, revealing both the pain and glory of the cross as well as the ups and downs of life. The rainbow builds from within the Cross, reflecting the fulfilment of God's promise to His people through the death and resurrection of His Son. Visible and uneven stitches pierce the fabric – life's journey is often challenging and rarely seamless. Hand embellished, each knot represents a prayer and each bead a Cursillista – a visual reminder of God's grace, the light of Christ Jesus reflected in the face each bead as He takes our rightful place on the cross. Symbolising the way in which the Holy Spirit can transform us, seven newly – emerged and brightly coloured butterflies have become all that God created them to be; at times looking to the Cross for inspiration whilst others fly away as they take their joy and God's message of hope out into the world.

Sarah Geileskey



# Group Reunion Banner Service

Our group reunion includes Sandra Harrison who is our Lay Director for the Bradford Diocese. Last year it was suggested that in future instead of leaving our Banner in the Barn at Bradley with all the other resources for a Cursillo weekend, it was kept by the Lay Director – so Sandra was duly handed the banner. At our group reunion Sandra suggested that it was brought into church and left there whilst she remains Bradford’s Lay Director.

As a group we decided it might be good Apostolic Action to give a short presentation about Cursillo in church at an appropriate time in our Sunday morning Eucharist. Father Nicholas, our priest, was happy to agree to this. The result was a service where five of us in our group walked down the aisle with the banner and passed it to Father Nicholas who took it up to the high altar and placed it there.

We then gave a brief talk with each of us speaking about Piety, Study, Action and how a group reunion was run. We closed our presentation with returning to our places and singing “Brother Sister let me serve you”.

We had a small table at the back of the church with leaflets, group reunion cards, our song book and butterfly images for the congregation to look at and take away if they wished. We were pleased how many people came to talk to us after the service saying they had wondered what Cursillo was about and two people enquired if they could join our group in the future.

“Bloom where you are planted” was very appropriate at this service.

**Sandra, Pamela, Barbara, Rita and Gwen  
Bradford Diocese**



# Ultreya GB 2014



**Will be hosted by Canterbury  
On Saturday 30th August**

**The main events will take place in the  
Shirley Hall at Kings School Canterbury**

**There will be a service at 11.30am in the local church**

**More information:**

**<http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/ultreyagb2014/>**

Presiding and preaching will be a local priest.

## **Timetable for the day**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 9.00am  | Registration in the Cathedral Chapter House.                      |
| 9.30am  | Singing, worship, welcome etc. in the Shirley Hall, Kings School. |
| 11.00am | Procession of Cursillo Banners into the Cathedral.                |
| 11.30am | The Eucharist.  |
| 1.00pm  | Lunch.  |
| 2.00pm  | Floating reunion groups, singing etc. in the Shirley Hall.        |
| 3.10pm  | Witness Talk and responses.                                       |
| 3.30pm  | Final songs and worship.  |
| 4.15pm  | Tours of the Cathedral (for those who have booked).               |
| 7.00pm  | Barn dance begins in the Shirley Hall.                            |
| 8.30pm  | Splendid fish and chips supper.                                   |
| 10.15pm | Finish.   |

If you have a BACC Resource Manual, please check it against the list below to ensure you have the latest copy of the booklet. Items in red below are currently being re-written.

## BACC RESOURCES PRICE LIST

| <b>RESOURCE MANUAL</b>  | <b>Unit Price</b>                          |
|---|--|
| Complete Resource Manual (comprising all items in this section)             | <b>£ 20.00</b>                             |
| Contents list   | 5p   |
| BACC Constitution and Licensing Agreement <b>2012</b>                       | 50p  |
| BACC Publications and Styles <b>2003</b>                                    | 10p  |
| Apostolic Message and Team Formation <b>2005</b>                            | £ 1.00                                     |
| Authentic Three Day Weekend 2008  | £ 1.00                                     |
| Cursillo Workshops inc. Clergy Taster Days <b>2004</b>                      | £ 1.00                                     |
| Day of Deeper Understanding <b>2004</b>                                     | £ 1.00                                     |
| Fourth Day First <b>2005</b>  | £ 1.00                                     |
| Gifting Cursillo – BACC Guidelines <b>2012</b>                              | £ 1.00                                     |
| Group Reunion <b>2006</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Health and Well-being of the Movement <b>2004</b>                           | £ 1.00                                     |
| Pastoral Plan <b>2001</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Role of the Clergy in the Cursillo Movement <b>2006</b>                     | £ 1.00                                     |
| Secretariat <b>2005</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Self-Study Checklist for Secretariats <b>2005</b>                           | 10p  |
| Servant Community <b>2005</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Spiritual Direction <b>2001</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Sponsorship <b>2000</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Strategy for Restarting/Renewing Cursillo Movements in Dioceses <b>2003</b> | £ 1.00                                     |
| Table Leaders Guide <b>2003</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Music in Cursillo <b>2012</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| Ultreya <b>2006</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| What is Cursillo? <b>2001</b>   | £ 1.00                                     |
| BACC – What is it? <b>2002</b>  | 10p  |
| <b>OTHER BACC PUBLICATIONS</b>  |  |
| Three Fold Leaflet  | 20p each                                   |
| A5 Colour Poster  | 5 for £ 1.00                               |
| Group Reunion Card  | 100 for £4.50<br>50 for £2.50 or 6p each   |
| Rule of Life Card   | 100 for £3.50<br>50 for £2.00 or 5p each   |
| Ultreya Floating Group Reunion Card   | 10p  |
| Talk outline for Group Reunion talk   | 25p  |
| Suggestions on Developing and Using a Rule of Life                          | 10p  |
| <b>NEC PUBLICATIONS</b>   |  |
| Lay Talk Workbook <b>2004</b>   | £ 3.95                                     |
| Clergy Talk Workbook <b>2006</b>  | £ 3.95                                     |
| Spiritual Direction (for Clergy only)                                       | £ 2.75                                     |
| <b>OTHER RESOURCES</b>  |  |
| Cursillo Lapel Badge  | £ 1.00 each                                |
| Crucifixes  | £4 for 1 / £3.75 for 2-49<br>£3.50 for 50+ |

# WHO TO CONTACT

The following will help you enormously when contacting the right people, should you have queries or information to share.

## **Standing Committee:**

### **For all BACC enquiries:**

Sally Henniker-Major, BACC President

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

### **For Clergy queries:**

Rev'd Hugh Burgess, National Spiritual Director

[nsd@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:nsd@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

### **For all Secretarial queries:**

Mr Jim Webster, BACC Secretary

[secretary@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:secretary@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

### **For all Cursillo Finance queries:**

Mr Steve Hills, BACC Treasurer

[finance@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:finance@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

### **For all Cursillo Leaders' Workshop queries:**

Mr Paul Thacker, CLW Convenor

[clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

### **For all Register queries:**

Mrs Marilyn Shiells

[register@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:register@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

## **Members of the Standing Committee**

Alison Askew, Libby Bradshaw, Jacqui Johnson, Marilyn Shiells, Roberta Smith, Julie Robinson-Judd, Margaret Tate, Helen Taubman, Paul Thacker

## **Others:**

### **For all CLW contact and registrar :**

Mrs Jan Watts, CLW Administrator

[admin@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:admin@anglicancursillo.co.uk)

### **For all Website queries:**

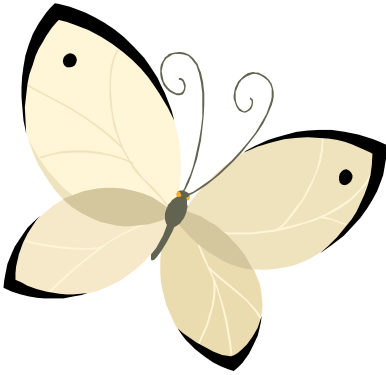
Mr Billy Hollis

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### **For all Cursillo Resources queries:**

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***Anglican 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***

