

BACC Officers

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
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| Treasurer | John Speller | treasurer@ukcursillo.org |

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Revd. Jean Radley, JeanWhitton

Publicity & Communications William Kearns, Phil Wright

Publications & Resources Barry Ranger, Sonia Davidson

Vacancies

There are a number of Standing Committee vacancies - is this a role you could fill? Or perhaps you know someone who would be happy to offer their skills and time to help BACC provide even better service to Cursillo.

The commitment would be to serve for 3 years, attend bi-annual Standing Committee meetings (currently held at St Peter's, Barnsley) and bi-annual full BACC council meetings. Accommodation will be found for you if required.

The Secretariat is the engine room of BACC, and this is where all the work gets done to resource you and your diocese. In order for us to do this properly, we need a sufficient number of people to take on these tasks. If you think you would like to offer yourself, please contact Jenny Lowery, BACC President.

BACC - fill

I'm hoping that you have reached this page after reading your BACC Pages from cover to cover and that you have enjoyed the variety of articles. This is a very different BACC Pages to previous issues and I hope you like it. As editor I want BACC Pages to be crammed full of interesting items, from all corners of Britain - and indeed the whole Cursillo world.

However, all these exciting literary gems have to come from you in the first place - so please be generous in sharing with all of the Anglican Cursillo movement any item that has made you think, given you encouragement or inspiration, made you laugh, helped your prayer, study & action or enriched your Christian life. Send anything you think might be suitable to me - address details are on page 1.

Thank you to all this issue's contributors. The next issue of BACC Pages will hit the streets in the Spring of 2005. Until then, ULTREYA. Phil Wright

BACC Pages


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

Items for publication should be sent to the Editor (preferably by email) to any of the following addresses :-

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Cursillo Leaders Workshops 2005

Do you want to widen your understanding
of the Cursillo Method?

Lay people and clergy welcome.

**Offa House, nr. Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
Fri 6th – Sun 8th May 2005**

**Rydal Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria
Fri 15th – Sun 17th July 2005**

Application forms and further details from:
Jean Whitton,

Jenny's Jottings



Greetings! I'm writing this in the 'afterglow' of the UK Ultreya in Bradford. What a day – what a celebration of Christian love and hope and joy! As I looked from the podium at around 300 Cursillistas, full of enthusiasm and energy (especially after the dancing in the aisles!) I wished some of our clergy could have seen that sight, and realised what a powerful tool Cursillo is for the Church.

Thank you to all the folk in Bradford who were involved in the organisation and running of the day; you did us proud. By the time you read this, I hope you'll have seen the piece in the Church Times about the day – it may get a few people talking! Please make a date in your diary now for next year's UK Ultreya in Chichester – **24th September 2005**.

One of the things we did slightly differently this year was to invite people to 'Ask the President' – an opportunity for people to engage more with the work and aims of BACC. BACC is here to resource you, the Diocesan Cursillo Movements, for the work you do. BACC should be seen as the centre of the Cursillo Community – a place where joys (and dare I say grumbles?) can be shared, so that, as part of a Community, we learn from each other and help each other. I am really enjoying spending time in different Cursillo Dioceses, and hope this is one way that the community spirit can be fostered – by learning 'good practice' and passing it on, and also being able to avoid difficulties that others have experienced. Thank you to all those Dioceses who have welcomed me; to those Dioceses I haven't yet visited – please do make use of me in whatever way you feel is appropriate for you.

Two things jumped out at me from my prayer time this morning. The Collect contained these words:

***'As the Sun of Righteousness dawns in our hearts,
anoint our lips with the seal of your Spirit that we may
witness to your gospel and sing your praise in all the world'.***

- a reminder that it is the Spirit's work in us which enables us to speak to others about Jesus. Jesus said 'Apart from me you can do **nothing**'. He didn't say 'Apart from me you'll be a bit less effective'!)

The second phrase came out of the Franciscan Third Order Principles which has 30 daily readings. (My husband, Barry is a Tertiary). Today's included:

'The purpose of Christ is to work miracles through people who are

Philosophy for Life

A Professor stood before his philosophy class with some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.



So the Professor then picked up a box of small pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The Professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "Yes."

The Professor then produced two cans of beer from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the sand. The students laughed.

"Now", said the Professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things - your family, your children, your health, your friends, your favourite passions - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, your car. The sand is everything else - the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first", he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness and health. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your partner out to dinner. Play sport. There will always be time to clean the house, and fix that dripping tap.

Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just pebbles and sand."



When he had finished, there was a profound silence. Then one of the students raised her hand and, with a puzzled expression, inquired what the beer represented. The Professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of beers."

its methods are our support, encouragement, blueprint, challenge, vision and focus all rolled into one.

In a recently published document from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, the whole dimension of living truthfully in today's world is explored. The Bishops say, "Recognising God as God has moral implications. The acceptance of God's sovereignty provides us with a fundamental orientation, giving colour and direction to all the decisions, actions and practices that make up our lives." Putting our Christian calling into living action involves a whole lifetime of dedication and effort! We can do that best when we are working together, supporting and encouraging each other. But, of course, there is another dimension.

As the sea washes over the pebbles on the beach, their colours take on deeper, richer hues. So we, individually and together, are strengthened and enriched by the Lord. We call on him to be with us and to help us; to be the living water that sustains and surrounds us, that unites us more closely to each other. Then, we can take up the challenge with confidence and pull out into the deep.

Michael Fay, National Communications Officer



Sending Palanca

A great number of British Cursillistas send palanca not only to people attending weekends within their own diocese but all over the world. You can find out where forthcoming weekends are being held by checking out the following websites:-

www.cursillo.org/palanca

www.ukcursillo.org/diary.php

If you have a favourite palanca website please let the editor know.

The Mirror Test

No, this is nothing to with the well known national tabloid newspaper - simply go and stand in front of a mirror. Can you see anything that looks like the picture below?



No? Then you are not wearing your CURSILLO badge, either because it is pinned on another item of clothing or because you don't have one. Both problems are easily solved - either go and find your badge and pin it on or contact Elenor, our Resources Officer to order one today. You'll find all the details on the Resources Page (page 8)

willing to be emptied of self and to surrender to him. We then become channels of grace through whom his mighty work is done.'

Do you believe that Christ **can** work miracles through you? Are you ready to become a channel of his grace? You can – through proper engagement with your Fourth Day; by making use of all the tools which Cursillo provides – using Group Reunion and Ultreyas as a regular part of your spiritual life. You are part of a community which has been greatly blessed by God; let's make sure we value this great gift we've been given.

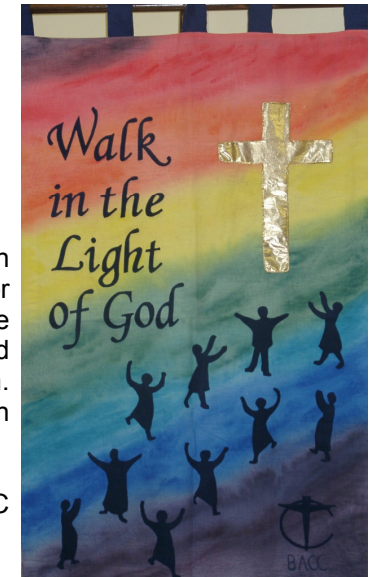
Ultreya!

Jenny

BACC Banner

Whilst visiting Scotland Cursillo Jenny dropped in on a workshop - they were making a banner for BACC. If it had been possible for us to have made our walk of Witness at Bradford the banner would have taken pride of place leading the procession. Our thanks to the generosity of our most northern brothers and sisters for their handiwork.

The banner will be on display at all of our BACC and Standing Committee meetings from now on.



Southwell Happening

Join with Southwell Happening as they celebrate their 10th birthday this year.

We are all most warmly invited to attend a special anniversary service being held on November 21st at Southwell Minster, starting at 5:30 p.m. Please take food with you to join in a shared buffet. Car parking around the Minster is not plentiful, so you may like to car share. It's also a good idea to get there in good time!

Further details from Emma Stones, em_sto@yahoo.co.uk



Undergirded by Prayer

“Worship lies at the heart of a missionary church, and to love and know God as Father, Son and Spirit is its chief inspiration and primary purpose. It worships and serves a missionary God, and understands itself to share in the divine mission. All of its life and activity is undergirded by prayer.”

These words are taken from the report, *Mission-shaped Church*, published earlier this year.

In the Spring 2004 issue of *BACC Pages* I wrote:

‘Cursillo has these values at its very core. It is certainly the case that “all of its life and activity is undergirded by prayer.” Many people experience for the first time on a Cursillo weekend what it is to be supported and enfolded by the fervent prayer of a Christian community which knows just how essential prayer is to fruitful life in Christ.’

It is certainly the case that Cursillo weekends are enveloped in *palanca*, the prayer and sacrifice of countless people within local Cursillo communities and throughout the world. This prayer support is treasured by those people called to serve on teams running the weekends as well as by all who participate in them. We would not dream of embarking on a Cursillo weekend without the assurance of this spiritual foundation, and every active Cursillo movement has people whose role is to seek this highly valued *palanca* from within the locality and beyond.

Whilst this is true of Cursillo weekends, I wonder how many of us could honestly say of the Cursillo movement in our own diocese, “**All** of its life and activity is undergirded by prayer”?

As we all know, there is much more to Cursillo than weekends, significant and even life-changing though they are.

The Fourth Day in which we seek to walk with the Lord sharing in God’s mission to the world empowered by the Spirit is the real heart of Cursillo. But how many of us do *palanca*—the offering of prayer and sacrifice to “lever up” a fellow disciple—to support someone who has recently made their Cursillo and is attending their first Group Reunion or Ultreya?

Then there are those people who carry responsibility for promoting the health and well-being of our diocesan Cursillo movement: the Lay Director and Spiritual Director, members of the Secretariat and Servant Community. It would be wonderful if each and every Secretariat and Servant Community meeting across the country could rely on the active prayer support of their local Cursillo community, and every meeting of the British Anglican Cursillo Council and its Standing Committee could be similarly undergirded by prayer from across the land.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the

Catholic Cursillo Thoughts from the Seashore



It’s a great joy to slide into my walking boots, put my best foot forward and get out into the wide open spaces. Apart from the physical benefits that a fine walk brings, striding along helps to clear the mind and puts all manner of things into proper perspective. Highly recommended, too, for raising heart and mind to God!

One Sunday afternoon this summer, I set out over a favourite stretch of headland and down to a small cove. It’s a popular spot and I was surprised to find no one else around. I usually enjoy the view and then press on along the coast path, eating up the miles. But that day it was different. With the cove to myself, I decided to potter about and to be calmed by the rhythmic movement of the waves gently lapping the shore.

When we start to look closely at something, we notice aspects that have previously escaped our attention or have been given no more than a cursory glance. That afternoon, I took in the smooth lines, interesting shapes and deep channels of the sea-worn rocks with the limpets clinging to them. My attention was drawn to the countless pebbles of different shapes and sizes. And especially their colours – many shades of pink, red, cream, yellow, grey, slate and white – often marbled with a contrasting or complementary colour.

We are rather like those pebbles on the beach. All the same in one sense, yet each so different – unique in fact, when we take a closer look. We are united in our common, God-given calling, but each with our special gifts and talents, particular strengths and weaknesses, different paths to travel. Taking time to stop and look, to ponder and appreciate, we come to a greater awareness of how our lives and actions are enhanced by the part each of us plays, working together in harmony to form a rich mosaic, just like those pebbles on the beach.

During 2005, we are scheduled to run no less than eight Catholic Cursillo Weekends throughout the country. This is an ambitious undertaking in terms of preparation and delivery, prayer and *palanca*, team formation and securing adequate numbers of participants. When we are immersed in such matters, it’s easy to lose sight of what, overall, we are trying to accomplish. The Weekends are important, but the fruits of them are even more so!

Our Cursillo goal is to make Christian community possible to families, neighbourhoods, work situations and other places where people live for the greater part of their lives. And that takes much thought, teamwork and concerted action. At a personal level, we each aim to ‘bloom where we are planted’ in our own life circumstances so as to make things happen. In that sense, Cursillo and

and have already published an article and photograph. We hope to follow up with another article after Bristol#3

However, the best communication of all that will most win the world for Christ is ourselves, what we say, what we do, and the way we live as Christians. All other communication will achieve little if we do not 'walk the walk' with Jesus.

Geoff Wheeler - Bristol

When is Palanca?!



Yes that's right, *when* is Palanca?

We all remember from our Cursillo weekends that the word *palanca* is Spanish for a lever. In Cursillo we use the term to mean that combination of prayer and a gesture which helps or supports someone else. We are perhaps most familiar with palanca in the form of notes or letters promising prayer and offering encouragement. Most of us can remember when and how the concept was introduced at our own Cursillo weekend.

But that's the whole point. Palanca is not just about Cursillo weekends. It isn't just about Cursillo come to that. It's about how we give expression to our support for each other, at any time and in any place. One definition of palanca is that it is written prayer. Perhaps, but there's so much more to it than that.


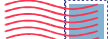
Palanca is that quiet word of encouragement, affirmation or support...



Palanca is a phone call to say that you care...

Palanca is the time spent praying for someone else...

Palanca is the time that you give somebody, just listening...

Palanca is something you plan...  

Palanca is something you do on the spur of the moment...



Palanca is...???



When is palanca?

Matthew Caminer

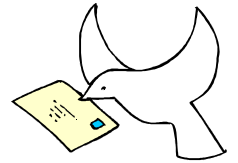
Adapted from *OxonFourth*, the magazine of Oxford Anglican Cursillo

rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places....Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints." (Ephesians 6.10-12,18)







Ultreya!

Michael Bolley, Vice-President of BACC

BACC Chat



This is the section where you will be invited to write on any topic you think worthy of discussion; for this issue, we are taking the questions which were asked at the UK Ultreya at Bradford.

-  What is the official Policy regarding non-Anglicans attending Cursillo. (Phil Orme, Leicester)
-  The official policy is that Anglican Cursillo is for Anglicans, and it is on this basis that we are allowed to operate Cursillo in the UK under licence from Catholic Cursillo. There are Cursillo-type Movements which cater for Methodists and non-denominational Christians, and the contacts for these other Fourth Day Movements are integrated in our database which Iain (BACC Secretary) has recently issued. Please look carefully at the Minutes of the Standing Committee discussion on 1st October, to see how BACC is reacting to the disquiet on this issue.
-  What help/advice can be given to dioceses that are having difficulty maintaining support for the Movement? (Mike, Southwark)
-  The first thing to address is the Fourth Day – is it being used as it should be? The next action would be to alert BACC to the situation, so that resources and people can be made available to help. Dioceses should also be aware of the booklet in the Resource Manual 'Strategy for Restarting/Renewing Cursillo Movements in Dioceses'. Please remember we are a Community, and need each other to function properly. Those Dioceses who are enjoying strong growth and bearing fruit are in a good position to help others who are struggling. (It's all part of 'bearing one another's burdens'!)
-  How is BACC proposing to help Cursillistas support Mission-Shaped Church initiatives in their Dioceses? (Christine Russell, Southwell)
-  This will be the Study Topic at our BACC Meeting on 13th November 2004 – watch out for the Minutes of the Meeting to see the result of the discussions on this much talked-about issue.

Each issue of BACC Pages will include a witness talk. There are many wonderful witness talks given each month at Ultreyas and Group Reunions. If you hear an inspiring talk that would merit a wider circulation please contact the editor. Please make sure you get the author's permission first!

Witness Talk

My Life with God.

I was brought up in Canada, as part of an extremely close family. The best part of family life was being in the church choir with my brothers.. We all went on weekdays as well as Sundays. When I was 17, a new chapter opened. My mother wanted me to train as a nurse in England, so I went to train as a Cadet Nurse, being finally accepted as a student nurse for RGN training. A year later my parents returned to England and I moved to Yorkshire to be with them. I was accepted at Beckett Hospital in Barnsley to do my training, and became a staff nurse in Casualty and then Sister on SCBU and was going steady with a guy. I was happy, and the icing on the cake was being able to go to church with mum and dad on a regular basis. I was even lucky enough to have the experience of going on a modern ballet dancing tour throughout Italy for six months. The down side of this was being raped in Aosta and breaking my leg on stage halfway through my solo. I came back to Barnsley to find that my dad was dying of cancer. I loved him with all my heart. I got married with dad there to give me away, before dad, God rest his soul, passed away. Another chapter opens.

I moved to Plymouth with my husband and got a job as a staff nurse; I rarely went to church, but life seemed OK, till the divorce two years later. I was unfaithful and my ex became a Jehovah's Witness. Again another chapter of my life started.

I found a flat, all was settled and I truly fell in love. But there was a black hole in my life; I didn't bother with my Christian faith anymore. Nick and I decided to get engaged and went out to celebrate. Nick was a stickler for drink driving and it was his turn to drive this particular night. I feel I was being punished for my unfaithfulness when we were involved in a major road traffic accident. Nick and his best friend were both killed, I survived, but with deep lacerations on the face and back of my head, my teeth smashed in, a broken neck, the 1st two vertebrae, along with a lot of other breaks and injuries. I spent three weeks on a ventilator and three months in hospital. My memory of the accident was vague. I couldn't even remember Nick. All I remember was a black tunnel then beautiful colours and seeing dad. I wanted to stay with him but he told me I had to go back to look after mum. The weirdest thing is that none of us were supposed to be in the place of the accident that night. I had been told to take the night off due to so much holiday leave owing, Nick wasn't supposed to be back from London until the following day, and his best friend wasn't going to come to Plymouth until the following week.

valuable fellowship.

As yet, our fourth day is not strong enough to generate sufficient potential Cursillistas for weekends. As Lay Director, one of my Apostolic actions is to visit as many churches as possible during my term of office to spread the Cursillo message via alter talks. There are a lot of Christians out there who need Cursillo and I pray that God will guide me in my mission. Our Pre-Cursillo team will nurture those who express interest in Cursillo to ensure that correct sponsorship is observed.

The Clergy, of course represent both important potential Cursillistas and sources of opportunity to address congregations. Within our new Pre-Cursillo team we have a member of the clergy and a Synod representative who will be more able to carry out appropriate networking.

So **what** should we be communicating? There's an old maxim in the advertising bushiness that says 'sell the sizzle not the steak' and I believe that this should be the case when attempting to reach potential Cursillistas. In our alter talks we have tried to convey the flavour rather than the detail of Cursillo. We are fortunate in having members of our Pre-Cursillo team who can convey feelings of sincerity and enthusiasm in highlighting the blessings they have received from attending the weekend and being members of our Fourth Day.

In preparing new Cursillistas for the weekend, appropriate one-to-one communication by sponsors ensure the management of participant's expectations, especially where sensitive areas such as silent vigils, healing and stations of the cross are concerned. The degree of disclosure will depend on the participant, the aim being to avoid what may be 'unpleasant surprises' during the weekend.

With regard to our existing Fourth Day community, emphasis is on maintaining a sense of togetherness and ongoing re-enforcement of the Cursillo message and method. We are hoping to offer a Day of Deeper Understanding in 2005, and our Post-Cursillo team will try and act on feedback received from personal contact with members of our community. I believe that any communication must accept that, like Christianity, not all Cursillistas have the same degree of commitment. Those more committed members need to prayerfully consider what messages are conveyed to our Fourth Day – some Cursillistas still require more nurturing in God's love than others.

Finally, **how** do we communicate? In addition to our newsletter, alter visits and liaisons with clergy; we have designed our own 'mini display stand' that we use whenever there is the opportunity. Each June hold a garden party and attend boot sales throughout the summer to raise funds, but these also present ideal opportunities to introduce Cursillo in a very informal way. In the press, we have now have regular contact with the editor of Diocesan magazine, 'Three Crowns'

In addition our Diocesan Spiritual Director, The Reverend Michael Manley, is planning a seminar on Cursillo at the clergy conference in September and our 'Cursillo taster events' continue, one having been held on a Friday evening over the summer at Whalley Abbey in which Bishop John delivered part of the programme and at which participants from several parishes were represented and a further one is planned for the morning of Saturday 25 September at Holy Trinity, Freckleton.

We also look forward to hearing feedback from our CLW attendees at our next Servant community Meeting in October prior to our final weekend at Whalley Abbey (#40) under the leadership of Audrey Rawlins, before the refurbishment of the Abbey at the start of 2005.

In addition, plans are well underway for Blackburn Happening #13 at Whalley Abbey over the weekend 10-12 September with nine participants so far from across the diocese.

Cursillo Blackburn #41 is scheduled for 31 March – 3 April 2005 under the leadership of Margaret Richardson, with the Bishop of Burnley, The Right Reverend John Goddard and The Reverend Richard Adams as Spiritual Advisers. At the time of writing it is encouraging to know that we already have eleven participants. However, we are committed at Rydal Hall to financing a minimum of 45 people on this Cursillo and so are able to hold a slightly larger Cursillo than we would normally have capacity for at Whalley Abbey. So if any dioceses are looking for alternative opportunities for their clergy to attend a Cursillo Weekend outside their own diocese – (or indeed for laity where their own diocesan weekend dates are inconvenient), please don't hesitate to contact me so that arrangements can be made to book them in to Blackburn #41.

Ultreya!! David Riding, Blackburn

[Putting it Across](#)

Communication and networking represent a significant challenge for us here in Bristol. We are new kids on the block with an active fourth day of around thirty-five; therefore we have the double issue of maintaining the commitment of our small community and attracting potential Cursillistas within the diocese. I believe that the who, what and how of effective communication is the key to both.

To **whom** should we be communicating? Our first obligation is to our small Fourth Day community. They are fairly scattered throughout the diocese, with several unable to travel due to domestic circumstances. However their loyalty and commitment to Cursillo is vital. In the spirit of our new Servant Community, the Post-Cursillo team will be seeking feedback from our Cursillo community with a view to better grouping and more involvement, however small. Our re-designed newsletter will be used as an important communication tool, and for those who find it difficult to travel, we have set up a 'roving reunion team'. Although grouping for some of us is less frequent than desirable, it is providing

My flat was flooded out while I was in hospital and all personal items ruined. My memory was really bad as regards general things although I remembered nursing, so I found another flat, went back to nursing and started again. I then experienced a very painful time of fighting disciplinary actions brought unfairly against me, and at the end of all that, I was mentally unstable, and had to give up nursing.

It took eight years for me to get back to normality. I was lost. I went to church and began to feel the healing power of belief in God. That belief was shattered when the priest came round to talk to me, as I thought, but he only made sexual advances. I didn't want to be in this world anymore, I even thought strongly of committing suicide, but, thank God, my belief stopped me.

I then met and married Colin who turned out to be an alcoholic; he was physically violent to me and my son (John now 20) and he sexually abused my daughter (Kresha now 19). I had to move yet again, and came to live in Xxxxxxx..

Here I began to climb back up that ladder, I bought a house and got John and Kresha settled in school. I did a lot of voluntary work and at the same time went on a return to work course at Tech, did a Bachelor of Arts Degree, a Masters degree, some teaching and finally gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. I came back to church, my faith was restored and strong, and I thought it couldn't get better.

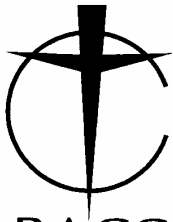
Then came my Cursillo weekend, which enabled me to release the grudges concerning my experiences in life. I truly felt God's love and healing power and my faith was fully restored. I was determined to make my Fourth Day count, so with the prayers of my Seed Group, I prayed about how I could put my newly-restored faith into action.

I am now teaching in adult education at xxxxxx College and xxxxxx, and am a voluntary, trained advisor for CAB. I have also offered myself as part of a Team taking Missions to two of the parishes in our Deanery, working with the Canon Missioner and others, some of whom are Cursillistas.

I never lose an opportunity to share my faith in the God who healed me and loves me and I know my future is safe with him.

(Note from Jenny: I worship with Steph at St.xxxx,xxxxxxx, and can testify to what Cursillo has enabled her to do. She positively shines with love for God, and has become a superb evangelist!)

Stephanie Crossley, Wakefield



BACC Resource Manual Contents

Booklets marked NEC in the following list have text identical to the booklet of the same name published by National Episcopal Cursillo in the USA and are reprinted with permission.

BACC Booklets marked BACC are original BACC publications or revisions of NEC material: the text is not the same as the NEC booklet with the same title.

| | | |
|---|------|----------|
| BACC Constitution and Licensing Agreement | BACC | 2000 Feb |
| BACC Publications and Style | BACC | 2003 |
| Apostolic Message and Team Foundation | NEC | 1992 |
| Authentic Three Day Weekend | NEC | 1989 |
| Cursillo Workshops inc Clergy Taster days | BACC | 2004 |
| Day of Deeper Understanding | BACC | 2004 |
| Fourth Day First | NEC | 1987 |
| Gifting Cursillo - BACC Guidelines | BACC | 2000 Feb |
| Group Reunion | BACC | 2004 Jul |
| Health and Well-being of the Movement | BACC | 2004 |
| Pastoral Plan | NEC | 1989 |
| Role of the Clergy in the Cursillo Movement | NEC | 1989 |
| Secretariat | NEC | 1989 |
| Self-Study Checklist for Secretariats | BACC | 2001 Mar |
| Servant Community | NEC | 1992 |
| Spiritual Direction | NEC | 1989 |
| Sponsorship | BACC | 2000 Sep |
| Strategy for Restarting/Renewing Cursillo Movements | BACC | 2003 |
| Table Leaders Guide | BACC | 2003 |
| Ultreya | BACC | 2001 Mar |
| What is Cursillo? | NEC | 1989 |
| BACC - What is it? | BACC | 2002 Dec |

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Cursillo Badges | £1 |
| Cursillo Crucifix (Christ is counting on you) | £3 |
| Rule of Life cards | £3.50 per 100, £2 per 50 |
| Floating Reunion cards | 10p each |
| Threefold colour leaflet | £5 per 100 |
| A5 colour poster | £1 per 5 |

BACC Supplies Officer

Elenor Paul resources@ukcursillo.org

BACCround - Communication

Growth in any organisation over the years brings with it the need to ensure that the communication system for disseminating information is robust and effective. Thankfully the ever increasing use of e-mail ensures speedy communication to a wide audience very effectively. In Blackburn Diocese we now number around 600 Cursillistas and we depend heavily on our e-mail cascade, with recipients bearing responsibility to ensure that all Cursillo parish representatives who are not on e-mail are advised of relevant information, who in turn can then cascade to all Cursillistas in their parish who are also not on e-mail. The structure of our communication system is incorporated at the back of our Cursillo Blackburn address/telephone directory which is updated and circulated twice yearly with our 'Spectrum' magazine.

In addition we meet as a diocese usually five times per annum – three meetings being Diocesan Ultreyas and two being a Eucharist and 'Jacob's Join'. Relevant news and prayer requests can also be announced there to supplement the e-mail cascade.

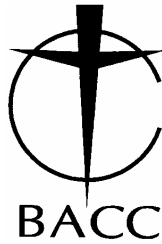
As a Secretariat, we also aim to publicise our annual calendar of events well in advance via the e-mail cascade, via Spectrum, via the Cursillo link on the Blackburn Diocesan website and via the BACC website. In this way the entire community can sort out their diaries accordingly and we may also capture Cursillistas visiting the diocese from elsewhere.

Good communication is the key to building up an effective praying community as prayer requests from within the community can be cascaded very quickly. In addition we invite our Parish Representatives to our December Servant Community Meeting so that they can feel closer to the working of Cursillo within the Diocese and share together their experiences across the parishes. Hopefully this strategy will also result in parishes working together more closely in the promotion of Cursillo.

Communication with other dioceses is also important and it is encouraging that we have recently had Blackburn Cursillistas staffing a Cursillo Weekend in Exeter. In addition, our use of Rydal Hall (Cumbria) for at least one of our 2005 Cursillos (whilst Whalley Abbey is refurbished) may yield collaboration with our friends in Cumbria Diocese. Contact also with Lee and Julie Johnson (resident in Manchester Diocese, but who made their Cursillo in Wakefield) will also hopefully present us with opportunities to assist in the setting up of Cursillo for Manchester in due course.

Communication of Cursillo across the Dioceses will be helped by the new attractive national leaflet and, as I write, we are finalising a small 'Blackburn insert' which incorporates our forthcoming weekend dates and a very positive endorsement of Cursillo by our new diocesan bishop, The Right Reverend Nicholas Reade.

BACC Meetings – uncovered!



Did you know.....BACC Meetings, held twice every year, are based on Piety, Study and Action? The morning session begins with praise and worship, moving into Group Reunion.

There is then a 'Study' topic, discussed in small groups, then opened out for general discussion; our last Study topic was 'The Servant Community'. This is a way for various Diocesan practices to be explored and shared, so that we can learn from each other. Your BACC Representative is encouraged to take this back to your Secretariat.

The 'Action' part of our day involves the business meeting, when reports are presented from the Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and the Standing Committees.

As you would expect, we close our time together with a Eucharist.

Did you know.....BACC is here to resource you and your Diocese, to provide help and information when you need it?

Do you want to know.....more about what BACC is doing, and how it can help you? If so, please contact Jenny Lowery: president@ukcursillo.org.

Pass it on!



We hope that when you have finished reading this copy of BACC Pages you will want to pass it on. Maybe you can give it to a friend, but be prepared to answer the question "so, what (exactly) is Cursillo?".

When you and all your friends have stopped reading the magazine, please put this copy at the back of your church as an additional way of raising our profile - put it next to the Cursillo 3-fold leaflets! Thank you!

Delia's Way or the "Real Woman's" Way?

Delia's Way - Freeze leftover wine into ice cube trays for future use in casseroles and sauces.

The Real Women's Way - Leftover wine???????? Hello!!!!!!!
(now who can you imagine saying that!??)



Extract from the report of the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee Quarterly Meeting, April 21-25, Diocesan Center, Diocese of Southern Virginia.

The Rt. Rev. David Bane, the NECC's Bishop Liaison to the House of Bishops, hosted our April meeting in a beautiful setting, a river front meeting center in Norfolk, Virginia. The diocesan Secretariat did a wonderful job of getting us to and from the airport, feeding us quite amply, and arranging for a Saturday afternoon of sight-seeing. On Friday the NECC hosted a wonderful Ultreya gathering at St. Martin's, Williamsburg, where the representatives from the North Central District provided not just a lay witness talk and responses but a model of what those ought to be. The community videotaped the presentations, and we hope to have that available in the future for dioceses to obtain and use in training for witness talks in their own Ultreyas. The beauty of the setting inspired hard work. The NECC has made great headway toward our work goals for this year.

I hope, before the end of my three-year term on the NECC, which includes in 2006, that Rachel and I can arrange to visit some of your dioceses and perhaps join you in some Ultreyas. She and I are keenly aware that it's expensive to cross the pond from either direction, but we also hope to see some of you at the National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar that's scheduled for the end of October in Camp Allen. You can get additional information about that event at <http://www.episcopalcursillo.org/>

Your President recently wrote me a delightful and quite exciting report of the activities of BACC in the several dioceses in which Cursillo is established in the UK, including its continued expansion. I look forward to sharing that report at the NECC's July quarterly meeting next week, which is set for the Diocese of Western Michigan from July 21 through July 25. Please keep all of us who work with the NECC in your prayers and in the prayers of your respective congregations as we complete preparations for that meeting, travel to and from that meeting, select new servant leaders for the NECC and continue our discernment about the ways in which the National Episcopal Cursillo can best serve God's church.

DeColores, Jim Swaney

National Ultreya 2005 – Chichester, Saturday 24th September 2005.

I agree it is early but I know you would be pleased to have a diary note sooner than later – if your diary is anything like mine. Also for those not familiar with the “deep south” I thought you would also like a taster (much more information to follow) of what to expect once you get “South of the Thames” - after Bradford so successfully hosted the 2004 “National”.

Chichester was once a Roman city and the town has preserved much of its ancient character. It retains its Roman layout of a walled area of four streets with the cathedral taking a central place. Much of the wall still remain and makes an interesting walk on the footpath that tops the wall.

Chichester is sited on an inlet from Chichester Harbour which itself is an area of outstanding natural beauty. The harbour is linked to the town by a 4-mile canal – canal trips run daily and are well worthwhile.

Chichester is famed for its cathedral and the spire dominates the landscape for miles around. Work on the existing building started in 1076 and its more recent history is characterised by its active outreach both locally and through links with Europe developed during WWII by Bishop Bell. Famous also for its modern art and successfully fusing ancient and modern with a window by Chagall, a tapestry by John Piper and a painting by Graham Sutherland with 12th century objects – the 12th century Lazarus Reliefs and the Lambert Barnard paintings.

For those who decide to stay for more than the day the opportunities are tremendous – these represent just a flavour:

Roman Place – the site of the largest Roman residence in England with mosaics, museum and gardens.

Chichester Harbour – has over 50 miles of coastline, which is fabulous for wildlife enthusiasts and walkers.

Bosham – a unique coastal village where King Canute proved he could not stop the tide. The Saxon church is very interesting.

Boxgrove Priory – a 12th Century Parish Church with a 16th Century painted ceiling.

So whether you are just visiting for the National Ultreya Day or spending a few days to take in the delights of “Good Old Sussex by the Sea” this is a diary date not to be missed. Make a note of it now – September 24th 2005 – and we guarantee a wonderful welcome and spiritual time with the Holy Spirit.

For Chichester Cursillistas a special message from Mark – please keep the date free to help with all that will need to be done on the day, thank you.

Norman Horsley, BACC Representative, Chichester Cursillo.

New Zealand Cursillo

How is my relationship with God?



“Soul Survivor” by Paul Hawker is the story of this New Zealander, now living in Australia, who decided he needed to bring a reality check to his life. He crossed the Tasman and spent 40 days and nights in the Tararua Ranges north of Wellington without any modern accoutrements – no laptop, no cell-phone, no pen, no paper, just the basic necessities. He concludes the book by giving us a peek at the role God played during that time.

In his subsequent book, “Secret Affairs of the Soul”, he reveals more of God in his life including this statement: “I was looking for an authentic interface between humans and God and I thought church was the place to find this. To my surprise and frustration, I found it extremely hard to find other people who were there for the same reason.”

Fortunately, Hawker doesn’t tell us which church he sought this interface at, but it made me look at both myself and the congregation I worship with to see if what he said applied to us.

Over the course of our Three Day Cursillo we are introduced to all the tools we need to have an authentic – a real, meaningful, relationship with God. Right from the very beginning, the Ideal talk challenges us to consider false ideals as against authentic ideals. Our talk guidelines outline an authentic ideal as one which gives purpose, meaning and direction to our life. Then towards the end of the three days, the Christian Community talk invites us firstly to reflect back on the concept of an authentic Christian Community as we have experienced it over the three days, and then challenges us to take that concept into our local church.

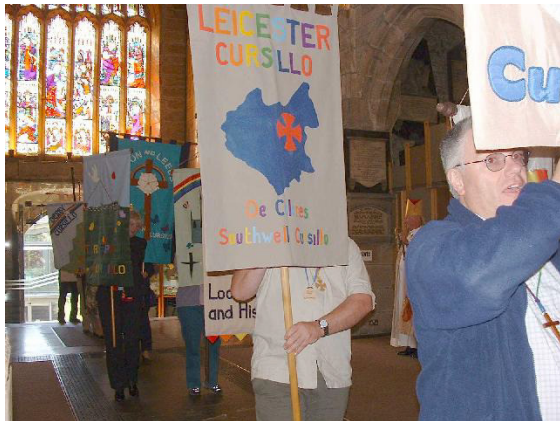
So do you think that having participated in a Cursillo Three Days, we return to our parish imbued with the knowledge that our authentic Ideal is found in God and that our Christian Community is the place to continue to build on that Ideal? For a great many, the Three Days sets them on that path, but we all know that our society seems to determined to live at a far faster pace than Hawker would have encountered during his 40 days and nights.

This is where our Group Reunions and Ultreyas come in. They are there to sustain, refresh and encourage us. When we think about the components of the Cursillo method, they all contribute to Cursillista’s modelling an authentic interface between ourselves and God.

How are you doing?

Ultreya! Tony Hassed National Lay Director.

Special pull-out Section UK Ultreya Saturday 18th September Bradford Cathedral



A pastiche of pictures from Bradford. Although we were not able to parade our banners through the streets a grand procession was made into the Cathedral (right).

(below) Jenny canvassing for opinions for her "Ask the President" slot or was she simply gasping for a cup of tea?!

It looks like our Vice President Michael Bolley has made a profound point or is it a further demonstration of the way refined gentlemen eat their sandwiches? Many old friendships were re-kindled and new ones made. An excellent day all round.



National Ultreya Caption Competition

Here is a picture taken at the National Ultreya, Bradford. All you have to do is think up an apt caption for this picture or tell us what was being said. The best submissions will be published in the next edition of BACC Pages; the very best will receive a prize. It's up to you whether you go for an amusing caption or something very profound.

As usual, the Editor's decision is final! Send or email your entry to the Editor (see page 1 for details) to arrive no later than February 1st 2005.



A message from Doug Hall Lay Director Bradford Cursillo

The 2004 UK Ultreya was a great day, the best I have been to, but then I'm biased!!!

Just under 300 Cursillistas arrived for the morning session from 22 different Dioceses right across the country, Scotland to Chichester and Canterbury and all stations between.

We managed to hold 31 Group Reunions without generating complete chaos in the Cathedral but chaos soon ensued as Libby Epps got us all dancing around the Cathedral in Ghanaian style as part of her enthusiastic report from Ghana #1. (next page).



We were joined by a further 100 for the inspiring closing Eucharist. David Smith former Bishop of Bradford reminded us during his sermon that what Cursillo is about is the 'Fourth Day', the day when Cursillistas get out there and each play their part in changing the world for Christ.

The prayers led by Bradford Cursillistas were perhaps some of the most wonderful and moving that I have ever experienced, heightened by Sally's singing and the congregation's responses

And then there was the music and the singing, it must be another manifestation of the Spirit on a Cursillo weekend that everyone's' mouths are opened to sing God's praises in a new way.



Thank you all for coming to Bradford and all the many Cursillistas who have worked so hard over the last year to make it such a special day.

I will always remember it as the highlight of my term as Lay Director of Bradford Cursillo.

Ultreya!

Your Comments and Views Please

Bradford Diocese and BACC want to gain as much publicity for Cursillo as a follow up to the UK Ultreya as possible. If you were there let us have your thoughts and comments on the day, the more the better and if you have any digital photos please let us have a copy of those as well.

We will be putting together publicity material to try to obtain space in the church press and other media. Bradford will be putting up lots of comments and photos here on their website. (www.bradford.anglican.org/cursillo)

You will be able to download them for use in your own local publicity. Why not put together an article for your Diocesan magazine or newspaper as well as your Parish Magazine?

Cursillo in Ghana



One of the highlights of the National Ultreya was the colourful report from Libby Epps on Accra Cursillo #1. Here is an extract from her report.

Billy Hollis shared at the last National Ultreya 2003 his surprise meeting with Bishop Justice Akkufo in Accra, Ghana. This led to 3 Canterbury Cursillistas being asked to join the Ghanaian team for Accra Cursillo #1 in August, gifted by the Maryland Episcopalian Cursillo in America.

Bishop Justice, recently enthroned as the Archbishop of East Africa, had been captivated by the Cursillo spirit. He rejoiced and was visibly excited to welcome and commission us for this memorable, life-giving weekend at Trinity College. 30 enthusiastic Christ filled Christians led us – the team – with passionate singing and dance accompanied by the drums. We were introduced to the Ghanaians dance, 'The dance of joy' – danced during the offertory, after communion, and indeed it is the dance of joy at a funeral.

It certainly was a weekend of 'Expect the unexpected'. There were 5 changes of participants – 1 who didn't arrive at all and a complete stranger who arrived unexpectedly !!! The CHA's..... 'Christ Hands in Action' were kept very busy. We arrived to find 150 teenagers at Trinity College too, they had used all the participants mattresses, linen and pillows!! The youngsters sang lustily especially about 5 in the morning – they too were summoned by a bell !! They want us to tell them about 'Happening'. Action and Study were swapped at the last moment because the person giving the Action talk suddenly announced he was off to a wedding giving his niece away that afternoon !

He was not alone, we had our own weddings, in fact 3 of them. We couldn't get near the chapel or be heard in the Rollo room. It was glorious to witness the beautiful dresses and head scarves and fine robes of the wedding guests mingled with the colours of Cursillowe had the afternoon off. We were working to GMT – Ghana Maybe Time.

Two people witnessed at the Closing that they had been healed, one from a leg injury, another from severe bronchial problems. We were given a demonstration of various methods Anglicans use to greet each other Abbrazo (frozen shoulder), over the pew, the windmill, the washing machine, London Bridge, The Trinity, the bear hug and the burper. (At this point intrepid members of the band stepped forward to demonstrate!)

The Emmaus Community gifted us a Maninita. This was a beautiful expression of God's love. We came out at dusk, to see the path to the Chapel illuminated by people holding candles in both hands – arms outstretched, singing "Jesus, Jesus, do you know how much he loves you?" We walked through them on either side. They then followed us into the Chapel still singing moving rhythmically in a circle for several minutes and then the circle broke and they went into the night singing.

It has been a joy to experience the blending of the cultures and such a privilege to be welcomed into a community of blessed, graced friendship. Fine young people wanting to serve the Beloved, and others already doing so – every participant witnessed at the Closing and many to the call of servant hood. We danced the 'Dance of joy' with the Bishop and he called us out by name and gave the team palanca – fabulous dresses and shirts.

We were taken to a small village called Opah and greeted by the children, the adults were celebrating a funeral dancing in the dust. We were shown a shell of a building which is to be the local school; all work on it has been suspended because of lack of funds. Mercia is training a teenager from the village to teach in her own Nursery School and asked if we could raise funds to complete the building and support this little school. After the National Ultreya the Bradford Cursillo donated £300, could you support this project too? What-ever the amount it will truly bring blessings and be a blessing.

Thank you for all the abundance of palanca, we had prayer from around the world. May I ask for your continued prayer as the tiny cursillo community plans for Accra #2. and for the people and children of Opah.

ULTREYA! Libby Epps Canterbury#11