

A movement of the Church encouraging people to know, love and follow Jesus

DECEMBER 2019

Message From The Lay Director
Judy Short

Dear fellow Cursillistas

I am sitting in the garden at Penhurst and it is the perfect place to be as I ponder on my role as Lay Director! Firstly I want to thank all of you for the lovely warm reception you gave me when I was commissioned back in May. Much prayer had gone in to this decision. I feel challenged, a little anxious but also excited – not necessarily in that order! It is a real privilege to be your Lay Director and with Gods help, I will do my very best to lead Cursillo over the next 3 years.

On Chichester #30 Maggie as Lay Rector gave me the rollo on "Leaders" and at the time I thought it a bit "odd" as apart from having been Lay Rector for #25 I didn't have any plans to be in a leadership role! God did however!! I chuckle now as I re read that rollo and realise I am being asked to follow what I said and "Walk the Walk" and "Talk the Talk"!!! In that rollo, I said "that God will equip each and every one of us to do the task He is asking us to do AND - IF we believe He will equip us then at some point we all need to step out of our comfort zone and TRUST: otherwise **we never give God the opportunity to work in us and show us how he will help and guide us.** Please don't let human fear freeze you up!!!"

I ask you, with me, to ponder on those words as you read Maggie's reflections on being Lay Rector because she has so clearly expressed, from her heart, what can be achieved when we step out in faith and trust God

Since making my weekend in 2007 I have witnessed so many of you take that step of faith and so blossom, especially when staffing.....THIS, for me, is one of the joy's of Cursillo.

Cursillo is a wonderful Christian community but in order for it to blossom we all need to take our part in its future. God has given each one of us gifts and skills and for Cursillo to continue it needs those gifts and skills plus our time and our desire, to see it thrive.

One gift God hasn't given me is " insight" (!!!) so I hope that you will enlighten me, by talking to me, calling me or emailing me with your ideas, telling me about your gifts and perhaps how you would like to serve Cursillo. There are many roles in Cursillo and being involved brings a deeper understanding of Cursillo and working with other Cursillistas is, yes, you have guessed it.....a real joy. With all that in mind, there will be job descriptions for the role of secretary and Booking Secretary in this newsletter, as both Jane Lumley and Sue Davis will have completed their 3 years in these roles. Both of these roles are vital for Cursillo so please do read the job descriptions and if you feel called to offer your help in this way then either I or Jane Lumley will be very happy to hear from you. There are other roles which are just as important but do not require you being on the secretariat and we will inform you all as and when these also need a volunteer.

Cursillo in Chichester will be 20 years old next year and with this in mind, we have contacted the Dean of Chichester asking him when the Cathedral is available for us to use and we hope to also book a room within the cathedral or near it for an informal get together over tea and cake. We will be inviting many fellow

Cursillistas who have been a part of Chichester over these last 20 years, some of whom have moved out of the diocese, so the afternoon will give us the opportunity to catch up with one another. As soon as a date is set then we will inform you all.

Chichester #32 (April 23-26th) is open for bookings and Liz Cooper, the Lay Rector, has begun her journey to bring this weekend into fruition, having been commissioned at the closing Clausura on #31. Please hold her in your prayers as she begins to form her team and put the weekend together. Staffing is a very rewarding and wonderful thing to do. It gives you the opportunity to serve new pilgrims and give back a little of what you received on yours. For many Cursillistas, it brings to completion their own weekend. Without staff the weekend cannot happen, so if staffing is something you would like to do but haven't as yet let us know, please contact me!

So dear friends, with all those challenges which I have laid before you, I ask you to hold me and your secretariat in your prayers and stay alert to what God might be asking you to do and together, as a Cursillo community, we will all grow and blossom on our spiritual journey and be effective workers for God's Kingdom.

ULTREYA !!! Judy Short

laydirector@chichestercursillo.co.uk



Penhurst Retreat Centre

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 22nd February 2020
Ultreya 11.30 St Mary's Church, Goring

Thursday 23rd – Sunday 26th April 2020
Chichester #32 Wychcroft House

May 2020 Date to be confirmed
Ultreya & AGM St Peters Church Ardingly

National Ultreya 2020
Hosted jointly by
Dioceses of Southwark and London
Saturday 5th September 2020
www.southwarkcursillo.org

Thursday October 15th – Sunday 18th October 2020
Chichester #33 Wychcroft House

Saturday 21st November 2020 Ultreya St Mary's
Church Newick

From your Spiritual Director **A re-imagined vision of Cursillo –** **Pilgrimage and Journey**

Q. When is a course not a course?
A. When it's a course, of course!
Not, it's not a bad joke – but maybe a bit of a riddle. So let me explain.
We've so often said that 'Cursillo' comes from the Spanish word for 'a short course'. If, like me, you've attended 'training courses' over the years, your mind probably jumped, as mine did the first time many years ago, to that type of 'course'. And the fact that a Cursillo weekend has numerous talks and activities, can tend to reinforce that idea. But if you dig around a bit in some 'official' Cursillo documentation you might discover that 'Cursillo' translates, still as a 'course', but more a 'course, such as you might run in a race'.
When I came across this it gave me an encouraging change of perspective. So,

instead of the possible misunderstanding that we are involved in some sort of intellectual, even though spiritual, self-improvement programme, Cursillo becomes (as we try to express) more of a whole-of-self experience – which will involve hurdles, other participants, challenges, direction, and an ultimate objective towards which we move ahead with vigour and determination.

Those of us who have been involved in Cursillo for many years have long realised that aspect as the 'training course' idea isn't really the full picture. Maybe too passive, when we think of the wonderful activity of the Holy Spirit. So I put before you the image of the cross country run. Don't panic if, like me, you are well past that sort of physical activity! But keep the idea in mind and allow the idea of Cursillo to be both a pilgrimage and a purposeful journey. Then 'ultreya', 'keep going' takes on a whole fresh aspect. We are on a faith journey, where the finishing line is in heaven.

Along the way we need encouragement and help. Within Cursillo those are the Group Reunions and local and diocesan Ultreyas.

Going back those many years to when I did long distance running, I know full well that if I had a break (holiday, injury or anything else) I fell back in my performance and it took a while to get going again. So if you've dropped out of a Group Reunion or not been to an Ultreya for a while, know that we are there for you, as you 'catch up' on your journey.

And in 2020 we celebrate 20 years of Cursillo in our diocese. What a wonderful milestone! We will be celebrating the event, but details are still being worked out. So, keep looking at the Chronicles, your e-mails and any other communication that we can manage.

Keith Smith

spiritualdirector@chichestercursillo.co.uk

Chichester #30

February 21st – 24th 2019

It was with a great deal of joy and enthusiasm that I accepted the role of Lay Rector for Chichester #30. I want to thank the secretariat for putting their trust in me even though I had little experience in staffing on a Cursillo weekend. It has been a privilege from beginning to end, and it keeps on giving. Right from the beginning, I put my trust in God and He didn't disappoint. Every time I sat down at the computer with a very definite list of what I wanted to achieve, God, with a smile on his face no doubt, would intervene and I would get up hours later having accomplished nothing from my list but much from Gods!

After a certain amount of phone calls, emails and patience, the staff team was complete and the first training day was upon us. The day flowed well, maybe due to the tea and coffee flowing constantly with Irene having difficulty keeping up with demand!! The staff 'gelled' well and everyone felt satisfied and able to begin the next part of the journey.

The second training day came all too quickly, and the team were back in action again, tea flowing as freely as before. The day buzzed and all was as it should be. By this time, we had a full weekend.

Setting up the house seemed to go like clockwork and everything was done without much fuss and bother. Pilgrims arrived (rather earlier than expected) and we were off!

The pilgrims seemed to get on and 'gel' with each other quite quickly and there seemed little worry or concern. Thursday evenings Stations of the Cross and meditations were well received, although, silence had a different meaning to some of the pilgrims who enjoyed a good old natter in the morning in the hall!

The weekend progressed extremely well and there was a definite shift on Friday from the pilgrims being a little cautious to, well, letting go and letting God! Creative time was very creative, and thanks to the glorious weather that had been laid on for us, out they went to collect moss, leaves, branches ... the list was endless!

The pilgrims had been challenged to be open minded to the whole weekend and not to make any judgements until the weekend was over. But some just couldn't help themselves. They were overwhelmed (in a good way) by the experience that they were having. They were amazed and delighted by the Palanca (if not a little overwhelmed) and couldn't quite get to grips with the thought that people they didn't know had been praying for them.

All rollos were well received, and they produced some marvellous artwork and discussion – although sometimes the discussion took a while to get going. The table leaders did a marvellous job of teasing out thoughts from the pilgrims and ensuring that all were involved.

I had recruited experts when it came to signing the pilgrim guides, although much laughter ensued, it seemed to be done without too much of a challenge! The pilgrim's skit was laughter from start to finish. They had picked up on all the nuances of the weekend. The staff skit was enjoyed by all and having given our all for it, they asked if they could sing it with us, so we had to do it all over again!

This led on to the prayer walk around the house. Stephen did a sterling job throughout the weekend, but especially when having to play in not so usual places. All pilgrims were included and it seemed well accepted. After the service of light and healing, some of the pilgrims were on fire with what they could do next and wanted to sit and talk!! All we wanted to do, to be honest, was have out staff meeting and go to bed, but

instead we made them drinks and indulged them until eventually I had to politely excuse the staff for our meeting. Singing on Sunday morning was a delight. Our pilgrims received their wake up 'bell' with joy. And when they returned after Morning Prayer to find a hall full of friends, joy was overflowing once again. Many, many thanks must go to our Cursillistas who rose early in order to greet our pilgrims in this way – they were overwhelmed! And then to be welcomed into the Cursillo family by a full chapel for Clausura was the icing on the cake. What a weekend!

God asked a question of me when I began the journey to Chichester #30 and I gave every ounce that I had in reply. Despite my shortcomings I put my trust in God as He had put His trust in me. I couldn't have given any more.

But my staff also gave everything they had too. They were brilliant. They supported me wholeheartedly and they supported each other. They were the best team I could have hoped for. God chose well.

My thanks go to all the Cursillistas who prayed for us before, during and after the weekend. We couldn't have done it without that prayer lifting us up and keeping us going. The weekend was dedicated to angels and they certainly showered us with blessings the whole weekend.

Whether the weekend was a success or not must be a question answered by the 12 pilgrims who opened themselves up so fully to the Lord. My aim was to enable each one of them to have the opportunity to feel the love, joy and fellowship of Cursillo. I think we achieved that at least.

Maggie Williams
Lay Rector Chichester #30

We would love to hear from you if you would like to include something in the newsletter, please send to suesdesignservices@gmail.com and please include a picture if you can.

Vacancies in the Secretariat Secretary

It has been a privilege to serve as secretary on the secretariat for the past three years and now my term of office will be coming to an end at our AGM in May next year.

Just to put you in the picture as to what is involved, here is a resume of the tasks which the Secretary carries out.

Taking the minutes at the Secretariat meetings which are held about 4 times a year. Once the minutes are written up, they are then sent to the Lay Director for approval. If they are in order, they are then emailed to each Secretariat member.

In consultation with the Lay Director, an agenda is drawn up and sent to Secretariat members 2 weeks before a meeting.

The Secretary is also responsible for writing an annual report for the AGM and for taking the Minutes at AGM.

As a trustee of Chichester Cursillo, the Secretary communicates, by email to the Charities Commission, any Trustee changes. Once a year the Annual Financial figures (supplied by the Treasurer) are also sent to the Charity Commission. This is a simple task using the Charity Commissions on line system. The Trustees are the Lay Director, Spiritual Director, Hon. Treasurer and Secretary.

Last but not least, The Secretary, on behalf of the Secretariat, writes a letter

of thanks to the Lay Rector for hosting an Ultreya.

I hope that this information may encourage someone to take on the role of Secretary. It is not a difficult task and it is always a pleasure to meet with other Secretariat members and to take an active part in Cursillo.

Jane Lumley

Booking Secretary

The role of Booking Secretary is to send out and receive applications from pilgrims and pilgrim partners and on receipt check and copy to Spiritual Advisors and Lay Rector for the Weekend. All deposit cheques are sent by the Secretary to the Treasurer and if paying by bank transfer then this information is also passed on. The Secretary also acknowledges receipt of the cheques. A file should be kept and a draft Palanca list produced in time for the second training day. A full job description is available.

Sue Davis

If you are interested in either of these roles, please contact Judy Short

laydirector@chichestercursillo.co.uk

National Ultreya GB in Chester

Having nearly driven 200 miles to Chester with fellow Cursillistas, I had hoped that my experience of the National Ultreya for the second time would be as good as my first National Ultreya was. And I wasn't disappointed. I had never been to Chester before but had been told much about this delightful city. Friday evening was spent mainly stretching our legs by walking the mile into the city centre from our hotel and finding something to eat, and then walking the mile back again! So far, so good. We couldn't help but notice that Chester had obviously known we were coming for the rainbow flags and rainbow window dressings were out in full!

Saturday dawned bright but overcast and they had forecast rain for the day, but I had convinced myself that the day was not going to be spoiled by rain. And it wasn't spoiled, we just got wet processing the banners! Again, we walked into the centre and to the Cathedral where a warm and dry (just) welcome awaited us along with a nice hot cup of tea. Amongst the hubbub of the refectory I managed to find some familiar (I resist using the term 'old'!) faces and lots of new. Folk who I had met only once at the last national somehow remembered me, I can't think why. There were over 400 people in the Cathedral sharing God's love and celebrating His wonderful world of colour. Having spent money on the tables selling more butterfly and rainbow paraphernalia than I care to think about, we settled down to the witness talk. Cursillo asks us questions I have been told by Trevor King, BACC president, on more than one occasion. Those questions are, Who am I? Who is God, What has God done for me? What am I going to do about it? But now I find that Cursillo also gives us three focuses I, I and God, and I, God and others. And along with those you can say that I is where we find God's love most visibly, I and God is where we find God's hope most visibly and I, God and others is where we find God's purpose most visibly. I guess in short, Cursillo is where we can find God and his help on our journey of faith and our journey of helping others.

During the morning we also had an introduction to Kairos. Kairos is what Cursillo is called in prisons. Kairos means right time in Greek. I am always moved when palanca is received from prisoners, who are praying for us or me! Visible love. Shouldn't that be the other way around I find myself thinking. Iain Whitlam told us that there was palanca that was edible too, in the form of cakes and cookies made for the prisoners by willing bakers. Such a wonderful ministry

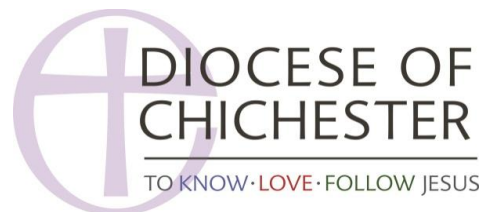
that is done for these people that society finds hard to forgive when God already has.

In the course of the day I picked up nuggets of delightful ways of explaining a Cursillo Ulteya, my favourite being, "using what we have achieved to help others go further". How true. I certainly am helped to go further at these occasions and I would hope that I might just help someone else too, maybe. The bishop of Chester, in his sermon told us that life is a journey, and Cursillo expresses this perfectly. My journey started when someone thrust a Cursillo leaflet in my hand and asked me if I would like to do this. Indeed I would, but the money was prohibitive. I was told not to worry about that and just to fill in the form. I obediently did as I was told and was instantly excited about what lay ahead. The next part of my journey came when almost total strangers offered me a lift to the retreat house for the weekend. I accepted, somewhat overenthusiastically, but glad, as I had no idea where this place was. The weekend was alive, I was buzzing from beginning to end and couldn't process all that I was experiencing quick enough. By the time I left to go home, which by the way, was a real wrench, I was on the highest mountain. Wow! But this journey did not finish there. The journey continued into my fourth day – the rest of my life – with Ulteya's, group reunions, Nationals and so much more. By stepping out in faith, by putting out into the deep (Luke 5:4) – the scary, challenging unknown, I had allowed others to help me on my journey of faith. Then I find that that group of 'others' has grown exponentially to a nationwide group of people who I can count on to support me and can count on me for support.

During the course of the day there was much love, laughter, singing and colour. It was a true Holy Chaos. We had the opportunity to talk to others about what

we were doing and so share the love of God. Thank you Chester for your hospitality and care in the organisation and implementation of the National Ultreya GB 2019. If you would like to find out more about Cursillo then please go to the Chichester Cursillo web site or ask a Cursillista where you live. You are welcome to come to any of our gatherings, there are no secrets, just love, prayer and laughter with friends.

Maggie Williams



Please pray for Judy Short in her role as Lay Director,

For Liz Cooper as she prepares for weekend #32

For the Pilgrims from weekend #31 Cursillo Weekends at Home and Abroad

Pray that God will put the name of someone on your heart that you can tell about Cursillo

For the secretariat, for the plans for the 20th Anniversary of Chichester Cursillo

Remember you can use the prayer net on the website for all prayer requests

<http://chichestercursillo.co.uk/new-prayer-net>

CHICHESTER #31

We had a brilliant weekend – but I guess I had better start at the beginning.

As I had problems recruiting enough staff, I decided to go ahead with two tables, so 12 staff instead of 14. The training days went really well - the team gelled right from the start.

Then for some time we didn't get any pilgrims and I thought that the weekend would have to be postponed! But then they suddenly all booked in shortly before the second training day.

In July my daughter and two small grandchildren moved in with me, which meant that I couldn't find the necessary time for preparation for the weekend, but I had the most fantastic LRCC in Trudi who kept me on track, and did a huge amount of work.

So finally the weekend arrived. Keith led our commissioning Eucharist, which was lovely. Then we all prepared to meet our pilgrims. We had eight pilgrims, and they all seemed to settle in well. Friday morning and there was no hot water! So we all had cold showers. Other than that, the first day went really smoothly. The pilgrims all took part in the discussions – the table leaders said at the staff meeting later that they weren't really needed as the pilgrims could manage without them! We were all blown away by their feedback at the end of the day. As a creative response to Grace, one table had prepared a presentation where each of them gave a personal testimony in turn, with a refrain between each one. They each were so open and honest, and this was only the first day! (Bear them in mind for future witness talks at Ultreyas.) They were all puzzled, however, by the staff finding the signing of the Pilgrim Guides so amusing – of course we messed up whilst they all did it without problems.

Saturday morning and the showers were warm, but not hot. This day went really smoothly as well. Before they had been told about group prayer time, one group had spent their free time in prayer – we saw and heard them grouped together praying. But they were still keen to have more prayer time. They were all also very impressed by the palanca, to know that so many people had been praying for them.

The dinner party went really well. I must here mention Helen – she had hand made all the table decorations and must have spent literally hundreds of hours on it! It was absolutely amazing and everyone was talking about it.

Sunday morning and finally the showers were hot! And the pilgrims appreciated being woken by singing instead of a

clanging bell – perhaps we should do it every morning? Wake up of course was great and everyone really enjoyed it.

Sunday's programme was as usual somewhat rushed. Then finally it was time for the Clausura, where Keith again presided. The pilgrims all spoke warmly of the weekend. It was a pity that there weren't more Cursillistas present at the Clausura, but I know (from when I was trying to recruit staff) that several regulars were away.

Overall the weekend was a great success. My team were amazing (I wasn't really necessary; they could have done it all without me) and the pilgrims were all so keen and happy to be there, and I think will all be active Cursillistas (one is a church organist – future Music Cha Cha?).

I had bought some nice thank you cards in order to write personal thank you letters to send by post to all my team – but my grandchildren got hold of the cards and scribbled all over them, so it didn't happen. So I apologise profusely to the team for lack of thank you letters, but I would like to give them all a big thank you here.

Linda Tempest Chichester #31



Feeling a little 'left out'...
Unsure as to what's going on
in Chichester Cursillo?
Then let's do something about
that!

The Chichester Cursillo web site is YOUR resource - our aim is to keep it right up to date with:
NEWS – EVENTS – ULTREYAS – WEEKENDS – PRAYER – WHO'S WHO – AND LOTS MORE...
If you are willing to 'Sign up' we promise NOT to share or pass on your details or your email address to anyone else... and we promise NOT to fill up your inbox with endless emails.

What we will DO is keep you right up to date with all that's going on in the Chichester Cursillo community by sending by email our eNews bulletins, but ONLY when we have news to tell you! Simply visit the web site at chichestercursillo.co.uk follow the 'Sign up' instructions at the bottom of the home page, click on the 'I'm not a Robot' button then click send. After this you will receive an email which – if you are happy to proceed – you need to click on the link which will confirm your wish to register.

If you would like help with your 'Sign up' please do let Stephen know by sending him an email to:

webadmin@chichestercursillo.co.uk

Ultreya! **Stephen (Chi#16)**



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Cost: £160

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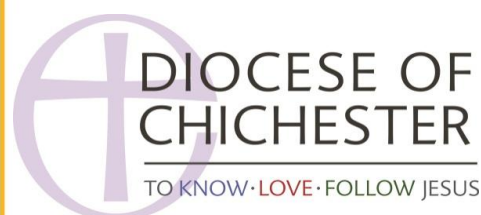
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Please also keep one or two copies of the latest (v4) booking form Part A for Pilgrim Applicants.

Plus booking form Part B for Pilgrim Partners. *(Please remember that the Part B form is not normally shown or given to Pilgrims Applicants)*

If you have not done so already, please be sure to delete/recycle all old copies... as the prices have now gone up



Chichester Cursillo Survey September 2019

Thank you to all those who returned survey forms by post or email recently. The purpose of the survey was to:

- better understand how many Cursillistas are active in the Diocese
 - how many attend Group Reunions
 - names of those who would like to staff in the future
-
- **53 Surveys returned (44%)**
 - **31 respondents had previously staffed at a weekend**
 - **29 respondents would like to staff in the future (4 have never staffed before)**
 - **39 respondents attend a Group Reunion (mostly once a month)**
 - **10 respondents do not & 4 did not indicate**
 - **46 of respondents regularly receive updates**
 - **34 respondents regularly use the website**
 - **44 respondents know the name of their Area Rep**

Easy Fundraising

Do you shop online? Why not do it through easyfundraising.org.uk and raise a free donation for Chichester Cursillo every time you shop! It is easy to use and costs you nothing.

Simply use this link

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chichestercursillo/> and register to support Chichester Cursillo.