



# The Peterborough Pilgrim



**A Pilgrim will ‘make a  
friend, be a friend and  
bring a friend to Jesus.’**

# From The Comms Team (of One)

Where is the year going? At the last Secretariat meeting I assured everyone that I would publish the Spring 2017 edition of the Pilgrim on time. Well, thanks to the fact that it is a typical Bank Holiday Monday and raining, it looks as if I will be able to meet that promise. Mind you as a traditionalist, I could happily argue that spring does not finish and summer starts until the longest day on Wednesday 21st June and that I still have three weeks left, but the media keeps telling me differently and that summer starts this Thursday on 1st June. So here I am at the computer being productive.

So what has happened since the last edition of the Pilgrim? Well after many appeals for volunteers to take over the role of Treasurer on the Secretariat, someone stuck their head above the parapet and volunteered. I would like to introduce you to Jess Merson who lives in Wellingborough and did her Cursillo at Peterborough #10 last year. As you can see from her photograph she has an endearing smile which, no doubt, she will continue to use as she extracts money from us. But seriously, I would like to take this opportunity from us all to welcome Jess to the Secretariat.



The organisation for Peterborough #11 under the leadership of our Lay Rector, Eddie Miller is well under way. At the time of this article we are almost fully staffed and we have eight pilgrims already booked with at least one more promised. But that is still not enough. We have space for

more. So please talk to your clergy, some of whom may have attended the Taster Day (see article) and find suitable candidates to send to Launde Abbey in September. We have also booked Peterborough #12 which will not be held in September but from 17th to 20th May 2018. If September is not suitable for your prospective pilgrims then do not forget them as May 2018 may be a more convenient time.

And looking forward the National Ultreya will be held at



Southwell Minster in Nottinghamshire on Saturday 2nd September and for once is accessible for us as a day trip. Registration

starts at 9.00am and the Ultreya at 10.45am. It is also possible to book lunch for £8.90p. Southwell is only about an hour or so away from Peterborough using the A1 and an hour and half from the Northampton area via the M1 and A46. It is a real chance for those of us that have not been to a National Ultreya to do so and represent Peterborough Cursillo in force. There are more details available at [www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/ultreyagb2017/](http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/ultreyagb2017/) and to book at [www.southwellcursillo.org.uk/](http://www.southwellcursillo.org.uk/).

And looking forward a little nearer, I hope that as many of you as possible plan to attend our Summer Ultreya at St Mary the Virgin church in Maidwell on 3rd June. Unfortunately I am unable to attend as I have my final Lay Reader training day at Bouverie Court on that day. As I said earlier, where has the year gone? The good thing for you all is I won't be hovering around with my camera, David Bell will be instead. I hope you all have a wonderful day full of the love of God.

*Paul*

# Something from Cheryl

## *Dear Cursillistas*



It is a busy season within Cursillo for me at the moment with a recent Secretariat meeting, joining Leicester #43 for their Clausura at Launde, BACC AGM in Durham, a presentation to Wellingborough Deanery and the Summer Ultreya around the corner. Apart from all being Cursillo related activities, they all have another thing in common, a need to travel. It has been a blessing to be with fellow Cursillistas at each of these

events, and for the majority, I have travelled with at least one other Cursillista, a different person on each journey.

The travelling reminds me of my faith journey - sometimes straight forward, sometimes with deviations but so grateful of the companionship of my fellow Cursillista to share the difficulty. If I take that one step further by putting it into Cursillo terms, the journey is the Fourth Day with the encouragement and companionship coming through Group Reunion and Ultreyas. And what a blessing to hear how God is working in our fellow Cursillistas' lives.

Looking forward, it would be fantastic to see you at the Summer Ultreya at Maidwell on Saturday 3 June at 11am for floating group reunion, a 'bring and share' lunch followed by a Eucharist during which we will have a witness talk.

Some good news: since the AGM we have been delighted to co-opt and welcome Jessica Merson on to Secretariat who

has volunteered to take over the Treasurer role. Thank you Jessica.

Ultreya!

*Cheryl*

## A Note from Canon Káren

On Saturday 11th March, with other Cursillistas I travelled to Coventry Cathedral for a Regional Ultreya. Thanks to brilliant navigation and driving by Paul, we arrived in a nearby car park and walked to the Cathedral with plenty of time to spare.



We were welcomed and shown where we could sit. Cheryl had brought the Peterborough Cursillo Diocesan Banner with her, the altar was ready to be prepared and we had brought everything we would need for the Eucharist

Service with us, or so we thought. How could we have forgotten to bring water and something to put it in? After several vain attempts searching for water, and now with minutes to spare, water and a jug were provided. Why am I always amazed when God provides what is required at the right time? Suddenly a duty vergier appeared carrying water in a jug. Service booklets had been provided by our lovely Coventry hosts and a band was already in place. Most Cursillistas came from the Oxford and Coventry Dioceses, but along with our group from Peterborough there were others from as far away as York and Cardiff. Then it was

time for the welcome and Ultreya began.

I have been to Coventry Cathedral on so many occasions to attend Civic services and Sunday, weekday morning and evening Eucharistic services. All have been special in their own way but this service



was different. On this Saturday morning at this Regional Cursillo Eucharistic Service, there was a beautiful deepening sense of wonder and joy which permeated the service. The opening hymn we sang created an awareness of the Holy Spirit actively being poured out in abundance on us as we then gathered in small groups for Roving Group Reunions, sharing as always stories of God's amazing breadth of love. In my group we listened to some inspiring moments and activities stimulating us into unimagined thought provoking silences.

All too soon we were requested to come together as one and we sang with renewed joy. We listened to a reading from the gospel of Matthew 25 'I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me'. As the breath of God filled us again, we then listened to the witness talk inspiring us to reach out in love in the name of Christ, to open the door of hope to those who may not encounter Christ in any other way. We were reminded that our action can, and should change lives to transform the world for Christ. The responses echoed the words of the Gospel challenge to go and do likewise. Prison Ministry may not be for everyone, but we can all play our part. I had never heard of 'Sycamore Tree', but Jesus words 'It is more blessed to give than to



receive' stay with me.

How inspiring the talk was and as if that wasn't enough blessing, I was given the privilege of celebrating the Eucharist, sharing this holy moment through bread and wine with other Cursillistas. How blessed I am to be your Spiritual Director. I give thanks to our Diocesan Bishop Donald for confirming me in this role, to Bishop John for his support of Peterborough Cursillo and to all of you for your continued love and support.

Ultreya!

*Kären*

## Spring Ultreya and AGM

Once again, St Michael and All Angels in Kettering hosted our Spring Ultreya and Annual General meeting on Sunday 12th March at which twenty five Cursillistas attended from across the Diocese. Cheryl opened the AGM with her report. She started by thanking all the members



of the Secretariat for the help she had received through the year. Peterborough #10 had been a great success although there were issues that arose with Launde Abbey which were mainly due to poor internal communications. Cheryl had met with the staff at Launde Abbey and had received reassurance that these issues would not occur again at future Cursillo weekends. Cheryl concluded her report by saying that Peterborough #11 was well advanced in planning

along with a Clergy Taster Day and the Summer Ultreya.

Cheryl also presented the Financial Accounts for 2016 which had been inspected by Bob Garbutt and reported to the Charity Commission.

Káren gave her first AGM report as Spiritual Advisor. She started by thanking her predecessor, Judy Craig-Peck for all the work she had done and admitted hers would be 'big shoes' to fill. Káren admitted that she had not been able to do much as she had only been in the role for six months but said she wanted to be able to go out to the Diocese and talk about Cursillistas and the wonderful work they achieve. She encouraged everyone to talk to their clergy and encourage them to attend the Taster Day and also to look for pilgrims for Peterborough #11. She said she was amazed at what changes have occurred in parishes where parishioners had done there Cursillo. Her parting words were to ask Cursillistas to invite her to their group Reunions so she could share in their experiences.



The AGM concluded with the election of the Secretariat members for 2017.

Following the AGM, the Cursillistas split into groups for floating group reunions and afternoon concluded with a witness talk by Paul Anstice. He said he had been sitting in front of his computer wondering what to say when he heard 'Wasn't expecting that' by Jamie Lawson and it made him think. He didn't think that doing his Cursillo training would lead him to being a Lay Worship Leader and training him to be a Lay Reader. The day before the AGM he had expected to be in Bouverie Court and not in Coventry Cathedral at a Regional Ultreya which had been the case and he had not



expected his life to have changed so much or taken him down avenues he had never considered. He concluded by saying that in a life with God to expect anything, especially the unexpected.

## **BACC Annual General Meeting**

Lay Director Cheryl Goddard and I, as your British Anglican Cursillo Council (BACC) rep attended the Annual General Meeting which took place at St Oswald's Institute, Durham on Saturday 20th May.

The morning started with prayer, floating group reunion, and then an interactive study session delivered by Canon Cynthia Hebden, our National Spiritual Director. The focus of the discussion was on how best to support the Cursillo in our Diocese. The idea put forward was to develop three groups; firstly a pre-weekend group to be proactive in supporting both the Spiritual Director and the Lay Director, secondly a weekend group to support the Lay Rector and the running of weekends and thirdly a post weekend group to arrange Ultreya's and to confirm that all Cursillista are in group reunion. The underlying message was for there to be good communication, to have involvement of the clergy, and that good sponsorship is to be alongside the pilgrim; 'to make a friend, be a friend and bring the friend to Jesus.'

At the AGM in the afternoon twenty three Dioceses were represented with fifty five representatives present with the National President Sally Henniker-Major chairing for the last time. The treasurer reported that Cursillo was in a better position than last year and that all expenses had been met. The Cursillo Leaders Workshops had proved very informative and enjoyable with Rev Judy Craig Peck now the convenor. Thanks were given to Paul Thacker who has

now stepped down from this role.

All Cursillista were invited to the National Ultreya at Southwell on Saturday September 2nd 2017. Tony Tucker who is leading the Ultreya warmly invites everyone to this beautiful venue.

Each Cursillo Diocese is encouraged to interact with others in their area and to aid in this, Area Reps are being configured (there will be more information to come).



The Closing Eucharist, the decommissioning of Sally Henniker-Major and the commissioning of the new President of BACC, Trevor King, was held at St Oswald's Church and led by

Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Jarrow.

There are lots of photographs and information on the BACC web site, [www.anglicancursillo.co.uk](http://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk), that are really interesting and I do urge you to look on it from time to time to keep in touch with the wider family of Cursillo.

Ultreya!

*Liz Medlock*

## Clergy Taster Day

Will it, won't it happen? We don't have many booked in and its only a week to go, should we cancel it? Like most things

in life, we all leave booking into events until the last possible moment and when the 16th May finally arrived 30 people turned up to St Andrew's Church in Old to find out about Cursillo and what a wonderful day it turned out to be. And we



were pleased to welcome Bishop John Holbrook, Sally Henniker-Major, BACC National President and Cynthia Hebden, BACC National Spiritual Director who came to support the Taster Day and speak.



Most of those that presented spoke of their uncertainty about the weekend and not knowing what to expect, but then spoke about the amazing effect the weekend has had on their lives since. Bishop John explained that he did his Cursillo out of the Diocese at Oxford so that he could be accepted as a person and not for his position, and he found that a profound experience. His weekend had been full of an overwhelming love and light and it demonstrated lay and ordained people

working together in a powerful way for God's mission. He concluded by saying that Cursillo turns church goers into followers of Jesus, allows 'space' for people to grow into Christ and inspires Christians to become leaders.

Cynthia Hebden admitted that the weekend had disturbed her when she did her Cursillo thirty-one years ago. She was left with the thought that either there was a God and her life must change or there was no God and she would walk away. She did not walk away and this was because she experienced the '12 inch drop' - which occurred when her

thoughts were no longer ruled by her head but had dropped into her heart.

But the most important part of the Taster Day happened over lunch when the discussion was most animated and encouraging. It was clear that there were some that had heard of Cursillo but were uncertain what it meant and did not know how profoundly it has



affected the lives of so many that have been on the journey. And the positive side of the day is that one attendee has booked to do their Cursillo at Lincoln #33 in August and have earmarked a member of their parish to attend Peterborough #12 in May next year.

So when we were debating 'Will it, won't it happen' God already knew that 'it would' and that it would inspire some to do their Cursillo.

## Our Trip to Mazwi in Zimbabwe

Recently Eddie Miller and Liz Medlock visited the village of Mazwi in Zimbabwe. Eddie writes:

This was our fourth visit to visit with Graham and Sarah Giles and to speak to their newly planted church in the rural African area beyond Bulawayo. In the three and a half years since our last visit we saw many changes. The church congregation has grown, but still housed in the makeshift



building, the Sunday school now numbers almost 100 and has its own shelter. The children are split into groups of 10 and each has a leader. The blanket sent by St Botolph's children is used by a different group each week, where they pray for those named on it, forming a prayer link with our children.

The work of establishing this new congregation has been recognised and Graham is to be made an elder of the church in June. Ngwenya, who lives on the site and will also be made an elder, shares this ministry and acts as interpreter during services which are taken in

Ndebele and English.

There are 140 families living in this part of Mazwi. Each has a plot of land and a small 2 roomed building with outdoor cooking area and toilet. These buildings have been built by the members of the community helping each other. Some villagers had started to enlarge their homes.

We were asked to provide a series of talks on a set theme to 70 members of the church congregation. The theme was 'knowing yourself', and 'what God was asking of us'. We talked about discipleship, prayer, faith and action. Each talk contained a story, which helped with interaction and caused much laughter. The Cursillo talks we use on weekends gave a source of inspiration!

A support group for 20 mamas with HIV met and each received a hygiene pack with simple items like soap, feminine pads and toilet rolls. It was here that we added the flannels and lip salve donated by the congregation of St



Botolph's, Longthorpe. It was amazing that we had taken just the right number for all, including all the children.

The 3 day camp for 11-18 year olds was a great chance for these young people to experience some nurture and care themselves. They had bunk beds and mattresses of



their own, and 3 meals and snacks prepared. On arrival at camp they were given a pack containing a flannel and lip salve, soap, toothpaste and brush and a bottle for water. They were given a blanket if they had not been able to bring one and a towel.

When the children reflected later what they had enjoyed most it was, riding in the bus and seeing giraffes for the first time in the game reserve along the way, a trip in the canoe, some had never been on water before. One child said that everyone in the congregation should get the chance to go on camp!

On the return from camp to Mazwi we saw that the members were harvesting the maize, all working together. They were very happy that the crop was good. They explained that it would be dried for 3 months on the roof of their homes before taking the kernels to the mill to grind into mealie and stored for food for the coming year.

We saw that a cow shed had been built ready to receive a cow, which it hopes will provide milk for the children. There is a large water tank that has been provided to store water, although there is still a long walk to the bore hole when this is empty. Before we left the Mazwi congregation prayed over us whilst wrapping the blanket round us to



include all at St Botolph's church; they send love and prayers to you all.

Liz and I felt truly blessed to have been able to go to Zimbabwe and this is just a snapshot of the many experiences that we had.

## And Finally....

I always like to finish the Pilgrim with something that is inspiring for us in our lives. Two years ago at Peterborough #9 I had the privilege to be a Table Leader, with Angela Palmer as one of my Pilgrims. I am sure Angela will not mind me saying that she wasn't too keen on the handicraft, but she had a wonderful way with poetry. After each talk she put her thoughts into verse. My only regret was not to get copies of her poetry. However, that has been rectified as she shared some of them with those attending the Clergy Taster Day at Old recently. I have chosen two of them to share, the first poem 'Why am I here?' is her reflection on the first talk on 'Ideal' and the second 'Every day a little more I learn' is her reflection on 'Study'.

### 'Why am I here?'

Why am I here?

Where?

Alive or in this room?

I am alive

I am here

But who am I?

What potential do I have?

With the help of GOD my worth will evolve

And slowly all my worries solve.

I am me

Unique

A being made by GOD

## **‘Every day a little more I learn’**

Every day a little more I learn  
I am a work in progress  
In an ever changing world  
Find time to study  
Find time for prayer  
Find time for others  
And time to listen  
Listen to the word of GOD

Every day a little more I learn  
I am a work in progress  
In an ever changing world.  
We learn by looking, but do we see?  
The stars above, the busy bee  
We need to pause in a rushing life  
And leave behind the noisy strife,  
To stop and look with eyes that see  
The wonder of GOD’S world around  
From fern and moss to massive tree.