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BACC Fill

Don't forget to come to Durham on September 2nd!; if past GB Ultreyas are any guide then it promises to be a great day. Maybe you can do what the Wright family intend, and that is to take advantage of the beautiful Northumberland and Durham countryside and add a mini holiday on to the event. Whatever you do, I look forward to seeing you there.

Please give consideration to the forthcoming Editorial vacancy here at BACC Pages. The next issue will mark the end of my three years in post and it will be time to hand over to a new editor, with fresh ideas. Previous experience of producing newsletters or magazines would be helpful but not essential. You will need a computer and an appropriate desktop publishing package. Apart from that, all you need is the desire to communicate the many great ideas that abound within our movement. It would be great if someone would volunteer before the next issue, when I can show them the ropes. So, what do you think? Could you be sitting in this chair next year? I do hope so.

If you think you can answer Yes!, please contact Jenny to discuss.

Best wishes, Phil Wright

BACC Pages


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

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Wanted



A new Editor for BACC Pages! See Page 24 for more details.

Jenny's Jottings

I wonder what makes your heart 'lift'? William Wordsworth wrote: 'My heart leaps up when I behold a rainbow in the sky' and I guess those of us who have been involved with rainbows and butterflies through Cursillo would recognise this feeling.



My heart leapt up this morning as I was doing my early morning walk; I heard – and saw – a skylark singing away so exuberantly as he climbed higher and higher, before folding his wings and plummeting unerringly to his nest on the ground.

My heart leaps up when I think of us celebrating 25 years of Cursillo in the UK this year; of all the lives touched and changed, of all the Christians becoming aware of how much they are loved, and how Christ is counting on them.

My heart leaps up when I think of the things we are using to celebrate our Silver Jubilee – UltreyaGB on 2nd September, our Cursillo Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November (more about both of these things further on in BACC Pages) and on 5th to 7th May, our Catch the Vision weekend. I am delighted that every single Cursillo diocese will be represented when we meet at Bawtry Hall, near Doncaster. I am excited about the prospect of all of us sharing our highs and lows, our experiences and our hopes as we worship and pray together, and seek God's vision for Cursillo in the next few years.

My heart also leaps up when I think about my last 2 years as your President, and the fact that I have now visited every Diocese. It has been a memorable time for me, and I thank every one of you who has welcomed me to your AGMs, Ultreyas, Clausuras, Days of Deeper Understanding, Secretariat meetings, etc., and offered me hospitality, whether it was a cup of tea on arrival or an overnight stay in your homes. I have been very touched by the care you have given me. I have also been delighted and a little overawed by hearing how God is using all of you in various ways, to 'win the world for Christ'.

So at the beginning of my third and final year, what is in store? Well, a lot will depend on the outcome of Catch the Vision; I want to spend my

Kairos Outside

Imagine this ...

You have been happily married for 13 years and you have a 12 year old son and a 9 year old daughter. Out of the blue, in the space of a few months, your husband is arrested, tried, convicted and sent to prison. Whether your husband is guilty or innocent, you are determined to stick by him.

It's bad enough that he's no longer with you, but the financial problems start to pile up - he lost his job when he was convicted. His case was featured prominently in the local papers and some of your friends won't even speak to you. Your daughter is bullied at school, and your son has become angry and uncooperative, stays out late and shouts at you when you protest. To make matters worse, you can't just pick up the phone and talk to your husband when you need to. He is in a prison right the other side of the country and, because you can't afford to run a car any more, it takes all day by train and bus to go and visit him. When you do talk to him, he's depressed and uncommunicative, certainly in no state to give you the support you need. He's got enough problems of his own and he needs *your* support. His mother is devastated by what's happened and she needs your help too.

You get to the stage when you feel totally alone, with no one to talk to. That's where the Kairos Outside ministry can help. Kairos Outside runs weekends along the lines of Cursillo, Kairos (inside prison) etc., but especially designed to provide a safe place for women with a relative or friend in prison to talk and share what they are going through. Once they come to Kairos Outside, they will never be alone again. They join a supportive loving community, with someone to call on at any time.

KO weekends have been running in Dorset and the South West since 1998. The next one is in Gloucestershire in October, and now the ministry is getting up and running in the South East, with the first SE weekend in May 2007. We need fund-raisers, team members for weekends, and people willing to give love and support to women in need before and after their weekend. Above all, we need your prayers. Is this a ministry you feel called to join?

Website: information@kairosoutside.org.uk

Cursillistas in the Bristol diocese each offering a unique contribution to mission shaped church – their local church.

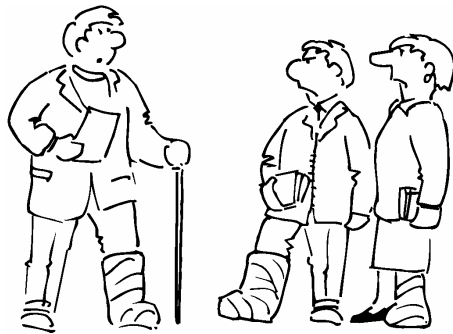
Living and sharing our faith through what we do. Emphasis on Apostolic Action makes Cursillo a dynamic force in winning the world for Christ.

In forming an enabling framework for a mission shaped church, Cursillo has much to offer. Cursillistas have been privileged to witness many Christians renewed with joy, love, enthusiasm and faith after attending a Cursillo weekend. These new Cursillistas represent the 'new seeds' of a planted church, nurtured by meeting regularly in small groups. Cursillo offers new levers for a clearer view of mission shaped church in its simple yet strong approach based on closeness to God, study and action. The call of Jesus to leadership is a key message of Cursillo and we learn that this is achieved naturally by using our human and God enhanced qualities. A mission shaped church will best be developed within the framework of the Diocesan and Deanery network. Cursillo can be used as a key tool to facilitate this development. Cursillo acknowledges an increasing responsibility of the laity in fulfilling God's kingdom against the background of spiritual direction and guidance by the clergy.

Cursillo is well aligned to mission shaped church, helping to form an excellent pathway towards this new vision.

We have recently completed a successful fourth weekend at Glastonbury and are now planning Bristol 5 from June 15th - 18th 2006 at the same venue.

Geoff Wheeler, Carolyn Waters and Richard Hovey



**OK - New strategy, this time we
won't put our foot in the door**

last year laying the foundations of whatever comes from that weekend. I also want to spend time with the Dioceses who are on the verge of, or considering, introducing Cursillo – Peterborough, Cornwall and Manchester come to mind; making sure the gifting process is put in place properly and working towards establishing Cursillo authentically, so that it is seen as what we all know it to be - an effective tool of the church.

Plenty there to 'lift the heart' I would say – wouldn't you?

ULTREYA!

Dominic's Deliberations



I want to ask you a question - in fact, I want to ask you two questions! The first is, "Where do you find a cursillista?", and the second is, "What do you find a cursillista doing?" If you want, you can start to answer these questions by talking in technical terms - you can talk about things that are 'authentic', and which have to do with our 'method'. You could tell me that you would find a cursillista in a 'group', and that they would be having a 'reunion' - and, indeed, there's nothing wrong with that answer, as far as it goes.

But there is, I believe, a deeper answer - a radical and shockingly deeper answer. And it is one for which I am indebted to Archbishop Rowan for helping me understand. In a recent address to the World Council of Churches, our remarkably profound archbishop was talking about the identify of Christians, and his words have been haunting me ever since I read them:

As Christians spell out, bit by bit, what is the meaning of the name they use of themselves, they put themselves on the map of human history...it can be put most forcefully, even shockingly, if we say that Christians identify themselves not only as servants of the anointed king **but as Christ**. Their place in the world **is his place**. By allowing themselves to be caught up into his witness and doing what his authority makes possible for them, in work and worship, they stand where he stands.

The claim of Christian belief is not first and foremost that it offers the only accurate system of thought, as against all other competitors; it is that, by standing in the place of Christ, it is possible to live in such intimacy with God that no fear or failure can ever break God's commitment to us, and to live in such a degree of mutual gift and understanding that no human conflict or division need bring us to uncontrollable violence and mutual damage.*

We are all, I suspect, familiar with the well known prayer of Teresa of Avila, that begins "Christ has no body now on earth but yours...", and there are many times when I have uttered its well known words piously and devoutly. The way in which Archbishop Rowan develops the sentiments of that prayer, however, are, I think, in the language of challenge - which is just as it should be.

And if there is a challenge there to Christians, then it follows very clearly, that there is a challenge to cursillistas. For if you turn to the back page of this magazine, you will be reminded again (should you need such reminding) that Cursillo is about *empowering Christians...to share God's love with everyone*. And the only real way to do that, of course, is to be Christ-like in all our doing and our being.

Even the most superficial reading of the gospels shows us that Jesus was a man of piety, of study, and of action. His own prayer life and his relationship with the Father remain paramount throughout the gospel narratives. When he teaches in synagogues, we are told he teaches 'with authority' and not like the scribes, and there are several instances where he joins with the pharisees in head-on debate of the scriptures - and always comes out on top. And his words, of course, are matched, if not surpassed by his deeds. It is therefore only being mildly flippant to say that Jesus was the ultimate cursillista, and that he certainly stood where we claim to stand in Cursillo. The question is, do we have the courage to stand where he stood and do what he would have us do?

Dominic

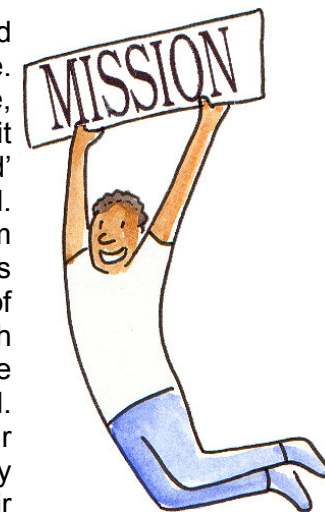
*The full text is available at www.archbishopofcanterbury.org under Sermons, Speeches & Papers.

PS I do hope you are still thinking of joining Jenny and me and (at the time of writing) about 30 other Cursillistas on our pilgrimage to the

winning the world for Christ. This article considers the areas of fresh expressions, values, 'marks' and an enabling framework – all prominent in the report

In fresh expressions of Church, the report stresses the importance of small groups in the future of mission and discipleship. This is in line with the primary objective of Cursillo whereby each Cursillista (anyone who has completed a Cursillo weekend) is a member of such a group within his or her community. Groups meet regularly for mutual support, prayer and encouragement in carrying out the more action focused aspects of Christianity. Winning the world for Christ can be challenging, and all of us sometimes need to experience God's love and affirmation through others. In the report, fresh expression also involves connecting with a diverse range of community organizations. By studying social, economic, work, leisure and spiritual environments within communities, Cursillistas have the opportunity to plan an appropriate approach to evangelism that takes account of organisational and personal needs.

Turning to the values, for a mission shaped church, the similarities with Cursillo continue. Cursillo is focused on God the Trinity where, through prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit within each us is recognized as the 'springboard' for enabling the Kingdom of God to be fulfilled. We have an expression in Cursillo, 'Bloom where you're planted' whereby Cursillistas achieve their mission according to the culture of their communities. Like mission shaped church we can adapt our missionary style to those we are nurturing. Cursillo is truly transformational. By examining our relationship with God via our relationship with Jesus, Cursillo equips ordinary Christians to confidently transform their environments to be more Christ-like.



The 'marks' of a mission shaped church are listed as oneness, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Cursillo acknowledges these as

- Identifying and using our spiritual gifts to form a synergistic 'oneness' in fulfilling God's kingdom.
- Recognising our holiness through Jesus'assertion 'You did not choose me, I chose you'
- Including all people wherever or whoever they are. We have over 50

not hold the session at that time, but help with the problem and reconvene the Group Reunion later. Keep group sizes to no more than three people and be prepared to split them up as they grow. Do not hesitate to include other Christians in your Group Reunions, who are not Cursillistas. Cursillo is not secret.

It gave us insights into different ways to run Ultreya's, it recommends as an example in the round, not necessarily in a church, but maybe a church hall, sat round in a large circle; building rows of two or three circles if required, but everyone facing each other, with the SD in a separate room to give spiritual guidance to individuals. It is not necessary for an SD to give the reply to a talk. It can be given by anyone. *(NB There should be both lay and gospel responses to the action talk. The gospel response is usually given by a member of the clergy - Leadership Development)*

As you may have gathered it all helps to create ways of giving close support to each other in faith. To invoke the strength of the Holy Trinity to help us in these greatly troubled times, by following the original founders way, and being more closely together in groups rather than just individuals. It was a very uplifting weekend and it certainly has helped me to understand myself, and use all I had learned. If you get the chance gratefully accept it. The experience is a gift from God through His people.

Peter Crookes Wakefield #18

Is Cursillo Mission Shaped?



The short answer is 'Yes' because Cursillo involves spiritual renewal and equipping Christians more fully to engage in mission within their local communities.

In its report, Mission Shaped Church, the Church of England rightly recognises the need for change in the ways it deals with mission and evangelism in an increasingly fragmented and consumer oriented society. However, many elements of such a new methodology already exist and are practiced by those Christians who have experienced the Cursillo approach to

Holy Land in November. Not only will this allow you to walk where Jesus walked, but you will meet some remarkable Christians who try and stand where Jesus stood, offering remarkable ministries of service and reconciliation in a land both holy and conflicted. If you are tempted to book, but are worried by security issues – **please do not be**. By the time you read this article, I will have visited Jerusalem and Bethlehem three times since January, including very recently after the sorry incident in Jericho in March, and I would want to say emphatically that you need have no concerns at all about making this journey. You will be both safe, and deeply and warmly welcomed to the Land of the Holy One.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jimmie Jantz'.

BACC Chat

A letter from the President of Catholic Cursillo



One of the joys of being a grandparent is the opportunity to visit places one would not attend if one had no grandchildren.

Recently I went to the cinema with my wife and 2 of our grandchildren to see that wonderful film "The Chronicles of Narnia" For those of you that haven't seen the film it opens during a Second World War air raid and later the children are evacuated from the City to the Countryside.

This brought back memories for me as during the early 40's we were in Plymouth and I recall going down to the Anderson shelter complete with gas mask and on another occasion being under the stairs with my Auntie.

My father was a serving soldier so we saw little of him and in 1943 my brother and I were evacuated to Cornwall. In 1948 we travelled to Germany where we remained for 7 years whilst my father remained stationed there.

On arrival in Germany I saw many refugees who were in "Displaced Persons" camps all having that lost, vacant look we have seen recently on our television in Bosnia and Kosova,

Does mankind ever learn? Throughout history there have been few years free of war and that tiny word EGO is at the heart of it all. Some say the world would be a better place if it was run by women. However, Catherine the Great, Elizabeth the 1st, Gelda Meier and Margaret Thatcher all had a ruthless side to them.

The answer to our problems is really very simple - the example set by Our Lord Jesus Christ when he said, "Love one another as I have loved you".

The problem is that people think they know better and continue to make the same mistakes over and over again. If we abided by God's word life would indeed be Heaven on Earth.

I now have the honour of becoming National President for Roman Catholic Cursillo, replacing that wonderful caring lady, Mary Peters. I look forward to the challenge. In Cursillo I have found such mutual love and compassion. In my area I look forward to meeting our Anglican friends from Sheffield at our respective Ultreyas and what a joy it is to share with one another. There is a great deal of talk about church unity and in recent years there seems to be more action. What is important is that we share what is a common to us, namely our love of Christ and fellow beings; we respect each other's form of worship and differences where they exist and move forward together.

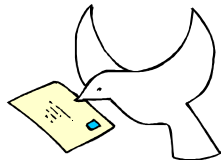
I find it heartening that the Alpha Course, started in the Anglican churches, is now being adopted in some Catholic dioceses. Likewise the Cursillo movement started in Catholicism and is now very successfully adopted by Anglicans, Methodists and others.

"The Chronicles of Narnia" concluded with good conquering evil and by working in peace and harmony we shall overcome all the nasty facets of our modern world.

Finally I hope you had a joyous Easter and I pray that the remainder of 2006 will be a happy time

God bless

Terry Mortimer



My visit to a Cursillo Leaders Workshop

Imagine a beautiful old house, in the Lake District, in the heart of the Cumbrian countryside. Couple this with a magnificent view that took in woods and fields and a distant view of Windermere. Then add my room mate Stuart Mallin from Carlisle, who is simply a very committed Christian and now a really firm friend. That was my introduction to C.L.W. as it is known, run by BACC.



What a place to study the way of Cursillo, The way laid out in 1940 by the Spanish founders of the movement. This is the way that is taught at Cursillo weekends. Here I was introducing myself as the Communications Co-ordinator for Wakefield Anglican Cursillo, a leader trying to fulfil the promises I had made at my weekend, and I realised "Jesus really was counting on me".

During the too short time I was there at Rydal Hall, I was privileged to speak with some wonderful people. There were four of us from Wakefield and two from Sheffield Diocese to whom Wakefield are 'gifting' Cursillo in September/October this year.

The emphasis was on the command of Jesus to 'Go out into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole of creation.' It also showed us ways to make dreadful mistakes and how to try and avoid them particularly in sponsoring for Cursillo Pilgrims.

The weekend gave us a great deal of help in how to live our lives the Cursillo way based on the foundation of Piety, Study and Action. It placed a lot of emphasis on 'Group Reunions' to help us to pass on to each other our practical and spiritual experiences. This in turn would bring ways of building our faith in God and our love for God and one another. The message was to have group reunions every week, keep them to one hour long, no more, no less. Discuss all three topics of Piety, Study and Action, do not split them, All three topics are equally important in one session. If one of the group has a problem, then the group should

Ultreya GB

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Durham

2nd September 2006



BACC Resource Manual Contents

Complete Resource Manual	£20.00	
BACC Constitution and Licensing Agreement	10p	
BACC Publications and Style	10p	
Apostolic Message and Team Foundation	£ 1.00	
Authentic Three Day Weekend	£ 1.00	NEW!
Cursillo Workshops inc Clergy Taster days	£ 1.00	
Day of Deeper Understanding	£ 1.00	
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Cursillo Crucifix (Christ is counting on you)	£3	
Cursillo Car sticker	60p	NEW!
Rule of Life cards	£3.50 per 100, £2 per 50 or 5p ea	
Floating Reunion cards	10p each	
Threefold colour leaflet (reprinted)	£5 per 100	
A5 colour poster	£1 per 5	
Suggestions on Developing & Using a Rule of Life	1 copy free, then 10p	

BACC Supplies Officer
Elenor Paul

resources@ukcursillo.org

by praying about the situations, sharing sincerely with one another, and being prepared to step out bravely with Christ as your guide, problems will be overcome.

It is possible that in the years following your Cursillo weekend you will be part of several Group Reunions. You may even find that at times you are part of two at the same time, just to help people along. However many groups you will be part of, be assured that the Christian friendships that you formed in each one will remain, there will always be something special between such friends, His name is Christ.

BACC Light

A priest, a Pentecostal preacher and a Rabbi all served as chaplains to the students of Northern Michigan University in Marquette. They would get together two or three times a week for coffee and to talk shop. One day, someone made the comment that preaching to people isn't really all that hard. A real challenge would be to preach to a bear.

One thing led to another and they decided to do an experiment. They would all go out into the woods, find a bear, preach to it, and attempt to convert it.

Seven days later, they're all together to discuss their experiences. Father Flannery, who has his arm in a sling, is on crutches, and has various bandages, goes first.

"Well," he says, "I went into the woods to find me a bear. And when I found him I began to read to him from the Catechism. Well, that bear wanted nothing to do with me and began to slap me around. So I quickly grabbed my holy water, sprinkled him and, Holy Mary Mother of God, he became as gentle a lamb. The bishop is coming out next week to give him first communion and confirmation."

Reverend Billy Bob spoke next. He was in a wheelchair, with an arm and both legs in casts, and an IV drip. In his best fire and brimstone oratory he claimed, "WELL brothers, you KNOW that we don't sprinkle! I went out and I FOUND me a bear. And then I began to read to my bear from God's HOLY WORD! But that bear wanted nothing to do with me. So I took HOLD of him and we began to wrestle. We wrestled down one hill, UP another and DOWN another until we came to a creek. So I quick DUNKED him and BAPTIZED his hairy soul. And just like you said, he became as gentle as a lamb. We spent the rest of the week in Fellowship, feasting on God's Holy Word, and praising Jesus."

They both looked down at the rabbi, who was lying in a hospital bed. He was in a body cast and traction with IV's and monitors running in and out of him. He was in bad shape. The rabbi looks up and says, "Looking back on it, circumcision may not have been the best way to start."

Full Page Ad goes here

on Christ in our lives, and not evolve into a discussion group.

It is not always easy to form and maintain a Group Reunion. There can be all sorts of **difficulties**. Perhaps one of the most commonly occurring, especially in a “new” Cursillo diocese, is the fact that there may not be any Cursillistas nearby. The first groups were actually formed (by the founders of Cursillo) before a Cursillo Weekend was held!

A Group does not have to comprise solely of people who have attended a Weekend, it needs only one Cursillista to start a Group Reunion by inviting some friends to come and join in. There need be no mention of Cursillo, or even the production of the card, but just the willingness to find out more about our Christianity and the world Church. The format of the card should be followed (with or without producing it) to help make the group succeed. By inviting friends to share it is possible that some of them may want to experience the Cursillo Weekend, and will then go on to make groups of their own, but this is not the aim of the Group.



Another problem that can occur is the group may become so popular that it grows too large. If it has grown because people really want to grow in Christ and work for Him, then the members should recognise the problem and be prepared to split the group. The first thing that the group should do, having recognised the problem, is to pray for God’s guidance. This is not just group prayer, but individual prayer: people searching for what God wants them to do. Am I one of those who needs to start the new group? Could I help to lead and encourage the new group? Do I need to stay and keep the original group going? Or even should I help both groups to begin with? If members of the group sincerely wish the Group Reunions to be successful in encouraging each other then answers to prayer will come. Splitting groups is not easy, feelings can be hurt, but close friendships can remain. Making new groups is how we should grow and encourage one another.

Sometimes members of the group can realise that they are incompatible despite the fact that they know that this is not a Christian attitude. Although the situation maybe distressing they should recognise that for the good of the group they perhaps need to find groups where they will fit in better. On the positive side two new groups could be formed!

As can be seen, Group Reunions are not always without problems, but

BACC Pilgrimage Another step along the way

The climax to our Silver Jubilee celebrations this year will be our Cursillo Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 20th to 29th November, so I was invited to join Dominic and Paul on a Leader’s Familiarisation Tour in January. I found myself one of 33 pilgrims, of whom only eight weren’t ordained.

My only previous visit had been as a one-year-old Christian some 19 years before, so I was prepared for some changes.....just as well!

Someone had said to me before I left: ‘tourists are people who go through places, but pilgrims are people who allow places to go through them’. Sound and true words, I found, as I stood on the top of Mount Nebo beside the spectacular cross with the intertwined serpent, peering through the mist at what would have been a superb view.

The first thing that touched me was the singing – ours I mean! We were given ‘service sheets’ at every holy place we visited, and the music was set in 4-part harmony. We were fortunate to have some wonderful singers among us, so the sound wafting up to heaven was simply glorious. (Of course, knowing how Cursillistas love to sing and praise God, I’m expecting our worship in November to be even more glorious!).

Our pilgrimage took us through all the special places – Nazareth, Bethlehem, Bethany, Jerusalem, the Jordan River – but for me the most special place was Galilee. Perhaps it was because we had some warm, sunny days (among the cold, rain-sodden ones elsewhere), or maybe it was the unchanging nature of Galilee itself, with its rolling hills and beautiful views, or maybe just the overwhelming sense of peace.....it was easy to sit by the lake and picture Jesus walking by, summoning us with the words ‘come and follow me’.

Then there is the other major ingredient – the people and the fellowship. Finding yourself walking along in step with someone you didn’t know a couple of days before, and being able to share things about your faith, sometimes at a deep level, was something I will treasure.

One of the things I am most pleased about is the way that Dominic and

Paul build into the pilgrimage time to spend with our fellow Christians living in the Holy Land – the ‘living stones’; it was sometimes heartbreaking to hear their stories, but the opportunity to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them, albeit for a very short time, was to plant something in my heart that will not go away. We are exhorted in Scripture to ‘pray for the peace of Jerusalem’ – surely more so today than ever.

Walking in the steps of our Saviour can be a life-changing experience; as I write – in the middle of Holy Week – I know that entering into Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection through the Triduum will be a more profound experience for me this year.

I urge you please, if you haven’t already sent in your application, do it soon – I can promise you a time you will never forget!

Yours in Christ, Terry.

Cursillo Leaders Workshops 2006/7

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

Lay people and clergy welcome.

Fri 4th - Sun 6th August

Offa House, Nr Leamington Spa, Warwickshire

23rd—25th March 2007

Wyhcroft (Nr Bletchingley, Surrey)

22nd-24th June 2007

Offa House (Nr Leamington Spa, Warwicks)

20th—22nd July 2007

Kinnoull (Perth, Scotland)

Application forms and further details from:

Jean Whitton

E mail:

Group Reunion

The Group Reunion is a great strength to us in our Christian life: it focuses our attention on Christ Himself as an example of how we should live

The Group Reunion card preserves the word **Piety** for us because it is so wide-ranging in its meaning. The quotation that appears in the heading, from John 15 v.5 “*Those who abide in Me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from Me you can do nothing,*” encourages us to live in Christ in as many ways as we can in order to grow spiritually and to do His work.

The **Study** section not only helps us to share invaluable insights of God’s ways and His Grace through our Bible study, but challenges us to study the places in which we live, work and play to see how we might influence them.

The Christian aspect of how we act is examined in the **Action** section. Some weeks we may take great leaps forward in helping others to recognise the love that Christ has for them. Other times we see our efforts wasted (or are they? We may sow seed, but not see it grow!)

Guidelines tell us that the group should be few in number, four to six at the most. Why is this? A small number helps to nurture intimacy and with that confidence with one another, in order that lives may be shared. A small number also means that with discipline the meeting should not take very long. This is important as some people may not have a lot of time to spare, in fact some Cursillistas meet at lunch times, or even breakfast times to ensure that Group Reunion can happen!

When we are working for Christ we often find that time is short, and yet the encouragement that we get from the Group Reunion is so important that we should not make excuses for not meeting. This is another reason why the group should be kept small, the more people there are in it, the more difficult it is to maintain a regular meeting, AND Group Reunions should be weekly to be really beneficial, fortnightly at the longest.

The guidelines also tell us that we should take it in turn to “lead” and that we should make sure that every one has an opportunity to contribute. Members should also feel comfortable to “pass” if necessary. It is a good idea to prepare for Group Reunion before the meeting, thinking about what you might contribute. In this way the Reunion can remain focused

AGM

Fifty Nine people attended the 2006 AGM, representing 29 English & Welsh diocese and the Scottish Province. Apologies were received from a further 27 people.

It was planned to elect our next President (Elect) to shadow Jenny and assume the Presidency in 2007. However, no nominations were presented and so National Spiritual Director Dominic Barrington proposed that, without creating any precedent, that Jenny be appointed to serve until 2009. This was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

This means that Jenny's successor will be nominated and elected in 2008 to begin their term of office in 2009. This would ensure that the posts of President and National SD do not fall vacant at the same time.



Iain Whitlam came to the end of his (extended) tenure as BACC Secretary. The AGM elected Lyn Radcliffe (left) from Cumbria to serve in this capacity for the next 3 years. Lyn will take over effectively from June 23rd this year.

A number of Standing Committee members retired at the AGM. Eddie Chambers, Sonya Davidson, Barry Ranger and Jean Whitton were all warmly thanked for their stalwart efforts and service over the years.



Five new Standing Committee members were elected, bringing the group back up to full strength. Please welcome and give your support to Revd Paul Kennington (Southwark), Nancy Croft (Worcester), Liz Chester (Sheffield), Beryl Rennie (Blackburn) and Lynn Short (Leicester).



Catch the Vision

This was a weekend of worship, prayer and fellowship for the Silver Jubilee of Cursillo in the UK, held between 5 – 7th May 2006.



The photo shows the delegates gathered on the steps of Bawtry House, near Doncaster on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Two of the attendees, Chris Hoppett & Helen Pye-Beraet made the journey north from London and here is their view of the weekend..

Friday saw our Lay Director (Chris) and Pre-Cursillo Representative (Helen) setting off for a succession of parking opportunities at roadworks on the A1! We finally arrived, 6 hours later, at Bawtry Hall, a very large and impressive building, once owned by the RAF but now a Christian centre. It took some time, however, to discover that the entrance to the grounds was through a building site.

After a warm welcome from BACC President, Jenny Lowery, settling in and dinner, the weekend got off to an inspiring start with a talk by Bishop Jack of Sheffield, well-peppered with amusing anecdotes. We may tell you sometime why the Church of England is like an old lady on a bicycle!

After Compline our time was our own and a few retired to bed....

Saturday started with Morning Prayer, breakfast was followed by Group Reunions and many groups escaped to the glorious gardens in the warm sunshine.

Next there was a choice of workshops: "Ministry in the Power of the Spirit", "Cursillo and Happening", "The Servant Community" and "Authentic Cursillo". Helen attended "Cursillo and Happening". Happening is Cursillo for those aged 15-21 and currently "happens" in 4 Dioceses.

Chris went to the "Authentic Cursillo" workshop. Dominic Barrington, National Spiritual Director told us some interesting facts about the start and growth of Cursillo. These can be found on www.cursillo.ca/en/histoire.htm.

We then discussed what "authentic" Cursillo really means. We decided that if it speaks of God's love, empowers Christians to live out a vocation of piety, study and action and builds up the church then it is authentic Cursillo. If it is divisive, concerned with our own method, disconnected from the vocation of the baptised or breaks down the church then it is not authentic Cursillo.

An interesting sharing then ensued on items like timing & quantities of Palanca, external v internal Wake Up - or none at all as we do in London. It was extremely interesting to hear the views and practices of other Dioceses.

The afternoon focus was on the AGM. It was time to appoint Jenny's successor so that she could be shadowed for a year, but, as there were no eager volunteers, we are delighted to announce that Jenny has agreed to remain in office until 2009. The AGM ended with a message arriving with the happy news that Jenny had a little granddaughter, Bethan Louise, born just one hour earlier.

After a joyful Eucharist there was free time in which to visit Bawtry or walk round the gardens admiring the rhododendrons and chatting to friends, new and old. Later, after dinner, we met together for Celtic Evening Prayer, led by Cumbria SD, Rev'd Jean Radley, a peaceful and prayerful time.

On Sunday, the impeccable organisation failed slightly as it started raining for the 2 x 2 walk, which was scheduled to follow Celtic Morning Prayer and breakfast. Some braved the elements while others walked

the house!. We were asked to discuss: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

A Plenary followed: "What have we learned and where do we go from here?" Some dioceses are victims of their own success. The purpose of Cursillo is to encourage Christians to seek Christ's will for them in their lives, which often results in the call to a variety of ministries, leaving few people to take on roles in Cursillo. Prayers are asked for Gloucester, Salisbury, Worcester, Bristol, Lichfield, Derby and Southwark and also for Sheffield and Oxford our newest dioceses. Please join the prayer.

Another uplifting Eucharist ended with a "Thine be the glory" to lift the roof - and unaccompanied, too. We certainly can sing in Cursillo! Then lunch and good-bye hugs. Luckily parking was no longer mandatory on the A1 so we arrived home in less than 3 hours.

This weekend was organised to celebrate the first 25 years of Cursillo in the UK but it was such a brilliant success that it is very likely the next one will happen before 25 months have passed.

Chris & Helen have painted a picture of a busy weekend. There were four workshops held, and each was equally well attended.

Authentic Cursillo : as described by Chris

Happening : Ian Whitlam spoke about the growth of the movement aimed at younger Christians and the need for members of the Cursillo movement to support Happening whilst maintaining their separate and unique identity.

Servant Community : Phil Wright spoke about the importance and value of a well established servant community within a cursillo diocese. Drawing on the experience of Wakefield, Phil explained how a servant community can be set up, the various roles and the benefits that are gained.

Ministry in the power of the Spirit : Jean Radley also had a group of a dozen people at her workshop.

Everyone agreed that the whole weekend was very worthwhile and at the close, everyone though we should repeat this on a regular if not annual basis. How better to spend a weekend than in the company of our brothers and sisters in Cursillo?