



Oxford Anglican Cursillo

Growing in faith through prayer, study and action

CLERGY INFORMATION LEAFLET

Mission Statement

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.

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo offers to committed Christians a proven way of discipleship in which they are supported and encouraged. It has been called '*a modern version of the Acts of the Apostles*'. It puts before us God's call to be **Saints**, (people transformed by the grace of God) and **Apostles** (people sent to play their part in God's mission to the world.) All the activities of Cursillo are open to scrutiny, and full details of Cursillo Weekends are available from the Spiritual Director or the Lay Director. There is also a national web site: www.anglicancursillo.co.uk.

Is Cursillo a Lay led or a Clergy led organisation?

Leadership is shared. Cursillo is a movement of the whole Church in which all members, lay and ordained, are equipped to be apostles of Jesus Christ. In Cursillo, the **laity** are empowered to develop and use the gifts that God has given them; and **clergy**, through the awakening of the laity, are enabled to assume their proper roles in the Body more naturally and effectively.

Why use Spanish terms?

The Spanish words used simply reflect the roots of the organisation in Spain in the 1940s and provide a shared vocabulary used by Cursillo movements worldwide.

What happens on a Cursillo Weekend

The weekend begins on a Friday afternoon, ending the following Sunday evening. Away from the everyday pressures of life the pilgrims and team form a Christian Community, learning, praying, sharing, singing and living together. During the weekend the team of lay people and Spiritual Advisers give a series of talks covering the basics of Christianity and centring on the mission concepts of **prayer**, **study** and **action**. *Trials are in progress of a shorter version of the weekend.*

What are the benefits of a Cursillo Weekend?

As a result of Cursillo weekends, many Christians become more active in their Churches as they become more aware of their gifts. Those who have taken part in a Cursillo Weekend often report a new confidence in mission, and their new activities may include such things as sick visiting, leading worship and intercessions, preaching and leading house groups. A new sense of vocation may be a result, and some people go on to offer themselves for Ordained or Reader ministry. Perhaps the most frequently reported benefit of the Weekend is a powerful experience of the love of God.

What happens after a Cursillo Weekend?

After the three day weekend Cursillistas, as they are then known, go into the Fourth Day, which is where we continue our Christian journey together. They join small Group Reunions which meet regularly. The meetings last from half an hour to an hour during which members, following a set pattern, will be invited to share what they have learnt about God since they last met, moments in which they have felt close to Christ and ways in which they have attempted to infuse the community of which they are a part with Christian values. All are invited to share encouragements and disappointments, and to discuss any action they propose to take in the furtherance of the Gospel. This underscores and supports apostolic action, providing a structure for a lifetime's experience of Christian love and service.

Will Cursillo take members away from my church?

Certainly not! On the contrary, as mentioned above, you may find that they become much more active members of your Church.

How does Cursillo support diocesan strategy and ways of working?

The Cursillo model has a strong focus on fostering personal discipleship and can be communicated in a way that reflects most expressions of diocesan strategy. The Spiritual and Lay Directors are appointed by the Diocesan Bishop, to whom they are directly accountable, including compliance with diocesan *Due Diligence* obligations. They are also accountable to the President of the British Anglican Cursillo Council, of which they are *ex officio* Council members. As a registered charity, Oxford Anglican Cursillo is subject to Charity Law.

What is the cost of Cursillo to the Diocese and Parishes?

Nothing! Oxford Anglican Cursillo is financially independent of the Diocese and its parishes.

Is Cursillo active in the other denominations?

Yes. The Methodist Church adopted English terminology in preference to the Spanish and Cursillo is known as 'Walk to Emmaus'. Cursillo in the Roman Catholic Church (where Cursillo originated) is known as Catholic Cursillo. In the Free Church, Cursillo is known as Tres Dias. However, the form of the Three Day Weekends and the Fourth Day is essentially the same in all denominations.

Is a Cursillo weekend suitable for all members of my congregation?

No. Anyone who is going through a time of personal crisis - for example who is undergoing treatment for depression or mental illness - may need to wait until life has, for them, returned to an even keel before embarking on an introductory weekend. Discernment also needs to be used in the case of those recently bereaved.

When is the next Cursillo Weekend?

Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th May 25th 2025 at Ripon College, Cuddesdon

For further details, please contact

Diocesan Spiritual Director: Revd. Andrew Foran: spiritualdirector@oxfordcursillo.org.uk

For general enquiries please contact

the Secretary: secretary@oxfordcursillo.org.uk

or visit our website www.oxfordcursillo.org.uk or our FaceBook page.

Clergy Information Leaflet Version 1.1 August 2024

Anglican Cursillo® in the Diocese of Oxford

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