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BACC Fill

In the last issue I published a light hearted item entitled "How to stay young". Unfortunately, this item has caused offence to a number of readers because of the reference to the devil and Alzheimer's. I have spoken to those people who took the trouble to contact me and have apologised, and I repeat that unreserved apology here. There was absolutely no intention to cause any offence and the fact that none of the team that produce BACC Pages spotted anything wrong is no excuse. We slipped up, and we are very sorry.

On a brighter note, it has been good to receive a range of items for inclusion in the magazine but there is still scope for an even wider span on items. Please don't be shy—tell us what is happening in your part of the Cursillo world.

The next issue will be Spring 2006 - Until then, ULTREYA.
Phil Wright

BACC Pages


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PRAISE THE LORD



***Ok Folks, the meeting is officially over.
One hand down for coffee and two for tea***

Jenny's Jottings



Greetings!

I've never been keen on tattooing - something to do with having the pain threshold of a gerbil, no doubt – but if I was, I would have a tattoo on my forehead which reads: 'God's work in progress'.

I am being reminded all the time of my ability to get stuff wrong – frequently and sometime spectacularly; only by God's grace and the tolerance and forgiveness of my Christian brothers and sisters do I get from day to day.

God claimed me, heart and soul, for himself some 19 years ago, and I suppose if I look back to the way I was then, and what I am now, I would see that the Spirit has indeed been at work in me. I remember a remark of a fellow Christian some years ago, talking about his own conversion. He said: 'I don't sin as much as I did before I was a Christian, but my sins hurt me more'. I think that's a good way to put it – we're not perfect (though scripture assures us we will be one day!) but we are on the way – a pilgrim people.

Pilgrimage is such an essential part of our Christian life – Cursillo itself began with pilgrimage, and I hope that every Cursillo weekend we hold is a part of the pilgrimage of the Team, as well as the Participants/Pilgrims/Guests – (whatever you call them in your Diocese).

I was immensely proud to be part of the Walk of Witness in Chichester at our UltreyaGB on 24th September – a real 'walking rainbow', stopping traffic in the town, meeting the Bishop at 'The Cross' and wending our way to the Cathedral for the Eucharist. On the way back to the morning venue, I stopped to chat to some people who had seen us and was told it had been a great witness. (We do need to synchronise our singing, though.....)

The weekend following Chichester was the first weekend of Sheffield Cursillo, and those of us lucky enough to be in Whirlow Grange Chapel on Sunday afternoon for the Clausura had the great joy of hearing two Bishops (Sheffield and Wakefield) on very good form. At one point during the singing of To God Be The Glory, as the new Cursillistas left

The new heart will produce the following: love - patience - faithfulness - joy - kindness - gentleness - peace - goodness - self- control.

The authorized operating manual, the Holy Bible, available in most languages, contains additional information. As a further upgrade, the Maker will supply all required units with a permanent Maintenance Officer, the Holy Spirit.

WARNING: Continuing to operate without correction voids the Maker's warranty, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list. Eventually this will result in permanent damage to the unit. Units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter heaven.

Please assist by notifying others of this recall notice.

The Trouble Tree

I hired a plumber to help me restore an old farmhouse, and after he had finished a rough first day on the job, a flat tyre made him lose half an hour of work and his electric drill broke. Then his ancient one-ton truck refused to start. As I drove him home he sat in stony silence.

On arriving home he invited me in to meet his family. As we walked towards the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands. Upon opening the door of his house he had undergone an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterwards he walked me back to my car. We passed the tree and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do at the little tree.

"Oh, that's my trouble tree", he replied, "I know I can't help having troubles on the job, but one thing's for sure, those troubles don't belong in the house with my wife and the children. So I hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then, in the morning I pick them up again.

Funny thing is," he smiled, "when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren't nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before."

my Cursillo weekend - and that was my first visit to the Holy Land. While I was there, I felt that God picked me up, broke me apart, put me back together a changed person, blessed me, and sent me back into the world renewed and reaffirmed in my Christian vocation.

To those who have been on a pilgrimage in the past, I would say - it is time to go back! The second intifada and other pressures of political life in Palestine and Israel have dealt a particular series of blows to the resident Christians of the Holy Land, who now number less than 2% of the combined populations. They need us to make an act of witness by supporting them, out there, in the flesh, visiting them, praying with them, and, indeed, spending money with them. This pilgrimage - almost uniquely - is designed in such a way that every penny of the money spent in the Holy Land itself will be with Christian run companies and individuals.

And it is safe! I visit London regularly. In the last year I have been in New York and Washington DC, as well as other major UK cities - and I have been in Jerusalem. And I feel safer in Jerusalem than anywhere else!

So - please join us next November, and help us say a loud ULTREYA to the local Christians of Jesus' own land!

Dominic

BACC Light Urgent—Recall Notice

The Maker of human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a major problem with the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype, code- named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. Technically termed 'self-willed insistent non-co-operation' this defect is commonly known by the acronym SIN.

Symptoms include the following: worry - fear - amnesia of origin - selfishness - loss of direction - slavery - confusion - foul language - rebellion.

Though neither liable nor at fault for this defect, the Maker is providing factory authorized repair and service, free of charge. His Technician, Jesus, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. No additional fee is required. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, Jesus will replace the defective heart.

the Chapel, I looked up to make sure the roof was still in place!

A major next step for Cursillo will be our 'Catch the Vision' weekend, being held in Bawtry, near Doncaster, from 5th to 7th May 2006. This is an opportunity for every Diocese to be represented, along with the Standing Committee, to share worship, prayer and fellowship, and to seek God's vision for His Cursillo in the future. The AGM will be held on 6th May as part of this weekend, so if you can't get there for the whole weekend, please do try to be there for the AGM at least.

And so to the next part of my own pilgrimage - when I finish writing this piece, I will be packing for my visit to Virginia Beach, where I will have the privilege of representing all of you at the National Episcopal Cursillo Council. (Thank you to all those at UltreyaGB in Chichester who offered to carry my case, by the way!) I am looking forward to getting a world-wide perspective on Cursillo, and sharing my great pride in what Cursillo is enabling **you** to do for God's kingdom in the UK. (I do hope they're into hugging!!!) I will be sharing my experiences with you all when I return.

Paul's second letter to the Corinthians reminds us that:

'When God is personally present, a living Spirit, that old, constricting legislation is recognised as obsolete. We're free of it! All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him'. (2 Cor 3 16-18; The Message)

God's 'work in progress' indeed!

ULTREYA!

BACC at NEC

Jenny is visiting the United States this year and will have attended the NEC by the time BACC Pages goes to print. In our next issue we will bring you a full report from this trip, which BACC Presidents make once every 3 years, complete with all the news from Cursillo in the US.



Dominic's Deliberations



If you want, you can become all flame.

A junior monk went to see Abba Joseph and he said to him, "Abba, as far as I can, I say my office, I fast a little, I pray and meditate, I live in peace and as far as I can I purify my thoughts. What else can I do?" Then the old man stood up and stretched his hands toward heaven; his fingers became like ten lamps of fire and he said to him, "If you will, you can become all flame."

One of the wonderful things about Cursillo is that, in so many ways, it is a movement of 'doers'. You will, I am sure, have heard it said, "If you want something done, ask a busy person." In those dioceses of the church that are blessed to have Cursillo active within them, it would not be unfair to rewrite that old adage, and say, "If you want something done, ask a cursillista!" Both within the movement, and - so much more importantly - in the wider church and world, cursillistas have a wonderful reputation in the eyes of many, for being folk who are prepared to try and find time to do whatever might be necessary to make good things happen for the Lord and his world.

The fact that this is so is a great blessing, and reflects great love and commitment on the part of many cursillistas across England, Wales and Scotland. But, as I have realised from my own ministry both as a parish priest, and more widely in the church, such busy-ness can sometimes come at a price. God, so the writer to the Hebrews tells us, is a consuming fire - and, as Christians, we should want to be consumed by him. But, as part of our rule of life (something which every cursillista is encouraged to make, and to live by) sometimes we should, perhaps, stop and make sure, in amongst all our busy-ness, that it is actually God that we are letting consume us.

The young monk in that rather extraordinary story from the Desert Fathers was clearly, in his way, quite a busy person. He took his responsibilities seriously. He prayed, he fasted, he said the office, he kept his thoughts pure. He was, I am sure, the model of a young monk in the Egyptian desert of the fourth century. Had they had Cursillo knocking around back then, doubtless he would have been diligent with his palanca, regular in his group reunion, and a prayerful and committed

BACC Pilgrimage

If all has gone according to plan, you should find a brochure for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land enclosed with this issue of BACC pages. This is a new venture for BACC, and one which excite me very much... but it is also something that lies at the very heart of Cursillo. Indeed, I would go so far as to suggest that cursillistas are, perhaps, the most natural pilgrims of all church-goers.

The reason for this, of course, is that the roots of Cursillo are inextricably bound up with the practice of going on pilgrimage. We are all aware of the Spanish origins of our movement - its very title gives this away, along with various other uses of medieval Spanish. Let's not forget what lies behind the Spanish - it's all pilgrimage talk! When the founding fathers of Cursillo were trying to work out how to rekindle a love of the church in their land, they searched for any signs of what you might call religious enthusiasm in the life of the nation, and realised quickly that what they were seeking was to be found in the ancient practice of making pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella - arguably the most important pilgrimage destination in Europe. The Three Day Cursillo Weekend, in some ways, is simply an attempt to recreate the joys and anguishes of this pilgrimage, compressed in a shorter, and non-geographical version of the journey. Out of this, truly, was Cursillo born.

And so it is eminently appropriate that we, as Cursillistas, should seek to make our own, 'real' pilgrimage next year - not, in this instance, to Spain (although who knows what the future might hold...), but to the Holy Land itself - the ultimate pilgrimage destination. And, as you would hope and expect, the pilgrimage we are offering is not 'just another trip' - it is designed by cursillistas, and will have a strong Cursillo feel in the way we spend our time together.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is - obviously - not new, and it is familiar to a great many Anglicans today. I would not be surprised if a significant percentage of BACC cursillistas have been to the Holy Land before at some point (although, probably, a few years ago, given the recent troubles in the Middle East). I want to take this opportunity of saying something to 'old hands', and to those who have not yet been to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

To those who have never been before, I would simply want to say that only one event in my Christian life has affected me more profoundly than

sponsor. But, as we learn from that story, he realised that being busy and diligent was not, of itself, quite enough for him - thus his question to Abba Joseph.

For quite some while, I have been thinking that I have been consumed by that unstoppable fire that is God. Certainly, I have realised that I have been consumed by **something**. But it has taken slightly more insight than I initially wanted to muster, to make me realize that over-extending myself and saying a hearty 'yes' to everything which crosses my path, while it makes for a life that is, in one way, consuming, doesn't necessarily draw me closer to God. A messy desk and an over-full diary are not, of themselves, a sign of being on fire with the Spirit.

There is a hymn much beloved of cursillistas that I have sung at many a Cursillo gathering. Like me, I am sure you, too, have sung, *Never let my heart grow cold. Never let me go. Abba, Father, let me be yours and yours alone.* If that is to be a serious prayer of ours, let us make sure that, in amongst all that we do - sometimes so worthily and so self-sacrificially - let us make sure that our activity is not at the expense of our heart growing cold.



For - **if we will** - we can become all flame. Let's make sure we leave ourselves time to will just that - and to cope with the consequences!

Ultreya!

BACC Chat



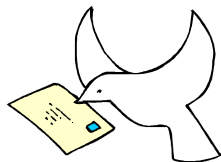
October 15, 2005

Cordial greetings to you and all the Cursillistas involved with the British Anglican Cursillo from me and from my brothers and sisters on the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee here in the USA.

I continue to admire and enjoy the several websites and on-line publications which many of your dioceses produce and the user-friendly manner in which the BACC website makes all of that accessible. The masters of any of those websites which don't have a link to the NEC website, <http://www.episcopalcurso.org>, may want to consider it. We hope to make some improvements to that website soon, perhaps including forum pages and a news page.

Again, 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 our final quarterly meeting of 2005, beginning Tuesday, which is being held in conjunction with the National Episcopal Cursillo Seminar at the end of the week in Virginia Beach, Virginia. I look forward to seeing Jenny and Barry there. Rachel and I are driving there and leaving tomorrow afternoon after we attend church at St. Michael's in Independence, Missouri.

Ultreya! Jim Swaney



Later you reach a fork in the way. Your guide says take the left path but you stop. The path on the right is much smoother and it seems to be leading far more directly to the destination your guide pointed out. Despite the guide's advice, you decide to take the path on the right. It is broad and pleasant. You see species of flower you have not seen before and marvel at their beauty. Your guide follows behind, not quite as closely as before. He says nothing but let's you find your own way. Gradually the easy path becomes hard. You find yourself struggling to pick a way among boulders and knarled old roots and finally have to admit to yourself that you are lost and don't know how to proceed. You turn back thinking to retrace your steps and pick up the recommended path but your guide stands in the way.

'I need to go back to find the other path,' you say.
'You cannot go back, only forward. You will never find that path again,' he replies.
'But there is no way forward! Look, there are sheer drops on either side and a near vertical scree slope ahead. I can't go forward,' you say in rising panic. You have visions of staying here until you die of starvation or exposure.
'Have I ever let you down? Trust me and follow where I lead,' he says.

For the first time your guide walks ahead of you. You keep your eyes fixed on where he plants his feet and endeavour to copy his steps exactly. You dare not get it wrong so step by step you follow. Your guide turns often to check that you are there and to encourage you. Sometimes you have to leap across gaps between rocks. Then he turns to catch you and guide you as you land. Eventually you notice that you are not struggling to make a way over rocks but are following a path. It is the narrowest of goat trails, barely a path at all, but it fills you with hope. It gets wider and clearer until it joins with a path very much like the one you were on before you took your detour. You know it can't be the same one but it leads the same way and that is enough for you.

You turn to your guide and pour out your gratitude. Once again he shows you where you have come from. You marvel that it was possible to find a way out of the situation you had so recently been in – even from above there is no clear way to discern. Then you look once more to where you are heading.

'Ready?' asks your guide. 'One step at a time, then, and keep to the path!'

think you know the one. You try hard to follow the guide's directions as he points it out.

The trek continues in similar vein. When the path is wide you walk side by side, sometimes talking, sometimes in companionable silence. Your guide points things out along the way. When the path gets steep and narrow he walks behind you, speaking words of direction and encouragement. Having learnt what you are capable of, and what a good guide he is, you put your head down and persevere, knowing that the view from the next rise will be fantastic.

Halfway through the day you reach a wonderful grassy area. It is like a shallow bowl and is full of sunlight. Having rested there you decide that you want to stay. You don't like the idea of more ups and downs on the path ahead. This place is all you could ask for. And so you tell your guide that you will not be going further with him. 'That is your choice,' he says and he goes and sits right on the edge of the bowl.

For quite some time you wander in your grassy haven. You take off your backpack and you feel light and free. You unlace your boots and choose to walk barefoot on the grass. There is sun, blue sky, the birds, the flowers; what more could you need? As you wander you occasionally feel sure that your guide's eyes are following you. You don't turn around because you don't want to see the expression in those eyes.

The day wears on and the sun follows its track. Gradually the grassy bowl falls into deep shadow. The cool mountain air chills you. You put your socks and boots back on and zip up your jacket. Your guide is still sitting where he has been the whole time, saying nothing, apparently lost in thought, but you are sure he still looks your way from time to time. In the end you feel there is no choice. This place is no longer where you want to be; you are ready to move on. You look towards the guide and wait for him to look your way. When he does you say, 'I'm sorry. I was wrong. I don't want to stay here. Can we carry on?' 'That's fine. I was just waiting until you were ready. Let's just pick up where we left off. No harm done,' he replies.

So you shoulder your pack, turn your back on the hollow and step on to the path once more. The conversation with your guide feels strained at first, not that he seems to be criticizing; it is you who feel awkward. All you have shared in the past is still there, nothing has been lost, and so gradually the old easy conversation resumes as you walk.

New Cursillo Diocese

Sheffield Anglican Cursillo

3pm Sunday October 2nd and 150 people were crammed into the Chapel at Whirlow Grange in Sheffield for the Clausura of Sheffield #1. There were people standing at the back and people sitting on the floor in the entrance hall of the Chapel. It was a truly amazing sight that met the team and pilgrims as we walked through the grounds, behind our banner, to the Chapel.

Three days earlier the team had nervously waited for our first 12 pilgrims to arrive – had we got everything, how would it all go? Wakefield 'old stagers' (and some from Ripon & Leeds and Derby dioceses) were there to hold the hands of the novices as we embarked on the weekend we had planned and waited for. And yes, our thoughts were on those who had started with us on the journey; those who had shared the vision in the early days of planning and were no longer with us – Les Robinson and Alison Shephard. Were they looking down on us and saying 'Go for it' - Yes, I'm sure they were.

My thoughts went back to a phone conversation with Les and his wife Jenny four years earlier when we arranged to meet together for a meal with as many Cursillistas as we could find in the diocese. Less than 6 months later we had decided to ask to meet Bishop Jack – and the rest is history. When he arrived in the diocese he wanted Cursillo to be part of the plan. One by one Cursillistas either moved into the diocese or discovered Cursillo through friends in other dioceses, went on a weekend and contacted the nearest diocese to Sheffield they could find to see if there was anyone else. And of course the then Lay Director of Wakefield, Lynne Macpherson, put them in touch with us. It was a great joy that BACC in its wisdom decided that Wakefield should be our gifting diocese – some of us had made our Cursillos in Wakefield and we had been encouraged to join in events in Wakefield as we waited. So with Wakefield guiding us; our Gifting Liaison Officer, Sylvia Cooke from Bradford, advising us we planned and panicked and planned and panicked a bit more and here we were. Eight months before the weekend one of the Steering Group said 'There **will** be 12 pilgrims for Sheffield #1' and there were!

When we first booked Whirlow Grange for our first weekend it seemed a long time off – but now it was here and we were on the starting blocks.



Bishop Jack with SDs John Holmes and Ian Smith and LDs Liz Chester and John Speller

The pilgrims arrived, all 12 of them, and the journey began. And before we knew it we had got to Sunday afternoon and we were gathered in the Chapel with not 1 but 2 Bishops **and** the National President! What a moment it was to hear Bishop Stephen 'hand over' Cursillo to Bishop Jack and to hear Jenny say that Sheffield was now a full member of British Anglican Cursillo Council. A week earlier at the Ultreya GB Jenny had described the 3 of us who were there as a small but vocal minority! Well babies make a lot of noise! But I hope as we grow older the 'new kids on the block' will still make plenty of noise as we rejoice to worship our Lord Jesus Christ.

We had a wonderful weekend with a great team and fantastic pilgrims. Thank you Wakefield and Sylvia for all your help and advice over the last 3 years. And thank you to everyone who came to Clausura and made it such a special service.

Look out for our banner at Durham – we'll be there in force!

Liz Chester Lay Director and Ian Smith Spiritual Director Sheffield Anglican Cursillo

and your calf muscles are burning. You know that you can go no further and you tell the guide so. He tells you not to sit down but to stand where you are for a while. You stand doubled over until you get your breath.

'Let's carry on, shall we?' says the guide.
'I'll never do it, it's too steep,' you reply.
'You can do it. Just take it step by step.' he says.

Very doubtful of your ability you set off once more. All you can concentrate on is one step at a time. The effort of taking each step is enough to occupy your whole being; there is nothing left over for thinking or looking around. Finally, with much encouragement from your guide, you almost drag yourself the last few steps to the top of the rise and you sit down on the first available soft spot to recover.



After a short while your guide beckons you to join him. There behind him is a stream, full of melt water, rushing down the hill. 'Drink' he says and you do. Never has water tasted so refreshing! It is icy cold and revives you totally. You splash it over your face and feel so alive.

'Come and look' invites your guide. So you go to stand beside him. You take in the most wonderful view and you know the effort of that climb was worth it. There is so much to see that you could stand there all day. Soon your guide directs your gaze to the way you have just come. You look down the steep path you have just toiled up. You are amazed at just how steep it is – how did you manage that? The guide points out where he told you to go left or right as you climbed. From this point of view, those seemingly illogical twists and turns make perfect sense. Without them you would have been doomed to experience disaster. And then your guide directs your gaze upward. For the first time you can glance, far off and blue in the distance, the peak that you are heading for. At least you

Our Journey with God

It is a beautiful spring day and you are equipped with backpack and strong boots ready for a trek in the mountains. The paths winding out of the valley look very easy but you have been warned that things get trickier as you climb. So you have a guide with you as advised. You have also bought the guide book. It is full of tips on how to get the most out of your trek, things to avoid, the flora and fauna and the names of the various places you will get to. There are sections written by others who have made the trek before you, describing what they saw and how they felt. You wonder, as you read it in the valley, whether you will ever reach those high peaks they describe and see those views for yourself.

And so you set off full of energy. The path is wide and passes through flower dotted meadows. You take time to look around and drink it all in. The sky is a beautiful blue, the sun is shining and the birds are singing. The air smells fresh and clean. There is room for your guide to walk beside you on the path and as you walk you talk. So quickly he moves from being a stranger to someone with whom you have an easy relationship. You chat about anything and everything, nothing seems barred from this conversation, even your innermost hopes and fears.

After a while the path begins to climb into the foothills. It narrows and become less even underfoot. Your guide walks behind you, still talking to you. If you strike off on a wrong path he says: 'This is the way,' and puts you right. The harder walking makes you a little out of breath but it is a pleasant challenge. There is still time and energy left over to appreciate your surroundings. Your guide points out things of interest to you and you read extracts from the guide book at intervals.

Then comes the time when the path becomes very steep. There are loose stones underfoot and treading on them incorrectly risks a twisted ankle despite your boots. You have no choice but to keep your eyes fixed firmly on the ground so that you can place your feet carefully. Looking around is out of the question. Every now and again you hear your guide telling you to move to the right or the left. You don't know why as you have no overview of where you are heading but you do as he says. Somehow he never seems to get out of breath, whereas the best you can do is reply 'OK' as you follow his instructions.

Finally you are gasping for breath, your heart is hammering in your chest

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.

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 (reprinted)	£5 per 100
A5 colour poster	£1 per 5

BACC Supplies Officer

Elenor Paul

resources@ukcursillo.org



The Diocese of Oxford has set up an exciting new internet venture. i-church is a Christian community of the Church of England based under the pastoral care of the Bishop of Oxford.

i-church is open to anyone, and membership can be held at the same time as membership of any other Christian Church. For people who travel a great deal or are unable to attend regularly, i-church can support them spiritually wherever they are in the world.

Organized through an active web site, and led by a properly authorised network of 'Pastoral Group Leaders', its purpose is:

- to provide a Christian community for people who want to explore Christian discipleship but are not able to belong to a local congregation.
- to provide an additional means of support to those who do not find all that they need within their own worshipping community
- to provide a supportive spiritual community for people who travel, either through their work or in their life-style, and who are not able to maintain relationships with a geographical Christian community.

i-church is founded on Benedictine principles and for cursillistas, there is much that is familiar about their approach, especially the emphasis on prayer, study and social action and a rule of life.

There is a Live Chat where daily prayers and vespers are held. There are also a number of very active discussion forums covering a wide range of issues, for example Sunday Scriptures, Spirituality & Prayers, General Discussion, Social Club and Special Interest forums. There has been a discussion about Cursillo and at least one person has expressed a real interest to join us on a weekend.

There are members across the UK plus Australia, New Zealand, USA, Canada, South Korea and South Africa so there is always someone interesting to meet. If you want to find out more, please go to www.i-church.org and explore what is on offer.

something but will never tell you what to do. Spiritual direction is all about nourishing your relationship with God. Which, if you think about it, is what the Fourth Day is all about.

But, you say I should have a spiritual director. How do I find one? Well the answer will depend on your diocese but speak to your Cursillo diocesan SD who will be able to point you in the right direction. You may have been given a list of SDs on the Sunday of your weekend, so see if you can find it. It will be among the treasures you brought home!

Cursillo is not about a super weekend in a wonderful location, however good it may have been. It is about growing, moving forward in our relationship with our Lord. And it's the Fourth Day that encourages this movement. And the Fourth Day is Group Reunion, Ultreya and, yes, receiving Spiritual Direction.

ULTREYA - KEEP GOING
Barry Ranger

Cursillo Leaders Workshops 2005/6

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

Lay people and clergy welcome.

Fri 10th - Sun 12th March
Abbey House, Glastonbury, Somerset

Fri 5th - Sun 7th May
Wydale Hall, Nr Scarborough,
N. Yorkshire

Fri 4th - Sun 6th August
Offa House, Nr Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

Application forms and further details from:

Jean Whitton

'Twas on a Sunday morning ...

Do you remember what happened on the Sunday of your Cursillo weekend? It's not unusual for participants (or pilgrims), when asked what happened on the Sunday of their Cursillo Weekend, to admit they cannot remember. I felt the same after my Weekend. Frankly I was so shattered by all that had happened most of Sunday simply didn't register. Which is one reason why effective and responsible sponsorship is so important. Sunday is about the core of Cursillo, life in the Fourth Day and it is the sponsor's duty to encourage the participant into that life. What, then, does that mean?

Well, most of us will recognise the importance of Group Reunion in ongoing spiritual development - have I been aware of Jesus being close to me, what spiritual devotion has nourished my union with Christ? These are questions that can so easily slip. No, I don't think I have been aware of Jesus' presence. But wait a moment. There was that time when he..... It's good to recall those times. Yes, he was there, and it's good to share them in the group. And how am I engaged in Study to deepen my understanding of God's ways? So all this leads to action for Jesus, something we may be shy of. But if we just do something, however small, and share it, what encouragement for others!

There is, too, Ultreya. I have been to some crackers recently and what an encouragement for us all. When I looked around the room at the last, my heart sang in rejoicing for what God has done since my first Ultreya in the Church Hall in Ferring seven years ago.

So, that then is life in the Fourth Day. But wait a moment, is that all? On that Sunday morning when we were all zonked out there was something else. What was it? Oh yes, Spiritual Direction. One of the men or women in black said it is something we should seek. "He who is Spiritual Director to himself is Spiritual Director to a fool." Wise words from Bernard of Clairvaux, I seem to remember.

So, Spiritual Direction, what's that? Well it's meeting with someone who is trained to listen, not just to hear. He or she will listen without interruption, without ever passing judgement, without being shocked and without breaking a seal of confidence that is as binding as the confessional. But, is it directive? No, not really. We all have the answers in ourselves. The purpose of direction is to enable us to find those answers, to find the way ahead. A spiritual director may suggest

GB Ultreya Impressions from Chichester

On 24th September I attended "Ultreya GB" The national gathering of Curillistas. "Surely there cannot be many who will make the trip to Chichester", I remember thinking. "oh ye of little faith" I thought a little later when I saw the numbers!

We had a superb Ultreya! It was well planned, thanks no doubt to lots of folk working busily for many weeks before the event. There was an excellent and encouraging witness talk and good fellowship to be enjoyed.



Jenny Lowery, the BACC president challenged us to consider what difference Cursillo makes in our Diocese and gave examples of what some Dioceses have been doing. It seems Cursillo is indeed encouraging people to "bloom where they are planted". People are being inspired and given the confidence to take "apostolic action" whether that is in organising Bible Study groups at home, or running groups for children, or arranging opportunities for people to come

together for fellowship over tea and biscuits. There were numerous accounts of people offering themselves for all kinds of ministry in their parishes. Cursillo is indeed making a difference throughout the nation.

We were pleased to welcome Oxford to the Ultreya as they are celebrating their first weekend and first year in being. We also welcomed





Sheffield, or at least members of their steering group, as their first weekend begins on 29th September.

There was a stunning walk of witness through the city, colourful banners carried high, along with balloons in all the colours of the rainbow; and during our walk, we attracted even more attention by singing as loudly as possible! It was a great witness to the city, especially when balloons were handed out to youngsters that we passed on the way and then those that were left were released as we reached the cathedral.

It was a time of great celebration. Bishop Lindsay Urwin was our celebrant and preacher and his words both challenged and encouraged us, as well as making us laugh.

It was good that there were five of us there to represent Chester, although Iain Whitlam was there also representing BACC and KAIROS so we couldn't really claim him as solely Chester's!

Next year's National Ultreya is to be at Durham and I hope that we can again provide a presence. It is good to join up with others from around the country and realise that we are a part of something really big that God is doing!

ULTREYA!
Julie Withers, Chester Cursillo



Chichester Centre brought to a standstill by a walking rainbow!

On Saturday 24th September, more than 200 people from the Cursillo Movement gathered in Chichester for their annual conference. Cursillo is active in 33 Dioceses in the UK, and 22 Dioceses were represented on the day, including Scottish Episcopal Cursillo and a representative of Cursillo in New Zealand.



The morning was spent in worship and prayer, and sharing in small groups (an integral part of Cursillo) what God has been doing. After lunch, the delegates gathered behind their Diocesan banners and walked from Orchard Street School to the Cathedral, giving out leaflets explaining what was happening to anyone who asked, and causing much amazement as the walking rainbow of banners, balloons and singing Christians met Bishop Lindsay Urwin, himself a Cursillista and a great encourager of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Chichester, at The Cross. Bishop Lindsay then led us into the Cathedral, where we celebrated a vibrant, colourful Eucharist.

And finally ...

... our sincere thanks to the team from Chichester for making GB Ultreya 2005 such a memorable event. Not only was the planning and all the arrangements first class but you also arranged for wonderful weather which made the stay in the south for the northern contingents even better. But, we now start thinking about next year. As you will have seen or heard we are going to be the guests of Durham in 2006. The date for your diary is September 2nd 2006. We look forward to seeing you there.