

SPRING 2015



the **BACC** pages



the magazine of

THE BRITISH ANGLICAN CURSILLO® COUNCIL



## **BACC Pages**


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

Thank you to all our contributors for this issue.

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

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

 10 Oatlands Way  
Durham  
DH1 5GL

 0191 374 9193

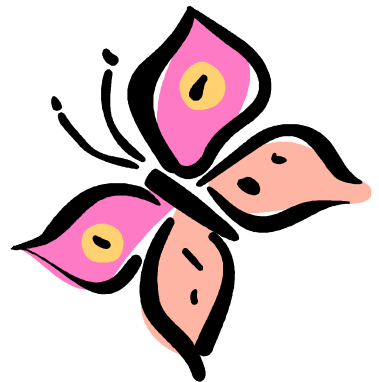


® US Patent Office  
© British Anglican Cursillo 2015

# CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b>	Prayers & Scripture	4
<b>STUDY</b>	From the National Spiritual Director	6
	CLW	8
	Dates for Your Dairy	10
	Book Review	11
<b>ACTION:</b>	President's Report	12
	From Canterbury: Visit to Bonnin's Grave	14
	From Chichester: Is God bothered?	16
	From Leicester: 21st Anniversary	18
	From Oxford: Give Away A Way	20
	From Sheffield: A Cursillo Weekend	21
	From West Yorkshire & the Dales	23
	Whose family do you belong to?	25
	Ultreya GB 2015 - Blackburn Cathedral	27
BACC Resources	30	
Who to Contact	31	

"When we put  
God first,  
all other things  
fall into their  
proper place."



# Prayers and Scripture



## Ongoing Prayers are requested for:-

Blackburn who are hosting the 2015 National Ultreya! on Saturday 5th September 2015 and for York who are hosting the 2016 National Ultreya!

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

We pray for those in our own Cursillo communities who have recently died,, for their families and friends who will miss them, especially remembering Donald Tate in Durham, who helped to introduce Cursillo there, Dorothy Lewis from St. Asaph Diocese and Rosemary Yeomans from Cornwall.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We also remember those who are ill, but who have given much to Cursillo in our own Dioceses and in National roles in Cursillo.

We especially remember Mary Willets from Oxford, who has always been an enthusiastic supporter of Cursillo nationally and was serving on BACC.

**O Christ, bless these your servants  
who have opened their hearts and lives to  
you.**

**By the power of your cross,  
Protect them from evil.  
In the passion of your love,  
save them from half heartedness.  
In the depth of your mercy,  
pick them up when they fall.  
Be close to them  
when they face difficulty and distress,  
and dance in their lives  
with your light and delight.**

**Angela Ashwin**

**A prayer for ourselves  
by David Adam:**

**Lord increase  
My zest for living  
My vision of glory  
My hearing of your call  
My grasp on reality  
My response to your love  
My sensitivity to others  
My gentleness to creation  
My taste for wonder  
My love for you.  
Amen**



## Stooping So Tenderly

He whose energy flows through space and  
still expands

after billions of years  
planted his feet on earth.

He whose power to defy is like throwing  
snowballs at the sun

became one of us, the servant of us all.

So very insignificant yet a maestro,  
the conductor of an orchestra that he  
himself created

to play unheard of music, with songs that  
weave together

patterns of joy and discovery.

For all this, we cannot bear to look on  
him,

for it would be with disgust or our own  
destruction.

He came nakedly in fullness, but shields  
us from our own eyes.

Dawn will break when there will be fresh,  
new air surrounding us

and we will finally take it in.

## Psalm 88

My companions are in darkness, he says.

And they cannot come out to help him  
nor for him to help.

They are bereaved, or just stunned by the  
weight of a blow, like a doomed beast.

They are hidden from him, in shadow.

And he, in the desert, is in isolation.

He has a feeling that it's where God wants  
him.

He can cry there. He can be frank with  
God during the night terrors,

and admit that he is at the end of himself.

He is going to be dissolved. Like the sand  
running out of his hand and returning to  
the desert's relentless abstraction, he will  
return to dust, unmade.

Who can live after death? He says. He  
longs for an answer,

forgetting that his very longing is a hope  
that even the desert

may flower again.

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

Dear Friends

As I sit here in the early morning listening to the dawn chorus in the peace of Shepherds Dene (a wonderful retreat house near Hexham, in beautiful Nothumberland), the words of that great hymn “the strife is o’er, the battle done” comes to mind. I suspect that for many people (and not least the clergy) the opening words of this hymn sum up the immediate relief that the rush of Passiontide, Holy Week and Easter is over. This can be such a busy time, full of frantic activity, of emotions that rang from the sorrow of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Day, that we can simply end up feeling as though we’ve gone through the mangle. I rather suspect that for the early disciples it was much the same: The range of emotions experienced in such a short time would have been very draining.



I was reading the other day that in 2011 only about half the total number of people who attended Church of England Christmas services attended at Easter. You may also have seen the story about the supermarket commercial buyer who asked someone (I think from The Real Easter Egg Company, but I may be wrong) what Easter had to do with the church! These things seem to suggest that the importance and significance of the Easter message is increasingly being lost on the general population. In a sense it’s a similar phenomenon to that which we remember in Holy Week: Many of those who cheered on Palm Sunday were probably the same ones who jeered on Good Friday. Easter is somehow seen as less important than the joy of new birth at Christmas.

Years ago someone said to me that if you see the average congregation arriving at church they can look as though they are going to the dentist to have a tooth pulled ... And when they come out it’s as though they have!

The temptation for us after Easter is to “get back to normal” and yet the joy of Easter is something that we should strive to hold onto. This, for me, is one of the great wonders of Cursillo, that it is full of joyful souls who are very definitely “Easter people”. We are people who express the very joy of having discovered what a deep relationship with God and with one another means. This doesn’t mean that things are not sometimes very tough, that we can feel very low or far away from God, but we have experienced some of that joy, too. That is an experience we need to hold onto and to witness to.

The joy of Easter, I believe, is founded on two truths, both of which depend on the other. Easter is the fulfilment of God’s redeeming love seen in Jesus’ death on Good Friday and God’s saving love seen in the raising up of the same Jesus on Easter Sunday. Resurrection

with Redemption, or Redemption without Resurrection are each incomplete. As Easter People we celebrate the healing that comes in redemption and the life that comes through resurrection... and neither redemption nor resurrection stopped at the end of Easter Day! This is why the joy cannot cease and why we need to avoid the dental faces if we can!

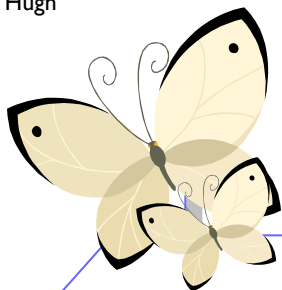


More crucially (a word that has its root in the Latin word for a cross) our challenge as joyful Cursillistas is to carry our Easter joy out to the rest of the church. I would like to encourage every Cursillista to share the Cursillo way of Prayer, Study and Action in the community of the small group with as many people as possible outside the Movement. This is not to “sell” Cursillo, not to get more people into the Movement, but rather to share the joy that we have discovered with the wider church and through the church with the wider world. This is the mission of Cursillo going forwards, to be yeast in our congregations bringing some of that Easter joy into the mix, showing people that while “the battle is o’er, the strife is done” this is only the beginning of the story because “the song of triumph has begun! Alleluia!”

With every Easter blessing to you

Ultreya!

Hugh



## Drawing Closer, Please

### A Lamb

Sheep can sometimes be aggressive.  
A larger one can knock you down.  
But never a lamb.

Animals and birds can symbolise victory,  
the lion a monarch’s power.  
But never a lamb.

Snakes and scorpions signal danger,  
their venom a plunge into death.  
But never a lamb.

Many a beast will fight to the end,  
to overcome or end its reign.  
But never a lamb.

How strange of God to conquer evil  
not by a overwhelming show of force,  
but by a lamb.

# Cursillo Leaders' Workshops (CLW)

*'As your journey unfolds, your destination gets nearer and clearer... but only if you look ahead.'*



Shallowford



Wistaston Hall



Shepherd's Dene

At Wistaston Hall, in October last year 20 delegates and three staff took a journey together – learning how to lead in Cursillo and how to be 'Authentic' about it. Leaving George to fend for himself (and Mrs T) at Thacker Towers is always a wrench, but staff at Wistaston were truly wonderful – the venue was lovely and the food excellent.

My undying gratitude to Jan Watts for all the preparation she has done for me – I am heading towards retirement from the NHS and work is hectic, so having such a capable 'ex-convenor' alongside (and usually way ahead of me) as administrator is vital.

For 2015, we have 3 weekends ready for you – the first is due 17 days after I write this at **Shallowford 17th to 19th April**. After that, we have:

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

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

And in 2016, we are already booked for:

**April 15th to 17th** - also at Wistaston Hall, Crewe.  
<http://www.orc-crewe.org/>

Web-sites links are under the dates for you – have a look and see which one you prefer – and get an e-mail off to Jan Watts as quickly as you can ([janwatts2@btinternet.com](mailto:janwatts2@btinternet.com)) – places are already filling up quickly. We are looking for more venues for the CLW weekends, and some people have already made some useful suggestions to me in that regard – keep 'em coming.

BACC recommend that all prospective Lay Rectors and all Secretariat members should attend a CLW. 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 – staying up to date keeps Diocesan Cursillo fresh.

If you are a musician and are booked for a CLW, 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 – no pressure, honestly, you may prefer a rest.

There is much joy to be had in living in community – even for a few days – as we all know in the Cursillo movement. I feel privileged and blessed to be in this post, since it offers me the chance to meet wonderful Christian Brothers and Sisters with a real focus on their life in faith. Every CLW has a different dynamic, but develops from the same love of Jesus Christ.

Much Love in Him,

Paul Thacker  
Eds & Ips.

---

## God

God is patient all of the time,  
but is no doormat that doesn't see the dirt done in his name.  
All of the time God is kind.

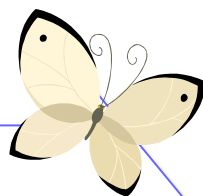
God is kind all of the time,  
but not the kind that pretends not to notice the abuse of love.  
All of the time God is truthful.

God is truthful all of the time,  
but does not trumpet the wrongs of others, preferring to endure.  
All of the time God is there.

God is there all of the time,  
but not in a way that cramps our freedom to do without him.  
All of the time God is good.

God is good all of the time,  
but not merely because we experience his great goodness.  
All of the time God is.

God is, all of the time.  
God just is.



# UPDATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

## BACC

- ◆ 9th May - AGM - Eric Liddell Centre Holy Corner, Edinburgh

## BAC STANDING COMMITTEE

- ◆ 8th May - AGM - Eric Liddell Centre Holy Corner, Edinburgh
- ◆ 4th September, St. Leonard's Church Hall, Penwortham
- ◆ 20th November, venue tbc
- ◆ 27th February 2016, Gladstone's Library Hawarden, Flintshire
- ◆ 20th May 2016, The Hayes Swanwick, Derbyshire
- ◆ 2nd September 2016, venue tbc
- ◆ 18th November 2016, venue tbc

## FULL BAC COUNCIL

- ◆ 21st November, The Palace Gate Centre, South Street Baptist Church, Exeter

## CATCH THE VISION

- ◆ 21st May 2016 - Catch The Vision and AGM, The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire

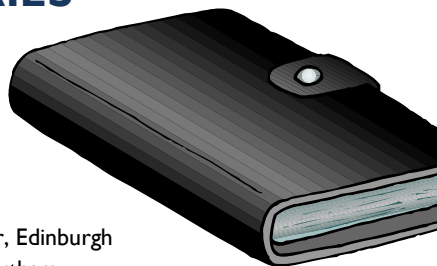
## NATIONAL ULTREYA

- ◆ 5th September, Blackburn Cathedral
- ◆ 3rd September 2016, York

## 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
- ◆ 15th - 17th April 2016, Wistason 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*



# Book Reviews

## **A Handful of Fire by Carole Marie Kelly.** **(23rd Publications)**

*By Rev'd John Morley, SD Leicester Cursillo*



This is a wonderful book, subtitled *Praying Contemplatively with Scripture*. Sr Carole Marie is a Franciscan contemplative who has lived for twenty years in solitude in Carmel, California following on from her work as an educator, cross-cultural consultant and spiritual director. Many books by American Christian writers are a little florid for my taste but this one is very calming and thoughtfully composed.

The 'Fire' of the title is the Holy Spirit, the Divine Wisdom "who can in flame our faith and inspire us to realise the treasure of union with God(which) has already been given to us and lies within our hearts".

The book is in three sections. In the first, "Approaching the Fire", SSr Carole Marie introduces various methods of reading Scripture to uncover its hidden depths of meaning. In the second part, "Touching the Fire", she guides us through the various types of writings in our Bible: history, psalms, prophecy, parables, etc and unlocks an example of each. The studies in part three, "Being Fire", point to the heart of the scriptural message, and these concluding meditations "lead us to respond generously to the grace of God (and) to reach out to the Christ in others, spreading the divine flame".

There is much in each these contemplative studies, which are about 5-6 pages long, for everyone who desires to draw deeper and closer to the heart of the Father through "a fuller experience of the power, the light and the mystery of Scripture" - which must surely include every Cursillista. There are passages here which will encourage those preparing some of our rollos, faith and grace and piety for example. As we hold the Bible we are indeed holding a handful of fire which can transform the world.



By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.  
- ROMANS 5:2 13v



# The BACC President

*Sally Henniker-Major*

**Dear Fellow Cursillistas,**

I write this just before the start of Holy Week and (being in the North) am eagerly anticipating the daffodils in my garden bursting into flower. I had completely forgotten just how many I planted last Autumn!

As Cursillistas we never really know what impact sharing our faith with fellow Christians has nor how many we touch with our 'action', however small it may seem. As Cursillistas we need to be always ready to do some 'planting' where we are as well as 'blooming where we are planted'. None of this, of course, can be achieved without looking into our own churches and communities and identifying, perhaps with others too, where the needs are and reflecting on the gifts we have been given and asking what Christ would have us do.



In some Dioceses Cursillo is trying hard to encourage others to look outside their own comfort zone and see how, together, they can help with Food Banks, Community Banks, Credit Unions, 'Nightstop' organisations, Housing Aid, Street Pastors and so on. These Diocesan Cursillos have hosted an 'open' Ultreya and invited speakers on some of these topics. Cursillistas have inevitably been challenged to take these suggestions back to their own churches.

In order for these actions to be taken we know, as Cursillistas, that we cannot achieve, maintain or sustain such projects without the support of our own Group Reunion and the help of the wider Cursillo community. To this end Hugh and I have been working with another small group of Dioceses to share the Cursillo method in every church in one particular Diocese (to begin with) where we have the encouragement of the Bishop. Another Diocesan Cursillo has shared the Cursillo method with others and are already in the process of introducing it in one Deanery. Hugh will, I think, be sharing more of these exciting ideas with us.

Cursillo needs to be a tool for Church growth and as Cursillistas we need to be willing to offer our prayerful help and support in the best way that we can. Of course we also

**ACTION • 12 • ACTION**

need to offer others the chance to share in the challenges, self-examination and the overwhelming experience of Christ's love for each and every one of us on a Cursillo weekend and to lead others (perhaps some younger members of your congregations?) into the strength and support of a Group Reunion and Ultreyas.

So – plenty of challenges for all of us as we move forward!

May the real joy and reassurance of Easter morning stay with us as we seek to be spirit-filled Christians at work renewing the face of the earth.

With love in Christ's name

Sally

## AFTER EASTER

Judas, repenting too late  
When his Lord was sold:  
Attempting atonement too soon  
In the potter's field.

If only he'd stayed for the cross  
And the healing words,  
"Father forgive them."  
If only he'd trusted and stayed.

Peter, boasting too shrill  
In his glorious zeal;  
And weeping too bitterly  
After the cock condemned him.  
If only he'd stayed strong and silent,  
Like the rock  
His master promised he'd be.  
Yet soon he'd be talking unashamed.

Pilate, rinsing his fingers  
After a tasty supper.  
Remembering the last time  
He dipped his hands in a bowl.

If only he'd been more firm  
And used his authority  
In accord with the prompts of conscience.  
But did one death make any difference ?

Mary, seeing too soon  
The death of her son.  
Mothers should not outlive  
their pain-born children.  
At last she understood  
Those strange astronomers,  
And the fey old man in the temple.  
The things she'd pondered in her heart.

John, confronted too young  
With the face of death.  
Trying to come to terms  
With being a grown up.  
If only he'd had more time  
To comprehend things;  
More time with his friend on the cross.  
He'd have a lifetime.

## Visit to Bonnin's grave

Eduardo Bonnin Aguiló, Founder of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

Eduardo Bonnin was born in Palma, Mallorca in 1917 and it was there he died in 2008. Eduardo was laid to rest in the Church of the Capuchin Priests (Iglesia de los Padres Capuchinos), his tomb is in the entryway of this church. In 2014, the mayor of Palma presided at the naming of a short street in Eduardo's honour close to the church where the founder of the Cursillo movement is buried.

Billy Hollis, former Lay Director of Canterbury Cursillo and Cursillista wife Mary enjoyed a Western Mediterranean cruise in October last and one of the stops was Palma, Mallorca.

Determined to find the grave of Eduardo, Billy and Mary set off from the cruise terminal and after some setbacks mainly due to a lack of Catalan/Spanish linguistic ability, they discovered the Church of the Capuchin Priests which was firmly locked !!

However, they did interpret from a sign on the door that it would be open for confessions at 7.00 pm and fortunately the return time to the cruise ship was not until 11.30 pm. The short street named after Eduardo was soon found and many photos taken. They returned at 7.00 pm and were delighted to see before them in the entrance of the church, the final



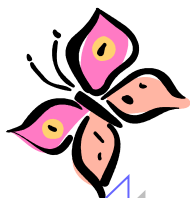


resting place of the founder of the Cursillo movement.

"This truly was a moment close to Christ" said Billy and more photos were taken. "My Canterbury Cursillo cross and name badge were placed on the grave for a short time and we both thanked the Lord for the great privilege of being able to pay our respects to such a remarkable Christian man".

Billy and Mary stayed some time in the church before heading for a local restaurant for a delicious " Paella " dinner !

"To visit Eduardo's grave was indeed the most memorable event of the cruise" said Billy, "Truly a great and unforgettable honour !!"



## **In a While**

It takes a while for the eyes to adjust  
to the brightness of Resurrection,  
for the mind and the leaping heart  
to process what cannot be so but is so.

It takes a while to realise that  
our cheering, our applause, our joy  
are not for the status quo ante being restored.

It takes a while to grasp that we cannot  
contain him, limit him, pin him down  
or keep him from trailblazing  
on the far side of the dark glass.

In a while, at Kingdom come,  
provisional will fly into fullness.

# Cursillo in Chichester... Is God bothered?

By Stephen & Pauline Lucas

It's no bad thing to look in the rear view mirror on our journey of faith, but if you are anything like me - a little short on patience - you probably wish that God would reveal just a glimpse of His plan!

I believe that the Cursillo weekend course provides that very opportunity... the Holy Spirit gently revealed a glimpse of God's plan for me, and not in the way I could have expected.



Well, it all started in the bedroom at Wychcroft! But more about that later...

In a recent conversation I was asked if I would send in an article for the forthcoming edition of 'Faith is Sussex'. I was somewhat taken-a-back really, what on earth could I write – that people would want to read? Surely, I thought, it should be Pauline giving her story, not me giving mine... some of you may know that my wife Pauline is now in her 2nd year of Curacy at Seaford Parish.

It's now more than 6 years since Pauline and I stood in that bedroom, and wondered if life would ever be the same again. You see we took part in our Cursillo weekend (Chichester #16) in April of 2008, and the Holy Spirit moved powerfully through that weekend. A prophetic word spoken to Pauline during one of the meditations, though overwhelming, came as no surprise.

Pauline had spent time talking to the spiritual director about a nagging itch, uncertain as to whether she was doing something that God wanted her to stop, or, not doing something He wanted her to do?

Well, their response was: "I feel God could be calling you to the Priesthood", Pauline's "... Yes I know" confirmed to her that this was the call she'd been trying to avoid!

By the time we were driving home on Sunday afternoon, we were filled not only with the Holy Spirit but with a great joy and excitement. This was going to be life changing for us, and potentially, a complete role reversal.

You see, Pauline has been many things to many people, but above all she has been a steadfast mother to our children, a loving wife to me - fully supportive in all my professional pursuits... even willing to pack up the family and spend 2 years in America to pursue my Automotive Engineering career into Detroit and beyond... and then continuing to look after the house and the children as my work took me away from home here in the UK.

**ACTION • 16 • ACTION**  
**from Chichester**



Pauline's gift of support... did I even think of it in that way?

Life has evidently changed for Pauline, and it continues to change for me too.

I realised at an early stage that in order to fully support Pauline in her ministry I would need to work close to home... possibly even part time, for my new role in a year or so from now will be running the house and putting a meal on the table for Pauline... something that I have taken for granted all our 33 years of married life!

Of course there have been many saints who have encouraged Pauline and enriched her walk with Christ, and I couldn't hold a candle to any of them. Even so, that Cursillo experience has helped me to recognise some valuable lessons along the way.

I have learnt that sometimes the feelings I express however heartfelt can destroy instead of build.

I have learnt and continue to learn that supporting Pauline is as much about those times when saying nothing is better than offering my opinion... God knows I need to learn to listen!

I am also learning that all those sacrifices of time and personal priority that Pauline has always afforded me with such grace – are now mine to give.

Scarily – and proving that God has a sense of humour - I found myself developing a genuine interest in learning to cook... of course our 3 children (now all grown up) are convinced that I'll poison their Mum within the first week!

But undeterred, I shall don my pinnie, look out ladies I fully intend to bake the perfect Victoria sponge, and yes, probably whilst singing Jerusalem, but I think the jury's out on the home-made jam!

I can honestly say to you that my future role as the Vicar's husband is not just something I have embraced, but actually feel excited about and, by God's grace - I believe called - to offer this gift of support.

No, it's not exactly what I expected from my Cursillo weekend, but our God of surprises – is Good.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you now to consider that God may be calling you to 'make your Cursillo', He has so much to reveal to us – about Himself and ourselves. God is not just bothered - but I believe - longing for us to take another step of faith... The Chichester Cursillo movement is a happy bunch of folk, and we'd love to be a part of your extended church family.

**ACTION • 17 • ACTION**  
**from Chichester**

# From Leicester with love!

I write this on the day when the mortal remains of King Richard III are being re-interred. For the past few months it seems as though the City of Leicester and its cathedral are the centre of the universe. TV crews from Britain, Europe and further afield are camped in the environs of the cathedral; crowds have thronged the streets for the procession of his mortal remains to Bosworth battlefield and back into the city. It is estimated that up to 38 thousand people lined the route and massive queues have waited to file past his coffin; as many as 20,000 people in the past two and a half days.

But all has been done with the great dignity and with the respect due to a King of our island nation, whatever Shakespeare, the Tudors and history itself have made of his character. Yet despite the great number of visitors, there has been a reverent hush inside the cathedral. In his sermon at the Office of Compline as Richard's body was received into the cathedral, the Roman Catholic Cardinal Archbishop Vincent Nichols made the point that Richard was a baptised and indeed a very devout Christian who did many good things with the power he held, including establishing the presumption of innocence and setting up the system of bail for some offenders before trial. King Richard's RC heritage was taken fully into account in the planning of all the liturgies of the past few days.

Next week, our cathedral and churches and chapels of all denominations enter Holy Week, remembering and celebrating that Jesus died and rose again for all people in all ages who believe and trust in the efficacy of his death for their sins. *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his great mercy WE have been born again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1.3).* We are an Easter people!

Ultreya!!

Leicester Cursillo invites Cursillistas, families and friends from across the UK to visit Leicester on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June** for our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary celebration in the cathedral. You can picnic in the Cathedral Gardens from midday and we have a special Eucharist at 2pm when Hugh, our National Spiritual Director, will preach. Visitors will be able to see Richard's final resting place and to visit the RIII exhibition just across the way.

Leicester is readily accessible by train and the station is about 12 minutes walk from the cathedral. For those travelling by car there are Park&Ride facilities adjacent to the M1 and A47; these set down very close to the cathedral.

We do hope you will join us for the day! We don't have quite the history of Richard III but 21 years isn't too bad in Cursillo terms. Dioceses are invited to bring their banners and we shall make a very colourful procession around the cathedral. Please contact me if you need any other information: [revjmorley@talktalk.net](mailto:revjmorley@talktalk.net)

**WE WOULD LOVE TO  
WELCOME YOU TO  
LEICESTER**

Very Rev'd John Morley  
SD Leicester Cursillo

**ACTION • 18 • ACTION**  
**from Leicester**

# Leicester Anglican Cursillo



We warmly invite you to join us  
for our special 21st Birthday celebrations

at Leicester Cathedral on  
Saturday 20th June 2015  
Eucharist at 2pm

President: Bishop Christopher Boyle  
Preacher: Rev'd Hugh Burgess

Join us in the Cathedral Gardens for a  
picnic lunch from Midday  
Visit the new reburial chapel of  
King Richard III  
and the adjacent RIII exhibition

Travel and more information:  
[revjmorley@talktalk.net](mailto:revjmorley@talktalk.net)

**Southwell & Nottingham Anglican Cursillo.  
30th Anniversary celebration. 13th June 2015.**

Southwell Minister. 10 - 4.  
Celebration in the Minster.  
Celebrant Bishop Tony Porter.  
Everyone welcome.



# Give away a way!

A year ago I invited us to consider the question “What is Cursillo?”. At a meeting last November, Rev’d Hugh Burgess, British Anglican Cursillo’s National Spiritual Director, asked that same question but in a particularly thought provoking way. When a fellow lift traveller overhears you mention the word or spots your badge and asks what Cursillo is, how do you answer? You haven’t got long, so be brief and keep it simple, simple enough that it trips off the tongue without having to look anything up or dig deep into your memory!

The irony is that for many of us we might prefer to say what it isn’t. It’s not a secret society. It’s not a separatist movement, sect, clique or denomination. It’s not an exclusive membership club. It’s not Spanish! I’m sure you could add more.

But what is it – in a nutshell? Try this in the lift: “Cursillo is a way of building strong Christian discipleship in local churches”? It’s easy to remember and your fellow traveller now knows it’s for Christians, within their church, not away from it, and it’s about method not membership. Like a pilgrimage, it’s about a journey, a way of travelling.

If you’ve got a few more floors to go before parting, your companion may want to know more about this ‘way’. You could say “It helps Christians to develop their relationship with Christ and to keep growing in prayer, study and action.” “How?” he or she asks. “People are invited to meet in small groups, seek spiritual direction, adopt a rule of life and participate in a three day course on Christian Living.”

So what’s so special about Cursillo? Surely it’s the way we do small groups and a three day course. It’s the simple tried and tested ‘agenda’ we have for each of these elements.

And now for a challenge! Have we traditionally seen our way of “building discipleship” as being mainly about getting people to participate in the three day course, with the small groups as an important follow up? Surely that restricts our contribution to only those for whom three days away is both possible and appealing. But small groups, modelled on our Group Reunion ‘way’, cost no money and little time, can happen at any time and in any place, and require no organising apart from agreeing when and where to meet. They can provide a source of growth for everyone. They can be our gift to every church.

And that is the challenge Hugh Burgess has set us: to make our ‘way’ of small group meetings available in every church in the land.

No secret – give it away. Give away our ‘way’.

Love and prayers, Peter

ULTREYA!

# A Cursillo Weekend

With what seemed like amazing planning a car with trailer pulled up at the Cursillo weekend venue. The driver announced "It's all here". In the trailer I expected all the items needed for the weekend. How different to my own diocesan Cursillo with the boxes spread over half a dozen people and cars.

Then I realised; this trailer held the things for the chapel only. Inside the chapel a dismantling worthy of the Reformation was going on with cross and chalice removed, altar taken, linen packed off. Then out came the Cursillo cross, chalices, linen, and so on.

As the years have passed this scene has stayed with me and from the experience of some years on teams I offer this dual cry now;

1. Offer Cursillo lite
2. Use what is present rather than bringing it

If you will allow me, let me write about both of these things and see if they upset, confirm or inspire you.

## **Cursillo Lite**

This is no reduction in the content of the weekend but in the amount of stuff carried to and distributed at the weekend. Boxes of material sit in garages and spare rooms across the country awaiting a weekend. Tissues in butterfly boxes, candles – so many candles, photocopied handouts, cloths, banners, bowls, and so on.

I have seen a handout chosen with care one weekend now added to weekend X along with all the other handouts as if they came from Moses' hand and must all be passed on. Who will have the courage to dispense with some or move their distribution from the first night to the go home back so pilgrims are not overwhelmed with reading matter.

I have a friend who loves to shop for clothes but whose rule is – one in one out. He buys a T shirt and disposes of one. Can someone in the secretariat take the role or authority to throw away or refrain from using some of the material and items that get taken to the weekends so that we all travel to the weekend lite of stuff but perhaps a little heavier with God?

## **Use what is present**

In my doctrine course at Theological College I recall a profound moment as we looked at St Thomas Aquinas. He spoke of God's grace perfecting not replacing nature. As the years have passed I have made this a phrase that guides my ministry.

What does it mean? For Aquinas it was important not to deify or have a low view of the creation and the people in it. God's grace, his goodness and gift, comes to the world and especially his people, not to replace them but transform them. He perfects nature he does not replace it and does this by grace.

When we remove items from a venue and replace them with Cursillo ones without good cause I suggest we do the reverse of God's grace – we replace we do not perfect what is there. Deep down we know that on the weekend God's grace will be perfecting people and not replacing them; we and God begin where they are and with who they are. Why can't we enact that in the way we treat the spaces we are in? Use what is there, with gratitude.

I have a friend who is a landscape gardener. I worked for him once for a week and have seen his work on a number of occasions. Again and again he looks at what is there and begins to work, often using the plants and features present rather than ripping out and starting again. I feel he is instinctively a disciple of Aquinas and of God – to perfect what is there not replace it.

So here is my dual suggestion as you perhaps are already on team or awaiting the call;

a) imagine arriving at the venue lite. What can be left behind if not discarded? What has had its day or just is not required this time? Imagine it is a budget airline and hand luggage is critical rather than boxes. What really needs to go and what is excess?

b) look at the venue; the chapel, dining room, meeting room, prayer room. What is already there that you can use? What is there that cries out to be used? What is God placing before you before you get there that he can use for the weekend without you bringing anything? Think of perfecting rather than replacing.

The Rev. Canon Ian Smith  
Rector of Warmsworth  
Canon of Sheffield Cathedral  
Former Diocesan Spiritual Director for Sheffield Anglican Cursillo

# Our new diocese, WYAD

Most of you will probably have heard about Bradford, Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield being merged into a much larger diocese known as West Yorkshire and the Dales (shortened to WYAD in this article). This has meant that the three former Cursillos have had to work out how they should merge into a larger Cursillo. Moreover the new diocese has been divided into five Episcopal Areas meaning that Cursillo has also had to follow suit.

Four of those Episcopal Areas are concentrated in the conurbations of Leeds, Bradford, Wakefield and Huddersfield/Halifax. The bulk of the people live here. The fifth Episcopal Area is to the North and covers a large area of the Yorkshire Dales which is sparsely populated.

With this very brief resume of the situation there follows an edited version of a Newsletter that was sent out to all Cursillistas in the five Areas.

“Many will have been wondering what is happening about the change from the three former Diocesan Cursillos to the new Diocesan Cursillo for West Yorkshire and the Dales.

A Steering Group was set up comprising the three Lay Directors, the three Spiritual Directors and two BACC Reps. We have also been fortunate to have the assistance and support of the BACC President Sally Henniker-Major and the Rev'd Hugh Burgess National SD and we have been meeting regularly for the past year.

There have also been a number of working groups, New Banner, Communications, Finance, Governance, Ultreyas and Weekends, and we are grateful to all who have given their time. As you can see from the lists of groups, there have been many things to think about as we move forward.

We think most will already know that each Cursillo has to cover the same area as a Diocese and have the permission of the Diocesan Bishop to operate. Each of the three former Diocesan Cursillo Bradford, Ripon & Leeds and Wakefield were also registered charities. As the former Dioceses no longer exist, we have to formally close the former Cursillos and to create a new West Yorkshire and the Dales Cursillo.

The Steering Group have had discussions with Bishop Nick, Bishop of Leeds and he has given his permission.

We have also spent a lot of time on how we will operate across such a large diocese and have drawn up a new constitution and applied to the Charity Commission to dissolve the three Diocesan Cursillos. They have advised we will need to form a new organisation and as we will have an income of more than £5000 we will need to apply to be registered.

So what is being proposed? There will be one Secretariat to cover the whole Diocesan Cursillo. It will consist of a Lay Director, Spiritual Director, Secretary, a Treasurer and an

**ACTION • 23 • ACTION**

**from West Yorkshire & The Dales (WYAD)**

Assistant Treasurer. These will be the Trustees. There will also be, two representatives from each of the 5 Episcopal Areas (10).

It is very important that all the members (about 500) feel they belong to the new WYAD Diocese Cursillo and there will be Diocesan events which will include 2 weekends and 3 Diocesan Ultreyas a year. We hope you will make every effort to join together for them. We will also work in the five Episcopal Areas of Bradford, Leeds, Huddersfield, Ripon, and Wakefield. Each Area will be organised by a Servant Community who will be elected by the members of the area. There will be a Coordinator and an Area Chaplain (chosen by the SD) and a number of others to fill roles that each area feels it requires. The Coordinator and one other person from the Servant Community will be the two representatives serving on the Diocesan Secretariat. Each Servant Community will organise local Ultreyas and support 4th Day Groups and they will all work together with the Secretariat to promote Cursillo.

Finally to get to the most important part of the message, change is not easy but we have already made a good beginning. You will still remain in your familiar 4th day groups, and have local area Ultreyas and you will soon make new friends across the Diocese This is a most important opportunity to support the mission of the church by promoting Cursillo and we ask each of you for your prayers, commitment and support.

The Steering Group  
Ultreya!"

Since this Newsletter went out, former Ripon & Leeds has held its last AGM and has wound up its Cursillo and Bradford and Wakefield will hold their winding up meetings on 18 April. The Inaugural meeting to set up the new Cursillo is to be held sometime in May.

Mike Batt (on behalf of WYAD's Steering Group)

Please hold the new Diocesan Cursillo of West Yorkshire and the Dales in your prayers as they embark on this exciting opportunity for mission, and give thanks to God for the work of the Steering Group and the working parties who have worked so diligently and enthusiastically to bring WYAD Cursillo into being.

**ACTION • 24 • ACTION**  
**from West Yorkshire & The Dales (WYAD)**



## Whose family do you belong to?

*Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her Baby, In a manger for His bed:*

That is where it all begins. Jesus – who is God – comes to earth and grows up in Nazareth. He goes to the supermarket with his mum and then goes to the well with her. He hangs around the carpenter's shop with Joseph and listens in on the conversations with other carpenters about where is the best place to buy wood. And all of a sudden everything changes. Everything is now holy because God – in Jesus – has been there. And because the Supermarket in Nazareth becomes holy, every supermarket everywhere in every time is now holy.

I think I was brought up in Church to think that the Church was God's family. Indeed sometimes at Baptisms I have talked about the baby being welcomed into God's family. I now tend to think that that was WRONG! Because of what happened in Nazareth the whole human family is now God's family.

That means that Christians are part of the Body of Christ; the group of those who have started to catch the wonder of knowing that they are loved by God and now want to follow Jesus. But the important thing is that the whole human family is God's family and every member of the human race is now my brother or sister in Christ.

That means that it must now be simply intolerable for me that for example 90,000 children in the UK (who are my brothers and sisters in Christ) woke up on Christmas morning homeless. It becomes equally intolerable that somebody is literally penniless because of an error in the benefits agency or because somebody has been sanctioned in a way that appears to lack any compassion, or that somebody works in a sweatshop thousands of miles away so that I can have clothes on the cheap.

We simply have to stop believing that some people matter less than others

There are lots of reasons why this happens. Most of it, I suppose, is to do with our own sinful nature. One of the reasons perhaps is that for many of us our experience of the human family is quite narrow. Many of us – if we are honest – tend to mix with people like us.

What I love about Street Pastors is that each Friday and Saturday night people – often older people, who are brilliant at this – go out onto the streets of our cities and they meet a whole group of young people whom they would never otherwise meet and their experience of the human family – which is God's family – widens.

What I love about Nightstop is that somebody offers an otherwise homeless young person a bed for the night and has a meal with them and perhaps hears a bit of what their

life is like and their experience of the human family – which is God’s family – broadens.

What I love about the Gateshead Foodbank is the way that when people arrive they are met at the door and taken upstairs to a bright warm room and sat down and given a cup of tea and a biscuit and somebody listens to them – if they want to talk – and again the experience of the human family – which is God’s family - broadens.

And when our experience of the human family broadens it becomes less easy to be simply critical. I have been really struck by a quote from Fr Greg Boyle: “Here is what we seek: a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it.” That becomes easier when our experience of the human family has widened.

And our experience of what it means to be part of God’s family broadens.

Bishop of Jarrow

---

### **Stooping So Tenderly**

He whose energy flows through space and still expands  
after billions of years  
planted his feet on earth.

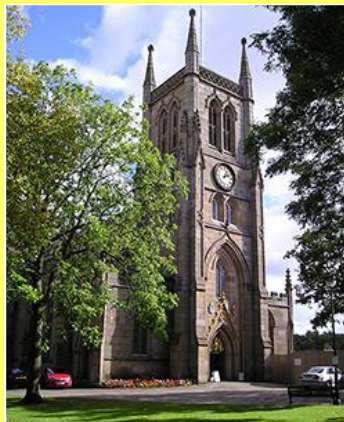
He whose power to defy is like throwing snowballs at the sun  
became one of us, the servant of us all.

So very insignificant yet a maestro,  
the conductor of an orchestra that he himself created  
to play unheard of music, with songs that weave together  
patterns of joy and discovery.

For all this, we cannot bear to look on him,  
for it would be with disgust or our own destruction.  
He came nakedly in fullness, but shields us from our own eyes.  
Dawn will break when there will be fresh, new air surrounding us  
and we will finally take it in.

# Ultreya

# GB 2015



Blackburn Cursillistas feel privileged to be hosting this special day and look forward to giving you all a warm Lancashire welcome

\*

Full details of the day are in the Ultreya GB section of the BACC website to enable you to plan your day/weekend

The Cathedral will be open from 8am for registration and breakfast  
(no booking required)

**10 am – 12.30pm ULTREYA**

**12.30 pm – 2 pm LUNCH**

(Lunches in the Cathedral Café should be pre booked and prepaid  
– see Registration Form)

**2.30pm – EUCHARIST**

Celebrant – The Right Reverend Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn  
Preacher – The Right Reverend Geoff Pearson, Bishop of Lancaster

4 pm The Cathedral Café can be booked and prepaid for a meal prior to your homeward journey – see Registration Form

\*

PLEASE REGISTER BY SATURDAY 1 AUGUST 2015 SO THAT THE CATHEDRAL AND CAFÉ CAN BE ADVISED OF NUMBERS AND THE PRINTING OF DELEGATES' BOOKLETS CAN BE ARRANGED.

Thank you – look forward to seeing you there

# Saturday 5th September

# Ultreya GB 2015

Hello, I'm the new Rep for Blackburn Diocese following in Beryl Rennie's footsteps. Over the years Beryl has done a great job keeping us informed of BACC's deliberations so I've long been interested in the work of the council. Thank you Beryl for all you've done. I'll do my best to continue the tradition you've established.

As I write I'm working out how I shall get to Edinburgh for my first BACC meeting. On the previous day when I ought to be travelling north in readiness, I'll be in a friend's car en route back from Iona, as a few of us from church, [St Nicholas, Wrea Green,] will have spent time there together. At some point I'll have to leave them and head east. Aren't google, rail cards and Travelodge great when you need them!

In Blackburn we're all getting excited about Ultreya GB. I hope lots of you are coming 'The National' is always a highlight of my year; I've wonderful memories of inspirational services; forged friendships made and renewed; and lovely Cursillo welcomes in Coventry, Ripon, Durham, St Asaph, Canterbury and many other places. Spending time with Cursillistas from across the country is always special isn't it! If you're a new Cursillista or haven't yet been to a National Ultreya, make the effort this year, or you'll miss out!

I remember each venue having its own particular flavour; and whilst travelling also enjoyed seeing that the surrounding countryside, wherever it is, wonderfully shouting of God's gloriously varied creation. The hills and moors around Blackburn are likely to surprise you and of course it's not far to see dramatic Bowland or the lovely Lake District, so maybe you'll stay a bit longer and explore.

Blackburn Cathedral is in the centre of the town - as you can see if you click the link to the map which identifies parking places and the near-by railway station. One multi story car park beside the Cathedral is above a shopping centre and a market - the latter's worth a visit if such appeals to you.

Blackburn Cathedral was formerly the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, becoming a cathedral in 1926, when the Diocese of Blackburn was created. However architectural evidence showed the foundation probably dates back to the year 596, so this is one of the country's oldest churches and youngest cathedrals. Clear glass windows give the building a light airy feel but the colours streaming down from the lantern above the altar are stunning - so let's hope the sun shines when you come! The crown of thorns suspended above the altar is impressive too.

**ACTION • 28 • ACTION**

**from Blackburn - Ultreya GB 2015**

When you come, don't forget to also look down at the floor and see all the fossils. (I reckon it's great when seated in winter, to slip off shoes to feel the underfloor heating) Around the walls inside 'The Journey' is displayed, a series of paintings by a local artist to form Stations of the Cross., and on an outside wall can be seen the "Healing of the Nations." This is a large, circular, steel and copper sculpture containing thousands of interwoven fibre optics. At night they create an ever changing pattern of light. However my favourite of all the Cathedral's works of art is undoubtedly, Josephina da Vasconcellos' sculpture of Mary Bathing baby Jesus. It was commissioned by the MU and is a lovely spot in which to pause for thought. I hope you'll come and see it all

The Ultreya GB link from this website tells you all you need to know about the programme and includes accommodation options. Take note that Blackburn Cursillistas are offering 'to put' folk up too – so use the link to ask. I've enjoyed staying with Cursillistas in the past, I'd love to reciprocate and if you want to stay longer, I'll show you further afield.

However you travel, wherever you stay, I look forward to seeing friends from the past and making new ones.

**Click on the Ultreya GB tab to see the programme at  
[www.blackburncursillo.org](http://www.blackburncursillo.org)  
And **DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER NOW.**  
**We're waiting to welcome you!!****

Sandy Harris (Mrs)  
(Blackburn Diocese Rep)  
[www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/ultreyagb2015](http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/ultreyagb2015)

**ACTION • 29 • ACTION**  
**from Blackburn - Ultreya GB 2015**

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

## BACC RESOURCES PRICE LIST

<b>RESOURCE MANUAL</b>	<b>Unit Price</b>
<b>Complete Resource Manual</b> (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
<b>Apostolic Message and Team Formation 2014</b>	<b>£ 1.00</b>
Authentic Three Day Weekend <b>2008</b>	£ 1.00
Cursillo Workshops inc. Clergy Taster Days <b>2004</b>	£ 1.00
Day of Deeper Understanding <b>2014</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>2014</b>	£ 1.00
Pastoral Plan <b>2001</b>	£ 1.00
Role of the Clergy in the Cursillo Movement <b>2014</b>	£ 1.00
Secretariat <b>2014</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>2014</b>	£ 1.00
Strategy for Restarting/Renewing Cursillo Movements in Dioceses <b>2003</b>	£ 1.00
Table Leaders Guide <b>2014</b>	£ 1.00
Music in Cursillo <b>2012</b>	£ 1.00
Ultreya <b>2014</b>	£ 1.00
What is Cursillo? <b>2001</b>	£ 1.00
BACC – What is it? <b>2002</b>	10p
<b>OTHER BACC PUBLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Three Fold Leaflet</b>	<b>20p each</b>
<b>A5 Colour Poster</b>	<b>5 for £ 1.00</b>
<b>Group Reunion Card</b>	<b>100 for £4.50</b> <b>50 for £2.50 or 6p each</b>
<b>Rule of Life Card</b>	<b>100 for £3.50</b> <b>50 for £2.00 or 5p each</b>
<b>Ultreya Floating Group Reunion Card</b>	<b>10p</b>
<b>Talk outline for Group Reunion talk</b>	<b>25p</b>
<b>Suggestions on Developing and Using a Rule of Life</b>	<b>10p</b>
<b>NEC PUBLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Lay Talk Workbook 2004</b>	<b>£ 3.95</b>
<b>Clergy Talk Workbook 2006</b>	<b>£ 3.95</b>
<b>Spiritual Direction (for Clergy only)</b>	<b>£ 2.75</b>
<b>OTHER RESOURCES</b>	
<b>Cursillo Lapel Badge</b>	<b>£ 1.00 each</b>
<b>Crucifixes</b>	<b>£4 for 1 / £3.75 for 2-49</b> <b>£3.50 for 50+</b>

Resources Officer: Anne Knyhynyckyj , Tel: 07738 576884

resources@anglicancursillo.co.uk; website: www.anglicancursillo.co.uk

# 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, Roberta Smith, Julie Robinson-Judd, Margaret Tate & Helen Taubman.

## **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:**

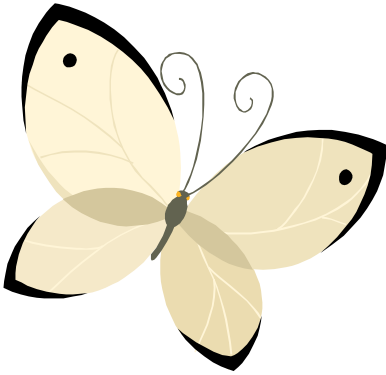
Mr Billy Hollis

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

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

Mrs Anne Knyhynckyj

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



***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***

