



Summer 2019

Cursillo4London



**Cursillo is a movement of the Church
providing a method by which Christians
are empowered to grow
through prayer, study and action
and enabled to share God's love
with everyone.**

www.londoncursillo.org.uk

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PRAYER

PRAYER: Nourishing and strengthening our union with Christ and drawing us to lives of holiness.

In your mercy and kindness – please pray for:

- ❖ the pilgrims and staff team as they prepare for London Cursillo Weekend #34
- ❖ Sally Prendergast, ordained Deacon in Christ Church Cathedral Oxford on Saturday 29th June, and then will serve her title at St Mary's Church, Wendover
- ❖ Anna Dias, Helen Hutchins and Shana Maloney, all in training for the priesthood
- ❖ National Ultreya in Chester on 31st August 2019
- ❖ Any Cursillistas exploring their vocation
- ❖ The London Cursillo Secretariat (see back cover), and for the new Spiritual Director, the Revd Ken Buckler
- ❖ The Bishop of London, the Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE; for the suffragen bishops, clergy and leaders in the Diocese of London
- ❖ London Cursillistas and their families who are sick, bereaved or suffering in any other way
- ❖ The British Anglican Cursillo Council and the worldwide Cursillo movement
- ❖ Rochester Diocese, with Cursillo being gifted to them by Canterbury, as they build up their capacity
- ❖ Lichfield Diocese, whose Bishop has requested that Cursillo be re-established in the Diocese
- ❖ Preparations for the National Ultreya 2020 hosted by London & Southwark
- ❖ London Group Reunions to flourish
- ❖ London Cursillo to continue empowering and supporting Ambassadors for Christ in London
- ❖ London Cursillistas to consider offering their time and service to the Servant Community and the Secretariat
- ❖ Canon Hall Speers, now Bishop of Mahajanga in Madagascar

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends

London #34	12th -15th September
Peterborough # 13	3rd – 6th October
Norwich #13	10th – 13th October
York #29	17th – 20th October
Chichester #31	17th – 20th October
Durham #28	24th – 27th October
Chester #59	24th – 27th October
Ely #35	24th – 27th October
Coventry #49	24th – 27th October
Blackburn #67	24th – 27th October
Chelmsford #39	25th – 27th October



Please contact Paula, our Prayer Coordinator, (see back page), if you need extra support in prayer, whether for yourself or for special tasks or projects that you are undertaking in your Church.

LONDON CURSILLO PRAYER GROUP



The London Cursillo Prayer Group welcomes confidential prayer requests from individual Cursillistas or Parish Representatives, for those who need extra support for healing, bereavement, or special tasks in their church or the wider community. Our thanks to those who have communicated their or others' needs and also to those churches and Group Reunions who have so willingly responded to helping with the prayer chain & with other projects when asked.

STUDY

STUDY: Deepening our understanding of God's ways or our Christian calling and helping to form our minds after the mind of Christ

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



It seems a long time since the 6th April when Bishop Sarah, Bishop of London, presided over that great Ultreya at All Hallows by the Tower. It was a great privilege to be commissioned by Bishop Sarah. I had a great time and from many of the conversations I have had since so did many of you.

It was a great honour to be asked to become Spiritual Director. Since my Cursillo #27 I have staffed on four weekends and presided at one Clausura. I always enjoy working and supporting different people.

I became a Christian in 1966, I believe something else happened in England that year. I have been involved in the church in various ways since then. As youth leader in various churches, church warden and as a deacon, 1998, then priest, 1999. I've now retired from parish ministry but still continue to work in various ways. I volunteer at a local hospital, chair the board of directors of a Christian academy trust of four primary schools, support a local church and am involved in a patients' group at our GP practice. I always used to laugh at people who, having retired, said they were as busy in retirement as when they were working. I now understand what they meant. That's enough about me.

We now look to the future with our next weekend in September and the 2020 National Ultreya in London. Since being commissioned as Spiritual

Director, and therefore on the secretariat, I have discovered how few Cursillistas are prepared to staff weekends and to volunteer to help with the 2020 National. I would have thought that people would have been coming forward in droves. This is such a great movement of fellowship, prayer and growing in Jesus Christ that we should all be asking what God wants us to do to continue Cursillo in London. When we receive our Cursillo cross, and when I was commissioned, we are told that “God is counting on you” our response is “And I on Him”. If God is counting on us as Cursillistas to continue the work of Cursillo in London we all need to offer ourselves, as staff for weekends, prayer partners, sponsoring pilgrims and helping with 2020 Ultreya.

For those who have never staffed I can assure you that there is training and support leading up to the weekends and a great deal of support during the weekend. In Cursillo the words ‘I can’t’ don’t exist but with the help of God ‘we can’. People often say that they are too busy and not able help, I can understand that but Jesus was never too busy to heal, care and to die for us.

I look forward to the next three of years as Spiritual Director and all that God is going to do for us. I have great hopes for Cursillo in London because I know that Cursillistas in London will pull together to support this great organisation.

God is relying on you and I on Him.
Ultreya!

Ken

Father Ken Buckler
Spiritual Director



CURSILLO WEEKEND #34

Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th September 2019

***We have only one Weekend this year, so keep nurturing
your prospective pilgrims.***

“Make a friend....Be a friend....Bring a friend to Jesus”

For queries about any remaining spaces for pilgrims on this Weekend,
please contact Mrs Emma Kimsey, tel: 01895 634444 email:
ekimsey@me.com

CURSILLO – A RESOURCE FOR THE CHURCH

Cursillo's Fourth Day involves sustaining each other, and offering ourselves as a resource for each other, our parishes, and for the whole church.

This was played out visibly throughout the Ultreya in April, including at our floating group reunion. As we know, group reunions encourage us in our discipleship through our sharing of prayer, study and action.

The Revd Michael Bolley is closely involved in the 'commissioning and equipping Ambassadors for Christ in Daily Life' part of London's Capital Vision 2020. He points out that Cursillo not only commissions and equips, but it also *supports* those ambassadors, partly through group reunions.

Michael has developed a small card with guidelines, based on the group reunion card but framed in CV2020 language (See next page).

We used this new resource at All Hallows by the Tower, and it is being offered to the wider church by Cursillo in the Diocese of London.

HOW TO USE THIS CARD

- ❖ Form small groups of three or four people, to share with one another something of how each of us lives out our Christian discipleship.
- ❖ The aim is to listen to one another and be listened to, so as to encourage one another in our walk with Christ. It is not intended as a discussion group.
- ❖ Allow between 15 and 30 minutes. Take sections 1, 2 and 3 in turn. Each person is given the opportunity to respond to section 1, then each person in turn to respond to section 2, and the same with section 3.
- ❖ If time is very short, the group may choose to focus on one section, or let each person decide for themselves which section to respond to.

1. AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST

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

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

- M1: MODELLING GODLY CHARACTER**
- M2: MAKING GOOD WORK**
- M3: MINISTERING GRACE AND LOVE**
- M4: MOULDING CULTURE**
- M5: BEING A MOUTHPIECE FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE**
- M6: BEING A MESSENGER FOR THE GOSPEL**

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER

A resource offered
for the use of the whole church by
Cursillo in the Diocese of London

"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another."
Hebrews 10.24-25

2. WHAT SUSTAINS YOU

What sustains you as you seek to live faithfully as a disciple and Ambassador of Jesus Christ? *For example:*

- ❖ Regular pattern of prayer
 - ❖ Bible and other spiritual reading
 - ❖ Corporate worship ❖ Holy Communion
- Talk briefly about one recent experience which has fed you spiritually, or through which you felt close to Christ.

3. DEEPENING DISCIPLESHIP

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

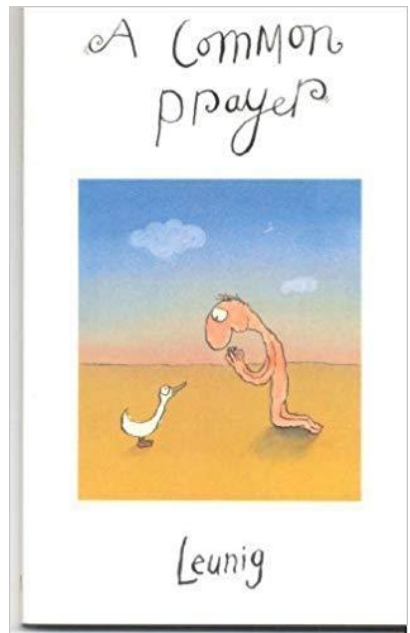
OR Give one example of what are you doing to become a more effective Ambassador for Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

AN AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL TREASURE

I enjoy using Facebook. While I am aware how distracting it can be, it keeps me in touch with friends across the world, and occasionally connects me with treasures I would not otherwise ever have come across. A little while ago I discovered Michael Leunig. Typically referred to as Leunig (his signature on his cartoons), he is an Australian cartoonist, artist, poet and cultural commentator. His best known works include *The Adventures of Vasco Pyjama*. He was declared an Australian Living Treasure by the National Trust of Australia in 1999, and has a tram named after him in Melbourne, and a fossil!



I love his quirky, gentle cartoons, but one of his books that I discovered (also online) is “A Common Prayer” – published in 1991. This is a little book of prayers originally published weekly in a Melbourne Sunday paper. As described in the blurb, “In this book he explores the poetry of the inner life and expresses it through this small, ancient, wonderful, free-form, do-it-yourself ritual of connection, love and transformation: the common prayer.”

If you are wondering about the duck (an image often found in his art and cartoons), as he writes in the introduction: “*The duck... can be seen as a symbol of the human spirit, and in wanting connection with his spirit it is a symbolic picture of a man searching for his soul*” – or indeed, a woman searching for her soul. There is a mystery in each expression of God’s creation.

We are all called to search for that connection with the Divine, but each one of us is unique. While we may not have the skills and imagination of

someone like Michael Leunig - indeed, he may not be your cup of tea at all - he encourages us to find our own symbols and ways of praying.

Where, in the world around you, do you see a sign of the Divine? I open my window when saying my morning prayers, so that I can hear the birds singing – including the cawing of rooks and the squawks of the parakeets – a choir to accompany my prayers! A few weeks ago, I was sitting quietly in Chiswick House Park, on my way home from St. Mary's Convent, listening to the birds singing, when a robin came and sat on the arm of the bench at my elbow, a little scrap of life, a tiny spark of God's creation – a message from the Divine, a sign of my own heart and to my own heart.

Where, in your everyday life, is a prayerful place, what the Celts call a thin place, nearer to the Divine World? – somewhere where you like to sit in your lunch hour – a nearby church, or just a quiet corner of a park or garden?

And finally, how might you express your prayers, creatively? Have you ever thought about writing your prayers in a notebook, or even draw a little sketch? You don't need to show anyone – let alone people across the world! One of Michael Leunig's prayers (also found on his website):

God help us to change.

To change ourselves and to change our world.

To know the need for it. To deal with the pain of it.

To feel the joy of it.

To undertake the journey without understanding the destination.

The art of gentle revolution. Amen.

Brandy Pearson

CONGRATULATIONS!

The next Bishop of Dover is to be the Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, Prebendary Rose Hudson-Wilkin.

Her appointment brings the number of BAME bishops in the C of E to six.



ACTION

ACTION: Working towards transforming the world for Christ, 'living and working to God's praise and glory'.

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

I can hardly believe that as I write, we are almost at the longest day of the year! What a brilliant and joyful day it was at the Ultreya in April, at All Hallows by the Tower. It was a joy and a privilege to have Bishop Sarah Mullally celebrate and preach at the Eucharist. Bishop Sarah also decommissioned Preb Rosemia and gave thanks for her ministry as Spiritual Director for Cursillo in the Diocese of London, and commissioned the Revd Ken Buckler as the new Spiritual Director. Ken introduces himself on page 5.



We were blessed by having so many people contributing and helping on this day, and in the number of visitors who came – some from Southwark and St Alban's Dioceses, and some for whom this was their first Cursillo experience. One person said to me 'I wish I'd heard of Cursillo 20 years ago!'. After the Eucharist the Revd Michael Bolley introduced a new resource for use in the wider church in London (see page 18); Josile Munro gave an interesting witness talk on using the gifts of administration in her discipleship (see page 15); Kay Craigie described in interview format her involvement with a children's pilgrimage as part of her discipleship; the Revd Julia Bevis-Knowles and the Revd Stuart Melchor spoke about the important role Cursillo played in their journey to ordained ministry; and the Revd Ken Buckler reminded us of what Cursillo has done for us, and spoke on ways in which we can give something back.

Grateful thanks go to every single one of you who gave to the Lord on this day and made it such a wonderful celebration.

Preb Rosémia and I had an interesting opportunity in March, where we joined with the Revd Julie Connell (SD) and others from Southwark to present 'Cursillo as a resource' at a study day showcasing various tools for Evangelism and Renewal from the sacramental traditions, run by and for the Society of Catholic Priests.

We are building up the staff team for Weekend #34. It is wonderful when people agree to staff with generosity and enthusiasm – thank you! For those who have not yet staffed on a Weekend, it is a beautiful way to serve the Lord; you get training and all the help you need, and it can be a very enriching time. Please pray for the staff and pilgrims - the prayer sheet will be circulated by the end of July. Contact me if you would like a draft copy to start your palanca early!

Be sure to come and support the new Cursillistas, both at the Clausura on 15th September and at the linked Weekend Ultreya on Saturday 26th October 2019.

On this same day, we hold the 2018-2019 AGM, during which Martin Carr will be succeeding me as Lay Director. I am very grateful to Martin for agreeing to take on this role. He has a wealth of experience in church matters and the spiritual life, and has the vision to increase Cursillo's profile in the Diocese. Add to this his calm and orderly approach to the issues that have come up so far - and I know Cursillo will be in good hands! However, he cannot do this alone, so please come forward when we ask for your help and support.

Have you signed up to go to Chester for the National Ultreya? I urge you to go and experience it, especially if you want to help next year when it will be our turn to host this along with Southwark Diocese. (see page 22)

I give my sincere thanks to Preb Rosémia for her service to Cursillo, bringing many people to weekends and supporting and encouraging all those she came into contact with on Cursillo. I have personally valued working with someone so deeply rooted in the Lord, and I was especially impressed that she never once forgot her own parishioners - even as things

were being thrown her way by me, or the Archdeacon, or parishes in her care during interregnum, maybe the Bishop too – handling it all with great trust in the Lord, and always managing to come up with a big smile too.

Finally, we give thanks and a big welcome for the Revd Ken Buckler as he takes Cursillo forward for the next 3 years. Ken, we offer you our prayers and support.

This comes with love and prayer
Ultreya!

Dee

Deirdre Davis, Lay Director

Did you miss the Ultreya in April?

Thanks to the livestreaming facility at All Hallows by the Tower, you can see the Eucharist in full.

Go to <https://livestream.com/ahbtt> and keep loading until you see London Cursillo logo (as seen on the front cover of this magazine).

**The beauty of the world
is Christ's tender smile for us,
coming through matter.**

Simone Weil

WEEKEND #35
Thursday 28th to Sunday 31st May 2020

Sponsoring a pilgrim takes time. Begin now to spend time with people who may be ready for Cursillo.

“Make a friend....Be a friend....Bring a friend to Jesus”

LAY WITNESS TALKS

**given by Josile Munro,
from United Benefice of Holy Trinity and All Saints.**

Have you ever wondered who assisted Jesus and the disciples in enabling their ministerial visits were well organised and attended? Clearly it was God giving spiritual gifts of administration to others which included many women enabling them to provide finance, administration and help. The gifts of the Spirit are mentioned in Romans 12 and in 1 Corinthians 12. The gift of administration is specifically mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:28

Regarding my life in Christ - both my parents were not in a position to pass on their Christian faith. My father who came from a catholic family became an atheist and my mother who was a lifelong Anglican attempted to join an Anglican church in the 1960s but sadly as with many black people at that time was told to go elsewhere. As I did not attend a church school I got a very limited amount of Christian input in my early life.

However, as we see many times in the bible (not least Paul's conversion in Acts 9, God does call those who may appear to many others lost to him. At 10 years old I had made some friends who were attending Girls Brigade – I attended the club a handful of times. Girls Brigade met at the Methodist Church and I decided at 10yrs I would go to church and Sunday School.

None of my parents or siblings felt called to go. I went every Sunday, my faith started to grow. Despite this, like many, I stopped going in my middle teenage years which I call my wilderness years.

In my early twenties God called me again and this time he also called my mother to return to his church. My mother had found a welcoming Anglican church and I began to attend church with her. My faith continued to grow and I was baptised and confirmed. I had felt called to be a server but could not do so as women (and girls) were not allowed to be servers at that time. However, I became a server when a new vicar was appointed, and 30 years later I still lead on training and managing the servers.

While still in my twenties I joined the PCC and later became a deputy churchwarden. In my 30s I was being called to be a Deanery Lay Chair and a member of General Synod. In these roles I was called on to reflect on the church's mission and how the Church may reach those who do not yet know the Lord as well as supporting its organisation.

As a member of General Synod and the Mission and Public Affairs Council I reflect on what would be the Lord's response to various government policies e.g. limiting payments to two child cap on universal credit, new opt out organ donation pi, the availability of new NHS screen tests which would reduce the numbers of Down's syndrome children, end of life care and other challenges such as modern day slavery, or the discrimination that gypsies and travellers receive, to name a few. The latest issue is about calling on the government to develop a strategy to reduce poverty.

I have worked for three different local authorities, holding roles which have involved applying consumer law whilst advising consumers and businesses. During my employment at each of the boroughs I have been a member of General Synod which has helped me to be very open about being a Christian and to be able to talk to others about it.

I attended London Cursillo weekend #27 which was a fantastic weekend during which I heard 15 talks on different areas of faith and five meditations which have transformed my Christian understanding and deepened my faith. I am still working through all that God's calling me to do following that weekend (our fourth day). I am the corresponding

member for our United Benefice Cursillistas which contain 12 members. As the Cursillo weekend enables Christians to grow I continue to encourage and sponsor others to attend a weekend and receive the gift I received from it.

Cursillo has given me the confidence to be able to talk about my faith in front of you now - this is something I would have run a mile from before becoming a Cursillista. It has enabled me to reflect deeply on Christ whilst undertaking roles on General Synod, Bishop's Council and other administrative leadership roles, remembering that without him I can do nothing. "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." John 15.5. I continue to reflect on the challenge I have been given as a Cursillista in my everyday life on how to make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ by working on my response of love and care for others. Every day I continue to thank the Lord for his love and care and for providing opportunities for me to demonstrate through action my faith as a follower of Christ.

"ULTREYA"

ULTREYA & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting
for the year ending 30th June 2019
will be held on **October 26th 2019**

with an **Ultreya** and a **Eucharist**.
at **All Hallows by the Tower Church**,
close by Tower Hill tube station.

**Meet the new Cursillistas
and give them your support!**

Cursillo in the Diocese of London

Gathering at All Hallows By The Tower Saturday 6th April 2019

Bishop Sarah presided and preached at the Eucharist. We gave thanks for the ministry over the last three years of the Rev'd Preb Rosemia Brown as Spiritual Director of Cursillo in the Diocese of London. Bishop Sarah commissioned Father Ken Buckler as the new Spiritual Director of Cursillo in the Diocese of London. Following the Eucharist an Ultreya (a Cursillo meeting for mutual encouragement in Christian discipleship and ministry) was held, which included:

The Rev'd Michael Bolley (in the photo above) talked about a new resource being offered to the wider church by Cursillo in the Diocese of London, taking the form of a small card with guidelines for sharing together in small groups based on that used in Cursillo, framed in the Capital Vision 2020 language of Ambassadors for Christ in Daily Life.



BishopSarah @bishopSarahM · 21h

Prayer the foundation of action at Cursillo @dioceseoflondon encouraging @Ambassadors2020



1



2



17

CURSILLO LEADERS' WORKSHOPS

'These are open to both ordained and lay Cursillistas who want to know more about Cursillo. They include talks and opportunities for discussion, with worship and fellowship.'

15 to 17 November 2019

at Diocesan Retreat House, Pleshey, Chelmsford CM3 1HA

27 to 29 March 2020

at Shallowford House, Stone ST15 0NZ

Go to www.anglicancursillo.co.uk and click on CLW for more information including application form.

Ultreya Lay Witness Talk – 10 November 2018

Martin Carr

'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth'.

Those are the first, and very familiar, words of the Bible. When I was studying for my Masters degree at King's, I took an introductory course in Hebrew. I wasn't very good.

'I can just about get the first line', I told my tutor. 'God created the heavens and the earth.'

'God created the heavens and the earth!' she exclaimed, 'isn't that amazing!'

When we think about it, it really is. The universe is incredibly beautiful and complex, the result of God's creative activity and the ensuing billions of years of evolution.

'The heavens proclaim the glory of God' says Psalm 19, and many people are drawn to faith by the awe inherent in creation.

During the Enlightenment period, scholars would often refer to the two books which give us knowledge of God – the book of Scripture, the Bible, but also the book of nature.

The cosmic laws were God's signature on the cosmos, simple, elegant, unchanging.

Before anything else – covenants, prophecy, or indeed the life and teachings of Jesus, God's most beautiful gift to the human race was creation. Humans were supposed to live in this paradise, and care for it, as Genesis tells us. Plants were given for food, animals as human companions. We were stewards of all this.

But of course, as soon as Adam and Eve saw that tree, its delicious fruit, and heard the words of a crafty serpent, things went very badly wrong.

On the 8th of October 2018, the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that we have only around 12 years to bring global warming under control. Earth has warmed one degree Celsius on average since the pre-industrial age. The Paris agreement limits warming to only 1.5 degrees above that level, to avoid global environmental catastrophe. A second report, published last week, reveals a 60 percent decline in animal species in the past 40 years.

When I was in South Africa in 2016 we visited Cheetah Outreach, a sanctuary close to Cape Town for the endangered cheetah. Only 1,000 cheetahs exist today in the wild, and those remaining are threatened by habitat loss, changing patterns of agriculture, and human activity. Getting up close to a cheetah reminded me how beautiful nature is, and how much more we need to do to protect it.

So how do we go about protecting God's earth, and preserving it for future generations? There is no shortage of people of faith around the world, but there is a shortage of commitment to take action. We are comfortable in our unsustainable lifestyles, and so change is hard.

So with renewed enthusiasm I have set out to make a difference. As an individual I have cut out meat, and am reducing dairy. At home we've installed energy-efficient lights and appliances, and bought solar panels. As

a preacher, I determined I will try to get at least one environmental theme into most sermons.

I work as the administrator of St Paul's Church in Marylebone.

There is a lot of work to do to the fabric of the church, but if we remember our environmental responsibilities, then as a church, every time we embark on building work, we can shrink our footprint. St Paul's now prints on recycled paper, uses sustainable cleaning products, and reuses its coffee cups rather than throwing them away.

When we needed to put new lighting into the hall, we installed a low-energy LED system.

We are now replacing the roof, and including better insulation, and solar panels.



Here at All Hallows, where I am a lay minister, reducing the environmental impact of a grade 1 building is hard work. But again we are making progress, and have signed up to the EcoChurch scheme, where we assess our environmental impact in four areas – our building, our worship and teaching, our community and global outreach, and our personal lifestyles.

On Harvest Sunday, we celebrated a green communion.

We hope soon to have our bronze EcoChurch award, and then to work upwards to silver and gold.

Through God's Word, Jesus, the universe was created. So in caring for creation I believe I am giving worship to Jesus, who created all things. When gazing at the wonders of nature, Jesus said 'even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these'.

By caring for the earth we express the love of God and Jesus by living simply, gently, in harmony with plant and animal kingdoms rather than at war with them. And so I would urge you, if you haven't already, to consider what you might do to bring God's love to caring for the environment.

Can you make personal choices – a change of diet, reducing car use, recycling more? Can your church become an EcoChurch, and start thinking

about its impact on the world? Might we, as the Cursillo movement, make the environment one of our areas of mission, at our events and in the work done in group reunions.

There is no doubt that we stand at a tipping point – the choices we make as a species in the next decade will determine whether the Earth survives and flourishes, or is stripped of life and beauty. The gospel urges us to be good stewards of God's gifts in creation.

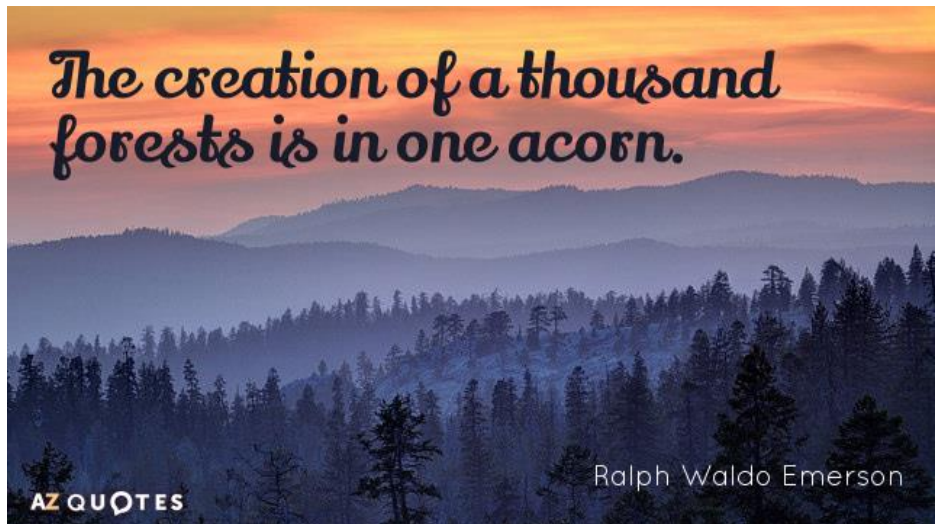
On that first pilgrimage to the tomb of St James at Compostela our predecessors journeyed through a hallowed landscape alive with created beauty.

Being an environmentalist, like being a pilgrim, is hard, as there are setbacks, there will be those who scoff at our endeavours, and sometimes we may be tempted to think that we cannot reach our goal.

Yet we persevere, we press on towards the goal which is the coming of God's kingdom on earth as in heaven, when creation is set free from bondage and decay and liberated into fullness of life.

So let us love God's earth, let us encourage one another in caring for it, and as Christians lead the world to acknowledge and revere the glory of God revealed in our natural world.

Ultreya!



**WELCOME TO ULTREYA GB 2019
in
CHESTER CATHEDRAL**



SATURDAY 31st AUGUST 2019

See BACC website for further information and booking

LAY RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS – CURSILLO #33

Over the years, we have often felt “under attack” when dealing with all the unexpected problems that always seem to beset us as we plan a weekend, but London #33 really takes the prize. The expected pilgrim numbers had not materialised, but we had our minimum – 6 and so we entered the home straight feeling reasonably under control. We had checked that the lift was functioning at Felden Lodge and we were prepared for every contingency.....



48 hours before the start, one Table Leader and one Pilgrim had to pull out!

Frantic phone calls later we had shuffled the remaining staff and, breathing sighs of relief, we carried on packing. The Thursday morning dawned with the news that another Table leader and Pilgrim had to

withdraw and now we really knew what attack was like. It initially seemed to me that I had two options:- Panic, or hide in a corner and suck my thumb! Luckily these feelings were rapidly replaced by several others; anger that we were being attacked so strongly, determination that our remaining pilgrims should have a comparable experience with those who had been on previous weekends and faith that God would be right there with us while we worked for him.

So Thursday morning became a hive of activity and phone calls. A group of Cursillistas were asked to pray; we reshuffled the staff yet again and decided on one table with three Table leaders, and our reserve staff, Dee, didn't get her weekend off after all!



I think it went reasonably well, although we missed the noisy buzz of 3 tables of pilgrims all excitedly discussing ideas or arguing over artwork. We reverted to the original version of Stations of the Cross that we used at the first weekends at St. Katharine's and it worked extremely well despite the much smaller

space. We also reinstated the “Values Clarification” but that was less successful due to the smaller numbers and intense cold outside.

There was, however, one addition to the weekend that we cannot replicate, and I like to feel it was a God-given sign that He had seen our efforts and thought that it was good. We were presented with a truly magnificent sunset on Saturday night.

We just stopped proceedings and gazed in wonder. Whatever the problems we may encounter, God is always in charge.

Ultreya!

Chris Hoppett

Photographs, from the
top: Pilgrims
Spiritual Advisors and
Lay Director
Pilgrims with Table
Leaders
Below: Sunset at Felden
Lodge



PILGRIM COMMENTS - Weekend #33

From Jenny and Adrian Dean:

I had read about the Cursillo movement in the Church Times, but nothing had ever been said about it at my Church, so when Adrian said that he had been asked if he were interested in it by someone at St Martin's, I said why didn't he find out a bit more about it. In 2018 we were free, although we were still a bit in the dark about what happened on a weekend. Our sponsor came round to see us and explained a bit more about it; we were still a bit apprehensive, but decided to "give it a go", especially as we knew and liked the people who had asked us and we knew several of the leaders.

We got lost on our way there, so arrived late and a bit cross, but a glass of sherry on arrival and a warm welcome settled us down and a tasty meal put us at ease. The evening worship set the tone for the weekend, although the thought of an early start and a heavy programme were a bit daunting.

The early morning bell came all too soon, but I enjoyed the pre-breakfast meditation and Eucharist followed by interesting conversations over breakfast. The highlights of the weekend for me were the talks and the worship.

The messages of prayer and support were amazing and kept on coming and I was surprised how many came from people I knew, but hadn't realised were involved in Cursillo. Saturday's evening meal was splendid and the following silent meditation was very worthwhile. Sunday's final service was a surprise for us all and added to the special nature of the final Eucharist.

I shall certainly not forget the weekend – anything that encourages leaders in the Church is good - and feel I learnt much from it.



NATIONAL ULTREYA 2020

to be hosted jointly by London and Southwark,
on **Saturday 5th September 2020**
in Southwark Cathedral.

Plans are under way for the Walk of Witness to start from St Paul's Cathedral, proceed across the Millennium Bridge, along the river bank past The Golden Hind and on to Southwark Cathedral. Prayers please for all the right permissions to be granted!



Don't forget our short, beautifully put together, promotional film about the Cursillo movement in the Church of England. It has a professional look, and features many Cursillistas bearing witness to the power of Cursillo, and the place it could take in the life, witness and ministry of the Church of England.

Let's do our best to encourage all church leaders to watch this little film, and spread our own particular Good News!

Encourage people to watch it on the BACC Website, or on Youtube – just type in the title and there it will be.

Brandy Pearson

NEWS

Please pray for the soul of Olive Powell, Cursillista from All Souls, Harlesden, who died unexpectedly on 19th June, and for her family and friends. Right up until her death she had been in good spirits, out and about visiting friends.

Olive was a Cursillista since before London Cursillo began – she and Ethel Cuff made their Cursillo with Michael and Monica Bolley in North Wales way back in 1982. She has been a faithful servant of Christ and a supporter of Cursillo ever since, often travelling long distances - staffing on Weekends, attending Ultreyas, and supporting pilgrims.

The last time many of us will have seen her was at the Ultreya on 6 April at All Hallows by the Tower. She was warm, friendly and encouraging and will be long remembered with affection.



Olive Powell - 16 April 1945 – 19 June 2019

LONDON CURSILLO LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Secretariat, below, is a committed leadership team from around the Diocese, serving Cursillo in the Diocese.

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