

CURSILLO IN THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Secretariat Members (including Trustees *)

Natalie Clairmont	Lay Director *
The Revd. Michael Bolley	Spiritual Director *
Ian Woodhouse	Treasurer *
Emma Kimsey	Secretary * (until 20 January 2024)
	20 January onwards - position vacant
Deidre Davis	4 th Day Convenor
Sue Cobb	Publicity & Communications
Paula James	Prayer Co-ordinator
Helen Pye-Beraet	Weekend rep and Safeguarding
Pat Beazley	BACC representative (from February 2024)

Registered Charity No. 1082984

Principal Address 15 Kesteven Close
Hainault IG6 3EP

Governing Document Constitution dated 9 October 1999

Objects of the Charity The objects of Cursillo in the Diocese of London ('the Objects'), are to advance religion in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the Diocese of London and specifically to renew Anglican Christians in their Christian commitment and to develop the practice of Christian principles in their everyday life so as to help others discover and achieve a Christian way of life, by various means including the provision of short religious education courses.

Independent Examiner Helen Hall ACCA

Bankers CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling ME19 4JQ

Review of Activities and Achievements

Membership:

On 30 June 2024, there were 123 “active” Cursillistas on the database; this includes 6 stalwarts who no longer live in London. There are 15 clergy included in this number of which 2 no longer live in London.

Secretariat:

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2024, the secretariat held two formal meetings and eight Cursillo Leadership Community (CLC) meetings to study, plan, pray and fellowship together. Topics explored have included the importance of Group Reunion, carrying out a “SWOT analysis” on Cursillo in the Diocese of London and reflections on how far we have come 10 years after Rev. Hugh Burgess' "Future of Cursillo" talk. Again this year we thank Rev. Stuart Melchor for hosting us at St Michael, Tokyngton each month. After the AGM on 20 January 2024, there were 3 vacancies on the Secretariat: Secretary, Pre-Cursillo rep, and BACC rep, the latter being filled in February 2024.

Ultreyas:

Two Ultreyas were held, one in person following the AGM in January 2024 and the other by Zoom on Saturday 2 March 2024. It should be noted that we could not hold as many Ultreyas as in previous years due mainly to Fr Michael's time away to recover from his surgery and, as he had to wait for a PtO following his retirement from stipendiary ministry. Thanks to Dee Davis, the Fourth Day Convenor, for her continued steadfast efforts, and to those who have performed the role of Ultreya Lay Rector or who have encouraged and inspired us with their lay witness talks.

Ultreya GB hosted by Canterbury and Rochester dioceses took place in Rochester on Saturday 2 September 2023. There were train strikes on the day which prevented some Cursillistas from attending but those who were able to make it reported that it was a wonderful day.

Weekends:

None held.

Prayer Group:

Paula James continues to co-ordinate the Prayer Team, securely emailing confidential & other prayer requests from London Cursillistas & for prayer support for Cursillo meetings. We thank the dedicated prayer team for their rapid responses to Prayer Requests.

We thank Mary Beckles for receiving and responding to UK & overseas Palanca requests for prayer support for their weekends, by emailing London Cursillo Palanca posters to them.

We are also grateful to Mhairi Ellis for including us in the London diocesan [“Circle of Prayer”](#).

Publicity and Communications:

Our London Cursillo website www.londoncursillo.org.uk has continued to be hosted by Beachshore. Maintaining and refreshing the website requires a significant amount of time.

Sue Cobb, as Communication and Publicity rep, has this year focused on improving our communication in other forms, with the quality of our email messages and newsletters taking priority. However, the website remains a project that we do want to pick up and if anyone has any expertise or knows someone who might want to assist, it would be fantastic to have their help.

Two newsletters have been produced in July 2023 and December 2023, with copies emailed to Cursillistas, senior clergy in the diocese, BACC and local Lay Directors. Thanks to Sue for her creativity in designing and editing these and for distributing all communications, a task previously carried out by the Secretary of which the position is now vacant.

Greater London Area Cursillo: (London, St Albans, Southwark, and Chelmsford)

Fr. Michael Bolley is the area rep and has been active in seeking to strengthen the relationship between the different dioceses with a view to perhaps pool resources in the future. He has been sent some invitations to attend Ultreyas and Clausuras. Members of the Southwark secretariat have been particularly communicative and have expressed an interest in attending our CLC meetings on occasion. At the BACC conference in May, some of us from the different dioceses got together and made plans for a meet-up next year.

British Anglican Cursillo Council (BACC):

The biennial BACC conference took place from the 10 - 12 May 2024 in Swanick, Derbyshire. The theme of the weekend was "how we develop the health of Cursillo, looking inwards, upwards and outwards." Sessions included the sharing of best practices and new ideas for each diocese to consider with opportunities to socialise. Four of us from the secretariat were able to attend some or all of the conference. During the weekend Helen Taubman was also inducted as the new BACC president taking over from Beth Roberts. We are grateful to Pat Beazley for taking on the role of BACC rep in February 2024 and believe this will ensure we continue to have input at a national level.

Financial Review:

The Financial Statement for the year shows: a surplus of £2,971 (2023: deficit of £5,271), giving a balance on Accumulated Fund of £16,948 (2023: £13,977) at 30 June 2024. £2,640 (2023: £2,152) was received from regular giving and other donations.

The Secretariat has a policy to maintain reserves to cover the cost of at least one course including loss through the cancellation of a booked course.

We thank everyone who supports London Cursillo in any way, at Ultreyas, and through annual subscriptions and regular giving.

Extra occasions for thanksgiving:

We have tried to celebrate these as they occur with mentions in our newsletters and occasional extra email circulations. However, we especially note the retirement of Rev. Preb. Rosemia Brown in July 2023, giving thanks for her many years championing the Cursillo movement in London.

Public Benefit:

The contents of this Annual Report comprise a summary of the main activities undertaken in order to carry out the objects of Cursillo for the public benefit. The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

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

ULTREYA!

On behalf of the Secretariat

Natalie Clairmont (Lay Director)