

Autumn 2019



# BACC Pages

The magazine of The British Anglican Cursillo® Council

## No place for “them” and “us” on a Cursillo Weekend!

*says Stephen Bowring, our National Spiritual Director*

### **Why do we do 'it' to them?**

**From my earliest experience of Cursillo, there has always been an *us* and a *them* on a weekend.**

**When I was a participant *we* were the victims of *them* (the staff.) Yes, it really did seem like I was a victim in those bad old days when *they* huddled round in groups laughing and joking about what was going to happen to *us* next, and bursting into our bedrooms like a Brian Rix farce.**

**I sincerely hope and trust that those days are gone now in all our dioceses, but I believe there are still remnants that persist that are unhelpful to say the least.**



How many times have you heard someone say that they understood much more clearly what Cursillo was all about after they had 'staffed' on a weekend, or even that they got much more altogether out of their second or third weekend than their first? Can't we embrace this and acknowledge that *everyone* on the weekend from the Lay Rector to the Palanca Gopher to the new participant is a pilgrim on a new phase of their spiritual journey?

What I am driving at is much more an attitude of mind rather than any procedural tweaks – but some would clearly help. The way we do things may suggest to our new participants that the staff is a group of honed and polished fully finished Cursillistas who are here to deliver the entire 'package' to the newbies. Of course those who *have* 'been before' and are now presenting the Cursillo will not be so surprised at what comes next, but the weekend is above all experiential, and to expect 'staff' to remain somehow aloof from what the participants are experiencing is a denial of reality.

*Continued on page 2*

**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.**

*Continued from page 1*

So how can we integrate the experience of team and participants realistically? Well, here are a few specific ideas, which I gratefully acknowledge as arising from my time as Spiritual Director for Ely Anglican Cursillo.

If your weekend involves a time of silence, then shouldn't the 'team' observe silence too? Some dioceses even take the opportunity of the participants being in silence to have a **staff meeting** – how 'them and us' can you get! Come to that, why do you need to have staff meetings on the weekend at all? If I analyse the staff meetings I've attended in the past, I find that much of fifteen or twenty people's time was spent in *one* person asking *one* other to do something that had no impact on *anyone* else. That, and going round the room asking everyone if anyone has any problems – usually leading to someone thinking up something to say that probably doesn't constitute a problem anyway.

If your team has a healthy mix of experience and freshness and has prepared well, then most questions and issues that arise can be addressed by individual to individual conversation. If needs be, have a word with the Head Gopher or Lay Rector (or even a Spiritual Advisor).

Even more radically, instead of having team members sitting on their hands round the edge of the Rollo room, peering into the goldfish bowl of participants' tables, why not give them a table of their own and let them have discussions about the Rollo they've just heard?

This isn't just 'for the fun of it.' It is about modelling the fact that there is an unbroken continuity from the three days into the fourth day. Theologically it's important too – we serve a God who chose not to stay in heaven to dispense grace from afar, but came alongside us in our humanity to share the journey of human existence to bring the gift of salvation.

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# BACC Pilgrimage 2020

## “The Path to Pilgrimage - Becket and Beyond”

Canterbury Cursillo’s Pilgrimage, organised on behalf of BACC is now going ahead in April 2020.

This is the year in which we celebrate the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Archbishop Thomas Becket, who became St Thomas of Canterbury, and the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in 1170. Following Becket’s canonisation in 1173, Canterbury became a major centre for Christian pilgrimage. Pilgrims from this country journeyed to the shrine in the Cathedral as did large numbers from mainland Europe.

The town of Dover in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, as indeed it is today, was the main arrival port for pilgrims from across Europe, so it is most appropriate that the 2020 BACC pilgrimage is entitled “The Path to Pilgrimage - Becket and Beyond” and it will be based in Dover. We will be staying on the historic site of St. Martin’s Priory which is now Dover College – one of Kent’s foremost educational establishments.

The pilgrimage begins in the late afternoon of Easter Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April next year, and finishes on the morning of Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. We will use the College’s comfortable minibuses for our transport and will be visiting some very special places indeed, including of course, Canterbury Cathedral. History, spirituality and worship are all ingredients of this superb event and the pilgrimage will be led by Canon Christopher Dent, an eminent local historian who led the last BACC pilgrimage in 2016.

Full details, including the booking form, are available on the BACC website. The maximum number of pilgrims will be 42 and the cost per person is **£250.00**. Please support this event – it will be very special. The closing date for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.



PHOTOS:

*Above: Canterbury Cathedral*

*The tomb of Thomas Becket*

*Left: Dover College*

**Trevor King, President of British Anglican Cursillo.**

# Keeping Cursillo up to date and relevant



I don't know about you but as I get older the rate at which things change in the world around me seems to get quicker and quicker. I'm only 63 and I've got the hang of the basic functions of my smart phone but then the operating system of one of my favourite 'apps' is updated automatically and suddenly everything on it looks different and I have to change the way I do things. Last week the garage gave me a brand new courtesy car as mine was being repaired and I can't work out what half the knobs do and some of the gadgets are a complete mystery. The automatically dipping headlights really baffled me!!

If we are to keep up with life, however, change is inevitable. The way we do things has to be regularly reviewed and updated and what worked 10 years ago won't necessarily work now. Policies and legislation change and so do people's expectations about the goods they buy and the services they receive from organisations like the Church. And at its simplest Cursillo is providing a service; we are offering a weekend course with ongoing follow-up and support. So we have to keep up to date and relevant.

In the last couple of years the British Anglican Cursillo Standing Committee and Full Council have done quite a lot to review and update the way we do things and the resources that we use.

- We've completely revised and updated the **Resources Manual** (all the booklets that explain what Cursillo is about and how things should be done, all of which are available to download free on the Anglican Cursillo website <http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk>).
- We've revised the **BACC Constitution**.
- We've produced a **promotional video** that's available on our website and on YouTube (and it's been put on many diocesan Cursillo websites), thus starting to bring our marketing material into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Our Cursillo Leaders' Weekend Convenor Rev Judy Craig-Peck has completely reviewed and updated the content of the **CLW talks and activities**.
- We've done our best to comply with the General Data Protection (**GDPR**) Regulation 2016 and helped all diocesan Cursillo movements to do so as well.

This is an ongoing process and there is more that we need to do.

- Our new Webmaster, Steven Ridley, is embarking on the creation of a completely **new website**. The current one is rather dated and importantly is designed to be viewed only on a desktop or laptop computer, not smartphones or tablets. It's old technology. On pages 7 and 8 he appeals for your thoughts about the content and look of the new website. Please send him your ideas.
- The talks or Rollos on Cursillo weekends are always written using guidelines that we inherited from the American Episcopal Church that gifted Anglican Cursillo to the UK back in 1981. The edition of the **Lay and Clergy Talk Workbooks** that all dioceses currently use was revised by the Americans in 2004. We have become aware that much more recent (2018) revisions are available and so we are encouraging all

dioceses to start using them. Both workbooks are now available on the BAC website (on the 'Information for Dioceses' page) for Secretariats to download and print free of charge. If you prefer, our Resources Officer Tony Tucker can supply copies at a small cost.

- We are also going to review these latest talk workbooks and see whether we feel that we need to **produce our own British version**. The views of dioceses as they start to use them will be greatly appreciated. A Working Group will be set up to undertake the task in the next year or so.
- There are another seven **Policy & Guidelines documents** (on the 'Council Admin' page of the website) that need to be reviewed and updated over the next couple of years. If you're interested in that sort of thing please take a look and let us have your comments and suggestions.
- Over the years all the Cursillo dioceses have reviewed the content of their Cursillo weekend programmes as they have sought to take out some of the 'extras' that have been added in the past and get back to a much more **'authentic 3-day weekend'**. But there is probably still more that can be done, as our National Spiritual Director Stephen points out in his article on pages 1 and 2.

There's one more major change that we are currently considering and consulting dioceses about; that is whether we should officially approve **an alternative 2-day 'condensed' format for the Cursillo Weekend**. It would still have the essential 15 talks and 5 meditations but be pared back and focused.

Early in 2018 we became aware that the American Episcopal Cursillo movement was trialling 2-day weekends in a number of dioceses and a draft programme timetable was available on their website. The main reasons given for the trial were problems that we in the UK are familiar with: the difficulty of attracting people of working age who have cannot take Fridays off work, the increasing cost of 3 days full board at our venues, and in some places the difficulty in finding a venue that is willing to accommodate a Thursday lunchtime till Sunday teatime event when they are increasingly booked by Monday to Friday conferences. The BACC Steering Committee merely noted the fact and decided to think and pray about it.

Then in March 2018 Cursillo Scotland had to cancel a weekend at a couple of days' notice because the venue was in a red weather warning area – it was the 'Beast from the East'. They subsequently found it impossible to book a replacement 3-day weekend later in the year, only Friday evening to Sunday venue bookings were available. So the Standing Committee approved the use of a 2-day weekend format as a trial. Since then 3 more trials have been run, in Southwell & Nottingham diocese, Chelmsford diocese and a second one in Scotland.

The Standing Committee have now received and discussed full reports of these trial weekends, all of which had at least one Standing Committee member on the staff team. There was then a full discussion about the proposal at the BAC Full Council meeting in York on 9<sup>th</sup> November and the reports are now being circulated to all diocesan Secretariats (along with the weekend programme timetables) for full discussion. If you have views on this issue one way or another please talk to your Secretariat members about it. The more people who contribute to the debate the better.

A final decision as to whether the shorter format should be authorised for general use as an alternative to the usual 3-day format will be taken by the Full Council at its AGM next May.

Please pray about all these issues and tasks. Reviewing, updating and taking a movement like Cursillo forward takes a lot of thought, prayer and hard work by a lot of people. As we all know, Cursillo is a wonderful tool for the church to use but it must remain relevant to the modern world now and in the future.

# A joyful and inspiring celebration



The inspiring setting of Chester Cathedral rang with joyful sounds of Eucharist on Saturday August 31 as it hosted this year's national gathering of British Anglican Cursillo. During the day Richard Stephens, Chair of Kairos UK, gave a challenging talk on the work of Cursillo in prisons, bringing hope and God's love to prisoners under the name of Kairos. The colourful congregation caused a stir by parading the embroidered banners from each Cursillo Diocese through the streets, led by City of Chester Brass Band.

Bishop Peter Forster spoke of the renewal and enthusiasm felt by Christians on the three-day course which is 'Cursillo' and how it continues into the 'fourth day' - the rest of their lives. The service certainly reflected that joy and visitors to the Cathedral on the Saturday afternoon were encouraged to join in the celebration. One visitor on a day trip from Hull was so inspired she hurried away to search online for a local Weekend. For the Christians of the Chester Diocese it's easy- the answer is Foxhill House and Woodlands, Frodsham from Thursday October 24 to Sunday October 27 or Wistaston Hall, Crewe, 28-31 May, 2020. See you there?



# The BACC Website Needs YOU!



*We are replacing our BACC website next year and are looking for YOUR contributions to its design and content.*

*Read on to find out how YOU can make a difference for BACC!*

The BACC website has been in its current form and appearance for some years now and sadly it has not kept pace with technology changes, particularly compatibility with mobile devices like the phone in your pocket. BACC Standing Committee has thus taken the decision to replace the existing website with a completely new site built on up-to-date technologies and accessible by the widest range of devices - both computer and mobile. You'll even be able to view the new site on your smart TV!

## **New content**

For the new website we are looking to add new and relevant content, including:

- *pages dedicated to each diocesan Cursillo who wants it;*
- *a full calendar of events running across the country, not just the weekends;*
- *news and blogs;*
- *a photo gallery;*
- *and more materials to support diocesan Cursillos and their Secretariats.*

## **A strong voice for Cursillo nationwide**

THE OBJECTIVE is to have a website that is not only there for BACC business but is also a strong voice for Cursillo nationwide, a site that confirms and backs up all diocesan Cursillos to enhance their ministry and strengthen their mission.

## **How you can help**

This new website will also have a new look, and here is your opportunity to contribute. We are looking for design ideas and/or complete designs for the look and feel of the new website - all the visual elements: fonts, colours, backgrounds, page layouts, menus et al. Your start point is the current BACC "C-cross" logo and all the content of the current site.

To this we will add the diocesan pages mentioned above, link pages for our sister organisations such as Kairos, the calendar, news and blog pages, and also an area dedicated to Happenings, including articles and items from those involved. The new website will support small screen devices so please give some thought to how page layouts and menus will work and be 'reflowed' for these small screens. Cursillo has always been a colourful movement so do not be shy about using bold colours, colour theming, and visual aids to separate and identify content. Remember though that there will be lots of text so legibility and clearly visible content are key to the effectiveness of your designs.

Dynamic/transforming elements as well as moving items, overlays and parallax scrolling can all be part of your designs but please ensure that there is internal consistency within each area of the site and that full designs have coherence, so there are running thematic elements that tie all areas together as a whole across the entire website.

We welcome both partial and full design concepts for the new website, and ask that you submit them by email to myself on [website@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:website@anglicancursillo.co.uk) . Please scan paper drawing and submit as pictures (JPG or PNG) or PDF documents. You can also submit your ideas and requests for content to be on the new website, and if you would like a dedicated, editable page or area of the new site for your Cursillo ministry activities/diocese.

## A Working Group

All designs and ideas offered will be reviewed by the new website working group for potential inclusion in the new site, and a full round up will be presented in a future edition of BACC Pages. Those designs taken forward will be subject to approval by the Standing Committee, and their contributors will be invited to join the working group and to be involved directly once the build process gets underway if they would like to be.

Any questions or queries can also be sent to this email address. Please allow a few days for replies. This is your chance to shape the future of Cursillo and stamp your ideas on how we present ourselves to Christians countrywide. May what we do here breathe new vitality into the movement and bring praise to the Lord! Ultreya!

**Steven Ridley**  
**BACC Webmaster and Co-LD of Ely Cursillo**



## New training workshop: Going Below the Surface

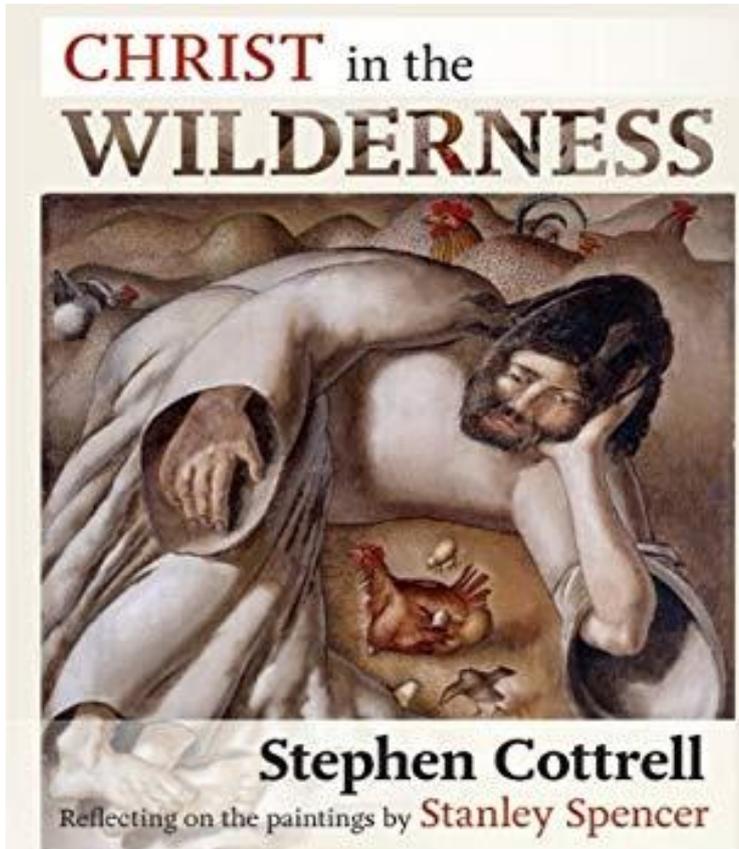
*Recently a new training workshop about leading and facilitating groups was held in the Midlands region and was attended by 17 people from a number of Cursillo dioceses. Led by Denis Tully of Southwell & Nottingham Cursillo, it was aimed at Cursillo Weekend Table Leaders but is relevant to anyone in a group leadership role, such as Lay and Spiritual Directors, weekend Lay Rectors and so on. It covered topics such as the role of the table leader, helping people feel 'safe' in the group, how knowledge about learning styles can help facilitating groups and developing listening skills.*

*It was well received with comments such as: "It was very helpful. I'm so pleased I did this before being a team leader"; "Very useful and thought-provoking"; "The course was clear and easily followed"; and "It confirmed skills and highlighted 'gaps' and ways to manage them".*

*BAC Standing Committee are very grateful to Denis for this initiative and are keen to make this training available more widely. Denis is happy to run further courses in other Cursillo regions so look out for information about them from your Area Reps. He would also like to hear from anyone with the appropriate experience who would be willing to become a co-trainer to help roll this out. If you are interested please contact Richard (BACC Secretary) and he will pass it on. [secretary@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:secretary@anglicancursillo.co.uk)*

# Lenten Retreat fed us physically and spiritually, *recalls Trevor King*

It was a great pleasure and privilege to join over 20 Ely Cursillistas for this thought-provoking and peaceful weekend at Bishop Woodford House in March. For me it was particularly timely after a very hectic six months or so with competing Cursillo, family and home church demands, and it was lovely to be able to just stop, rest and be fed both physically and spiritually.



The retreat was ably led by Kathy, Pam and Helen and consisted of reflections taken from Bishop Steven Cottrell's study of a series of works by the remarkable English painter Stanley Spencer entitled Christ in the Wilderness (1939-54). These beautiful and compelling images give an insight into Jesus's vocation and his own understanding of his ministry. They show his great love for nature and affinity with all creation.

We were invited to slow down and enter into the stillness of Stanley Spencer's vision. We also had time to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Bishop Woodford House gardens in early spring and to explore the Cathedral.

For me the weekend was also a trip down memory lane. I had visited the house twice before: in about 1996 or 1997 I went for an interview there for the post of Assistant House Manager (unsuccessfully), and in 2003 my then fiancée and I attended an Engaged Encounter Weekend there - very successfully (we've just celebrated our 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!).

Saturday evening was also a memory-jogging experience. We watched the 1973 Franco Zeffirelli film 'Brother Sun, Sister Moon', which is an examination of the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. When it first came out the church Youth Club I was in had a trip to see it at the local Odeon. The title song by Donovan has always been a favourite of mine.

I've been fortunate enough to attend a number of retreats like this in various Cursillo dioceses as National President and they have all been enjoyable, challenging and different. I would urge you to take the opportunity to go on one if the opportunity arises; you won't regret it.

*[p.s. When I attended that interview in the 1990s I was put up overnight by a Cursillo lady priest who was on the staff at the Cathedral and lived in an apartment in a gatehouse, I think. I can't now remember who it was. Can anyone tell me who that might have been and if she's still around?*

*If you can, please email me at [president@anglicancursillo.co.uk](mailto:president@anglicancursillo.co.uk) Thanks.]*

**National Ultreya 2020**  
**hosted jointly by**  
**the Dioceses of Southwark and London**

*Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2020*



The Cursillistas of the Dioceses of Southwark and London are looking forward to welcoming you to our joint National Ultreya in the capital city of London in September 2020.

London is split into two Dioceses: south of the river is Southwark, overseen by Bishop Christopher Chessun; north of the river is London, overseen by Bishop Sarah Mullally. The London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace is situated in Southwark Diocese. London Diocese is home to St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey (a co-cathedral) - and for quiz fanatics - contains the smallest county in the UK – the City of London.

The National Ultreya begins with the Walk of Witness at the steps of St Paul's Cathedral and moves across the river Thames over the Millennium Bridge towards the Tate Modern, before passing Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and the Golden Hind on route to the Millennium Court at Southwark Cathedral. As you walk along the riverside, see if you can spot the Gherkin, the Scalpel, the Walky-Talky and the Cheese-Grater.

**The day's events will unfold as follows:**

- 09.30 Gather at the steps of St Paul's Cathedral
- 10.00 The Walk of Witness to Southwark Cathedral
- 10 45 Coffee in the Cathedral
- 11.00 Ultreya! Witness Talks, Gospel Responses and Group Reunions
- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 Gather for singing
- 14.15 Eucharist
- 15.45 Depart

**Refreshments**

**At St Pauls Cathedral:** *Many coffee shops to be found nearby in Paternoster Square and in St Paul's itself*

**At Southwark Cathedral:** *Coffee and snacks at Southwark Cathedral Café*

**Lunch:** *Bring your own or buy hot food from any part of the world at London Borough Market (a feast for the eyes as well as the palate), just a few steps away from Southwark Cathedral, or try out the many eateries in nearby Borough High Street.*

No formal evening entertainment has been planned. **However**, an early evening boat trip along the Thames and a guided tour around the Globe Theatre can be organised if enough people express their interest early in the New Year on the booking form when it appears on our websites. Further details will appear at that time, providing basic travel and tourist information and suggestions for accommodation. Remember – the early birds get the best deals!

**Please do check our websites and the BACC website in January 2020 for the registration form.**

As Beth Roberts (National President elect) reminded us recently, nothing happens in Cursillo without prayer. Pray for the planning team please and the Cursillistas in Southwark and London as they look forward to your arrival next year.

<https://www.londoncursillo.org.uk/>

<https://www.southwarkcursillo.org/>

## **Promotional Limerick announced at Chester Ultreya GB 2019**

My friends, I've been asked to present  
Some news of Cursillo event:  
National Ultreya 2020...  
So, you're going to hear plenty  
And your time will be joyously spent.

As we meet at St Paul's on the stair  
Adjacent to Paternoster Square  
All our banners we'll raise  
Fill the air with bold praise  
And be blessed on our way with a prayer.

A bright witness march we'll deliver  
As we process along to the river  
Coming over the ridge  
Of Millennium Bridge  
With a view that will make the heart quiver.

To Southwark Cathedral we'll wend  
Where the rest of the day we will spend  
In worship and sharing  
Our spirits preparing  
To celebrate Eucharist at day's end.

For help on the practical side  
Let our diocesan websites be your guide.  
Look out for information  
On food, drink and accommodation  
And maybe a river-boat ride.

On the day we'll be specially blessed  
With Bishop Christopher of Southwark our guest  
And our hopes are high, too  
Of not one bishop, but two  
Bishop Sarah of London has expressed...

Her desire to take part if she can.  
So you see that we now have a plan  
For a day to remember  
The 5<sup>th</sup> of September 2020 – 371 days left to span!

*Graham Connell Lay Director Southwark Cursillo*

# Corinthians Chapter 1

## Verse 13

### A Christmas version!

*If I decorate my house with beautiful bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny baubles, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.*

*If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, roasting a perfect turkey, and lay a magnificent table, but have no love for my guests, I am just another cook.*

*If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not have compassion in my heart for those in need, I am just another social service; it profits me nothing.*

*If I decorate the tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes and attend a myriad of holiday parties but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.*

*Love stops the cooking to hug the child.*

*Love sets aside the decorating to help one's wife with boring housework.*

*Love puts the Christmas present shopping on hold in order to run the elderly neighbour to the doctor.*

*Love is kind, though harried and tired.*

*Love doesn't envy another's home that has more expensive presents, or even coordinated Christmas china and table linen.*

*Love doesn't yell at the children to get out of the way; love is glad that they are there to be in the way.*

*Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.*

*Love bears all things, even irritating relatives.*

*It believes all things, and encourages teenagers to aim high for their future.*

*It hopes all things, endures all things, even a spouse who is depressed about their job prospects.*

*Love never fails other people.*

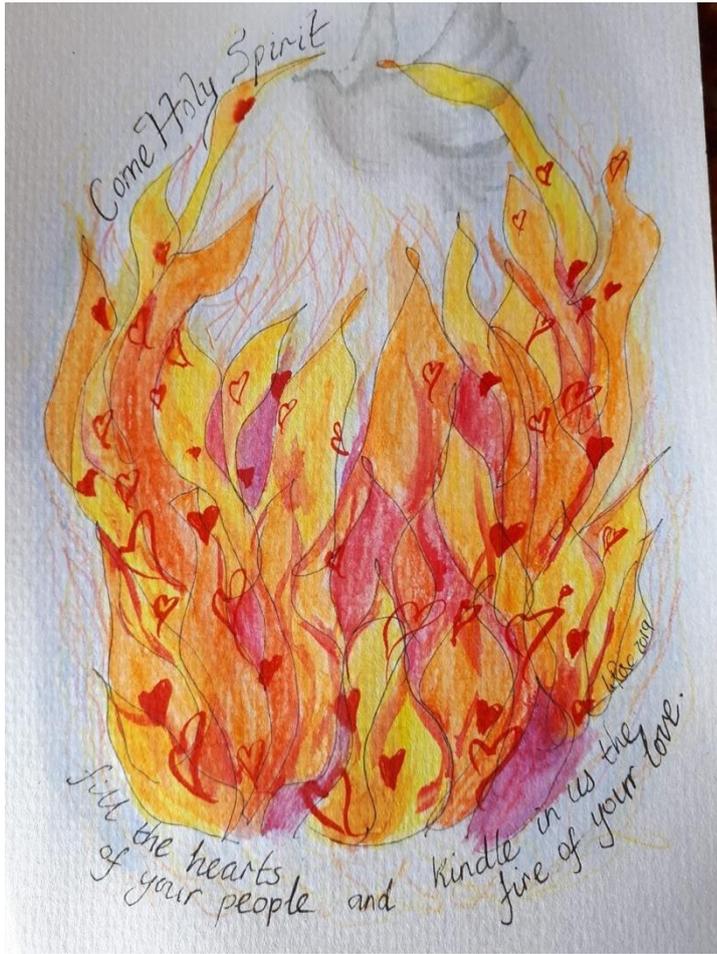
*Computer games will crash, even cashmere jumpers will wear out, and golf clubs will get lost.*

*But the gift of love will endure forever. Happy Christmas!*

***(Borrowed from 'Fourth Bridge', Episcopal Cursillo in Scotland's magazine)***



**Artwork**  
by Lynne Rose, Sheffield



# Cursillo – a resource for the whole Church

## *Michael's new card offers the Cursillo method to the wider church*

Cursillo's Fourth Day involves sustaining each other, and offering ourselves as a resource for each other, our parishes, and for the whole church. As we know, group reunions encourage us in our discipleship through our sharing of prayer, study and action.

The Rev Michael Bolley (who served as BACC Vice-President some years ago) is closely involved in the 'commissioning and equipping Ambassadors for Christ in Daily Life' part of London's Capital Vision 2020. He points out that Cursillo not only commissions and equips, but it also *supports* those ambassadors, partly through group reunions.

Michael has developed a small card with guidelines, based on the group reunion card but framed in CV2020 language. It is being offered to the wider church by Cursillo in the Diocese of London.

### **1. AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST**

Talk briefly about one way in which you have recently sought to be an Ambassador for Jesus Christ, with its joys, frustrations, obstacles, successes and disappointments.

*One way of describing some of the many ways in which we can be ambassadors for Christ is the **Six Ms**, developed by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity:*

**M1 MODELLING GODLY CHARACTER**

**M2 MAKING GOOD WORK**

**M3 MINISTERING GRACE AND LOVE**

**M4 MOULDING CULTURE**

**M5 BEING A MOUTHPIECE FOR**

*TRUTH AND JUSTICE*

**M6 BEING A MESSENGER FOR**

*THE GOSPEL*

### **2. WHAT SUSTAINS YOU**

What sustains you as you seek to live faithfully as a disciple and ambassador of Jesus Christ?

*For example:*

*Regular pattern of prayer*

*Bible and other spiritual reading*

*Corporate worship, Holy Communion*

### **3. DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP**

Share one way in which you are seeking to grow in your walk with God and to deepen your discipleship

**OR**

Give one example of what you are doing

To become a more effective ambassador for Jesus Christ.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Almighty God, we give you thanks for all the benefits you have given us, you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen



## Reflections on a Cursillo Weekend

You'll find I'm missing from church today.  
On a Cursillo weekend I'll be.  
"You'll come back so refreshed next week,"  
Our rector said to me.

Next week came along, and so  
I was asked "Where have you been?"  
Somewhere oh so wonderful,  
My soul is pure and clean.

I've been to the Wilson Carlisle In the middle of the city,  
I wish I'd taken you with me,  
It really was a pity.

You have missed something wonderful,  
From God it came to me,  
A faith that's so much deeper,  
A love that forever will be.

A Cursillo weekend that's what it's called,  
With many people there,  
And a team that led us day by day,  
In worship, love and prayer.

They welcomed us on the Thursday night,  
Some people we already knew,  
Strangers were friends we'd not yet met  
But friendships just blossomed and grew.

No-one knew what to really expect,  
Some approached it with calm, some with fear,  
But I knew one thing for certain,  
God will dispel all things hard to bear.

It's a wonderful weekend, one not to miss,  
Your confidence just grows and grows,  
With our amazing God and amazing people,  
You blossom, and it really shows,

So, if you have a chance to go along  
To a Cursillo weekend, and spend time  
With God all around you, outside and within,  
You will glow and your faith will grow just like mine.

*Maureen Benfold*

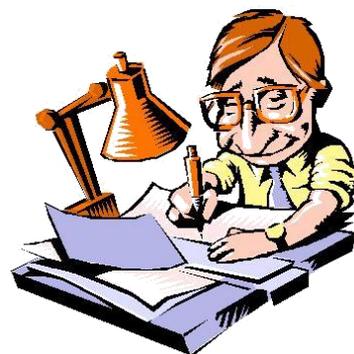
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Thank you to all our contributors for this issue.

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 (preferably by email) to either of the following addresses:



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