



Lincoln Cursillo
IMP SHEET
Issue #77
February 2014



Lay Director's Report

Some of you will know that our puppy, Zoe, has been having hydro-therapy sessions for two or three months now, because of hip dysplasia. She loves it! The therapist (let's call her "Amy",) gets in the water with her and helps her to use the back leg that she had learnt the art of ignoring. That was due to the pain of her bones rubbing against each other, but in the water it doesn't hurt - it's brilliant! Amy has Zoe stand on a platform in the water while she massages her different muscle-groups, and makes her stand perfectly balanced. Then she throws a toy for Zoe to fetch, and makes her swim properly, with all four legs. The aim is to build up her muscles to try to stabilise the joint while she is still growing. I find the whole business fascinating!

While Zoe is in the water she can sit beautifully on the platform, but on land it still hurts. The water takes her weight, which makes things easier. It reminds me of God's promise to take our weight when we have a problem, like a mother eagle let's her young ride on her back. And like that mother eagle God will swoop down under His children when they need support. We must trust Him and relax in His arms, like Zoe trusts the water to keep her afloat. If she panicked in the water she would start splashing around and do more harm to her leg than ever. In the same way we do more harm than good if we panic and thrash around when we have a problem. Sometimes Zoe anticipates when the toy is going to be thrown and leans forward too soon ready to swim away from the platform. If Amy were to let go of her harness then, Zoe would go head-first into the water and choke! But she never does, because she takes care of her. How much more does God care for us! God is good and will not let His people down.

Personally I am one of the worst for letting anxieties get in the way, and I need constant reminders to "Let go and Let God!" There is much I could worry about concerning Cursillo, not least whether or not we will be able to run #30 this May. However, I do trust God to make His will clear for us. It is God's work we are doing, and we do not have to "go under" by bearing the full weight of it in our own strength.

Ultreya!
Yours in Christ, Liz

BACC Pages

This is available from <http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/bacc-pages.php>. The website has no issues after Summer 2013. Please keep checking to see if this has been up dated.

A NEW COMMANDMENT

John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

How would the Church change if this commandment were to be generally obeyed? Would such a new beginning be welcomed? I have my doubts.

The problem, you see, is that Jesus doesn't say, 'Love one another as you have always loved one another in the past.' He says, 'Love one another just as I have loved you.' This is a very tall order indeed, not least because the love that Jesus showed to his disciples was a (to them) bewilderingly mixed bag of uncompromisingly tough straight-talking, overwhelming compassion, and a quite extraordinary willingness to trust them with powers and tasks that they can't possibly have understood. In other words, the principle of only doing what he saw his Father doing was applied as rigorously by Jesus to individual relationships as to his broader ministry.

How many of us would be ready to abandon items of our personal agenda because the love of God for the person before us demanded it? Would I? Would you? My heart sinks whenever another major issue arises in the life of the Church, not because I don't think we should confront issues, but because there will always be a little bunch of single-issue fanatics at both ends of the argument whose voices are louder and more strident than the saner arguments of those who have put Jesus first in their lives, and are prepared to be wrong if necessary.

The acid test will never change.

Jesus himself appears in the flesh, right in front of me, and says, 'Look, I see what you're getting at, Adrian, but, as it happens, you're wrong.'

My two possible responses are:

'Nevertheless, I think I have to pursue this point—I've thought it through very carefully.'

Or: 'Okay, Lord, you know best, I'll follow you.'

If I find that the first answer is the one I would give, then I have no business commenting on matters of faith and life at all. The business of loving as Jesus loved demands identification with the spirit of personal sacrifice that, in the end, sent him to the cross.

Tough, isn't it?

Prayer

Lord, teach us how to love you and each other. Heal your Church.

From 'When You Walk' by Adrian Plass

David is very busy and is unable to provide his contribution this time. The above item will I hope be a suitable alternative. Ed.

Reflection by Angela Simcox on the November Retreat



Cursillo retreats are always occasions that require much reflection and reaction. This last weekend (1-3rd Nov) no less. What a weekend! What loving fellow pilgrims! What amazing insights given to us by our SD, David. Thank you everyone.

I want to share just one of the many experiences I had. This was during the agape gathering, a Eucharist (Lord's supper) shared early in the second evening when I was feeling comfortable with those around me, knowing they loved the Lord as I do. The 'meal' was enacted with very few words, in such contrast to the standard Sunday service. Words can sometimes get in the way and here they were not needed.

I felt personally torn apart as David tore the loaf - Jesus giving His Body for us. This depth of feeling however didn't prepare me for the shock as the wine (Christ's blood) was poured out for each one of us, full to the brim and overflowing, spilling down the white cloth, not stopping until the whole content of the bottle had been squeezed dry. It hit me, Jesus didn't just spill a small amount of his blood taking some of my sins, He emptied Himself, down to the last drop taking every scrap of my sins from me.

He loves me/us so much He willingly, longingly gave the whole of Himself. Can I do the same?

Pilgrimage To Santiago De Compostela

Tuesday 23 -Tuesday 30 September 2014

Canon Chris Lilley will be leading a unique pilgrimage to walk 65 miles to the Church of St James in Compostela in Northern Spain.

Pilgrims may choose either to walk or take a guided coach tour to see the stunning sights of the region. The two groups will meet up each night at the hotel.

The full itinerary and booking form are available from Chris Lilley on 01507 440039 or at c.lilley@btinternet.com

Cursillo Indian style



During my visit to South India in November I was thrilled to attend a Christmas Ultreya. Revd Anand, a priest who comes from S India and is currently vicar of a parish in Battersea, together with his wife Jessie, also a priest, took Cursillo to the Diocese of Tirunelveli in about 1995, so they are about the same age as Lincoln! For the last few years they have had no weekends, and just met annually for a Christmas Ultreya. The event took place on a school campus, and the cursillistas, who are

mostly clergy and their wives, arrived from around the dioceses of Tirunelveli and Tuticorin. It was due to start at 6pm but, as so often in Tamil Nadu, the electricity was off, so we had to wait for the power to come on! The event began, after an opening prayer and the singing of a Christmas Carol, with the group reunion. I don't know whether my presence was a source of difficulty but our group certainly struggled with the discussions, although other groups seemed to get stuck in. They had the same reunion cards - I had been given an English one, but of course theirs were in Tamil. People were arriving throughout the evening, eventually about 50 attended, including several children. Gradually the groups broke up as people wandered about to speak to friends in other groups.

The witness talk followed, later translated for me as being about someone who was able to offer comfort to an anxious family at a hospital. There was a general invitation to respond, and the microphone was handed around until someone agreed to speak! There were then some notices, and I spoke about Cursillo in Lincoln and about the National event in 2011. Things then deteriorated again into chaos until the Bishop of Tirunelveli stepped in. I think the suggestion had been made that they should have another weekend but the clergy were claiming they could not get away from their parishes. However the Bishop said 'go for it' - or words to that effect! And a date and venue were fixed for the last weekend in April 2014 at Courtallam. People were asked to volunteer to staff and a team emerged - Alleluia! Apparently it will be up to the team to find the pilgrims. Then it was decided that they should have monthly Ultreyas in order to plan the weekend, and a date was fixed for December. The Lord was certainly at work that night.

Each cursillista had been asked to bring a gift so a Tombola style draw followed. Then we went into an adjoining room for a meal. Not a 'bring-and-share, but the inevitable rice and curry sauce followed by tea (with sugar!) supplied by a local restaurant. I spoke to one of the spiritual advisors for the forthcoming weekend, and they will send me a list for palanca - though I guess the wake-up and clausura will be out of the question! They told me that Cursillo gives the clergy and lay people the opportunity to mix and relax together in a way that is not usually possible. The Bishop certainly seemed relaxed at the meeting. It was a real privilege to be there.

De Colores Jacqui Morton

Address by Bishop Christopher at the Winter Event

It was in the difficult afternoon slot, after a delicious meal and contented chat that Bishop Christopher had to inspire us about discipleship. This he did. He affirmed us as laity, not only within the Cursillo movement, but also as members of Christ's church. He set the scene with a short background to the position of laity as against the ordained ministry, from the era when the church was about Bishops, priests and deacons up to today with the primacy of the laity having been affirmed. We were reminded that if we were serious about being a follower of Christ we don't have to be ordained, only be prepared to be disciples' of Christ.

'Confident and steadfast through the power of God's grace, these humble yet great builders of the Kingdom of God in history.' (Document of Vatican 11)

Disciples need to be resourced. It was pointed out how important it is to base our faith on knowledge of the Bible and to be part of the church in all its incompleteness and untidiness (the body of Christ). There is a general feeling that we are what we eat so therefore disciples must be sacrament centred, nourishing ourselves on the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Coming into the presence of God through daily prayer is essential made easier if we have developed a rule of life to keep us from straying.

Christians have a desire to serve our Lord. It doesn't have to be in a crowd- pulling manner. It can be as important and as simple as bringing, in thought, a petition for a person in need to the communion rail, giving it to God as your gift along with the wise men.

Cursillo is a vital part of what this diocese can offer the laity. Equipped with resources , encouragement and affirmation, we can go out in the confidence of the Holy Spirit and be disciples for Christ.

Angela Simcox

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On the morning of the death of Rev. Barbara Hancock her son Stephen wrote this poem

Prayer for mum

Call ahead to the angels and let them know -
A faithful servant approaches your gates

Ask them to prepare for her a place at the table of her Lord
in the presence of all those she has ever loved

May her eyes behold His grace and glory
May He call her by her name

May she drink from the living waters of the river of eternal life
in heaven as she did on earth

Quench, oh Lord, her pilgrim's thirst and may the cup
of her loyal heart overflow with kindness and with joy

Stephen Hancock
hobo poet

Vacant Posts at the AGM

At the AGM on the 29th of March there are 3 posts becoming vacant: The Treasurer, the 4th Day Rep (formally the Post weekend rep) and the Publicity Rep. After 3 years in the post they are all due for a spot of leisure from the hard work they have put in. If you are interested in stepping in to fill one of these posts please let Liz Lilley know. A brief summary of the posts is below. The full job sheets can be obtained from members of the Secretariat or from the website.

Treasurer

1. Take charge of all money received (cash or cheques) and pay it into the bank.
2. Encourage Cursillistas to donate regularly to Lincoln Diocesan Cursillo
3. Maintain a book-keeping system to record all receipts and payments.
4. Produce audited annual accounts.

4th Day Rep

1. Welcome new Cursillistas with an informative letter.
2. Check Sponsors have visited "their" Pilgrims after the Cursillo and that they have joined a reunion group.
3. Ultreyas. Check that the correct people have done the right things and that the necessary equipment is available.
4. Summer and Winter Events. Allocate Reunion group to run the event and confirm the date. Take bookings for the Winter event and co-ordinate with the venue.
5. Maintaining contact by regularly checking list of members at reunion groups and advice Secretariat on changes.

Publicity Rep

1. Publicise all Cursillo events within the Diocese.
2. Keep information up to date on all Diocesan Cursillo leaflets.
3. Encourage Cursillistas to replace scruffy posters and flyers in their churches.
4. Encourage visits by Cursillo speakers to Deanery Synods, PCCs or other Church groups.
5. Liaise with the SA and LD to publicise Clergy Taster Days.

Cursillo Leaders Workshops

14 - 16th March 2014 at Holland House, Cropthorne, Worcs

10 - 12th October 2014 at Wistaston Hall, Crewe, Cheshire

17 - 19th April 2015 at Shallowford House, Stone, Nr. Stafford

If you are interested in attending a Cursillo Leaders Workshops, please contact the BACC Rep Gillian Padley (see below) and she will make the necessary arrangements - please don't contact the venue direct.

Lincoln #30 2-5 May 2014.

My dear fellow Cursillistas

At their meeting the other week, the Secretariat decided that we should go ahead with #30, scheduled for 2nd - 5th May 2014. We currently have just 4 Pilgrims in the process of booking in. Two of these had booked for last year's weekend that was cancelled, and we don't want them to have to wait any longer. We have already had a 2-year gap now, since #29.

In going ahead we face losing money at The Old Palace if we do cancel after all, but the feeling was that we should step out in faith and run the weekend!

The 1st Training day is 1st March, and will go ahead on the understanding that we may need to stand down some of the Team if numbers do not improve considerably.

Please pray especially for #30. If you have any inkling that this might be the right time for anyone you know in your congregations then please do talk to them about it.

Application forms are available on-line through our website, or by email or through the post from Barclay & Janice Brader. Phone them on 01724 348595 if you need any help or advice. We will accept bookings until the end of April. We all remember what blessing and inspiration we received on our own Cursillo Weekends - wouldn't it be marvellous to introduce 12 more Pilgrims to this experience and way of life?!

Please pray also for the Team of #30, especially for me as Lay Rector! This post still fills me with apprehension, and all hugs will be gratefully received!!

Yours in Christ, Liz

Cursillo Weekends

Below are some of the forthcoming Cursillo weekends.

Please support them with Palanca prayer.

Date	Cursillo
27 - 30 March	Ely #27
24 - 27 April	Durham #21, Blackburn #59
01 - 04 May	Carlisle #34, Canterbury #52
02 - 05 May	Lincoln #30
08 - 11 May	Chester #48
15 - 18 May	London #27
22 - 25 May	Chelmsford #28

The above Weekends have been sent a Palanca Poster from Lincoln Cursillo. Have reunion groups thought of having their own Palanca Poster to send to Lincoln Weekends or even other national ones?

Lincoln Cursillo Dates

2014			
1 March	9.00 for 9.30 - 4.00	Lincoln #30 1st training	The Old Palace
14 - 16 March	CLW weekend		Crophorne, Worcs
20 March	6.45 for 7.00 - 9.00	Secretariat	Bailgate Methodist Church
29 March	9.00 for 9.30 - 12.00	Lincoln #30 2nd training	St Andrew's Church Folkingham & Village Hall
	12.00 for 12.30	Eucharist	
	1.30 - 4.00	Bring & Share Lunch AGM & Ultreya	
2 - 5 May	Lincoln #30		The Old Palace
17 May	9.00 for 9.30 - 12.00	What Next? #30	Bailgate Methodist Church
24 May	9.00 for 9.30 - 4.30	MBTI Event 2 - Stress	The Old Palace
30 May - 1 June	Catch the Vision Residential/BACC AGM		High Leigh, Herts
21 June TBC	Summer Event		Holland Fen
17 July	6.45 for 7.00 - 9.00	Secretariat	Bailgate Methodist Church
30 August	National Ultreya		Canterbury
23 - 30 September	PILGRIMAGE to SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA		
9 October	6.45 for 7.00 - 9.00	Secretariat	Bailgate Methodist Church
10 - 12 October	CLW weekend		Crewe
22 November	9.00 for 9.30 - 4.30	MBTI Event 3 - Prayer	The Old Palace
2015			
17 - 19 April	CLW weekend		Stone, Staffs
23 May	9.00 for 9.30 - 4.30	MBTI Event 4 - Conflict	The Old Palace

Conveners for Reunion Groups		
Alford	Angela Simcox	01507 466824
Caythorpe	Susanne Wills	01400 272777
Claypole	Gillian Padley	01636 626510
East Wolds	John Pollard	01205 822958
Grimsby	Kathy Whitlam	01472 871669
Lawres	Richard Thornton pen	01522 821161
N. Hykeham	Hetty Naylor	01522 681984
Scunthorpe	Stuart Duff	01652 652120
W. Norfolk	Bridget Everitt	01553 840527

Your Servant Community		
Lay Director	Liz Lilley	01507 440039
Spiritual Dir	David McCormick	01472 886654
Secretary	Judith Scott	01400 272974
Treasurer	Marilyn Reeve	01472 824598
Pre-weekend	Barclay & Janice Brader	01724 348595
Weekend Rep	Lesley & Stuart Duff	01652 652120
Post Weekend	Monica Pollard	01572 723222
B.A.C.C. Rep	Gillian Padley	01636 626510
Publicity	Sandra Smith	01469 530065
Palanca. Imp & Web Editor	John Pollard	01205 822958

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