



# The Peterborough Pilgrim



**Pilgrim's work together to  
support each other on the  
Fourth Day**

# From The Comms Team (of One)

This is becoming a habit! Yet again it is a year since the last Pilgrim despite all the best intentions to make it two editions a year. But now I have finished all my assignments for this year and it is a month before I go out on placement to Desborough benefice for my Lay Reader training so I really have no excuse but to crack on with another edition of the Pilgrim and bring everyone up-to-date.

## Changes to the Comms Team

So what has happened since the last edition? Well, technically at the AGM in March I completed my three years on Secretariat and this should be coming from someone new. But, surprise, surprise no-one has been forthcoming to take over this role so you still have to put up with me. But there is likely to be at least one change by the time the next edition of the Pilgrim is published when the phrase (of one) should be missing from the title of this section. I am hoping it will read at least (of two) but preferably (of three). At the last Secretariat meeting I proposed the role is split into two or three jobs. Because GDPR is such an important topic at the moment and the email communication hinges around that, I propose to continue with that aspect of the role, for the time being and also maintaining the website (it's only taking two and half years to iron out all the vagaries of the software and it would be unfair pass that on to someone else at this moment). The two remaining roles are to re-vitalise our Social Media communications and to take



*Are you these  
Communications  
Committee members?*

over producing the Pilgrim. I am close to having someone take over Social Media but I will not mention his name in case he thinks I am pressurising him. So if there are any talented or aspiring journalist, please contact me through [pbcursillo@gmail.com](mailto:pbcursillo@gmail.com).

## GDPR

Having mentioned GDPR I would like to thank all those who have responded (at the time of writing that is about 33% of those on my database). I know that most of you are fed up to your back teeth with emails popping into your inboxes concerning this but it is important that we comply. Most of the emails ask you to do nothing apart from 'unsubscribe' if you do not want to continue receiving emails (surprisingly



*Courtesy of the 'The Telegraph'*

it works as my spam emails have reduced significantly since I've 'unsubscribed' a lot of companies). However, in our case many of the old consent forms have been lost and so we hold your data without proof of your consent. It is important that you fill in the forms (digitally or long-hand) and return them to me so we can maintain contact. If I do not receive your consent, your details will be removed from our database in the coming months and you will stop receiving information about Peterborough Diocesan Cursillo. Enough of the lecture!

Ultreya!

*Paul*

# Something from Cheryl

## *Dear Cursillistas*



I had the opportunity last month of attending the Biennial Conference for members of the Cursillo community. I came away with that joy and love we experience after attending our own Cursillo weekend, but also realised what a privilege it is to be a Cursillista.

When in the company of other Cursillistas it is like being with family. We all have something in common, but there is mutual love and support. I think there are three levels of Cursillo family - those we meet when we have Diocesan Ultreyas (Welcome Back, Summer Ultreya and our Spring Ultreya combined with our AGM); the annual National Ultreya which will be held in Chelmsford on 1 September this year (more details below) or Regional Ultreyas where we meet with other local Diocesan groups; and then there are our Group Reunion Cursillistas. Whichever of these groups I find myself in, however hard it is to make the effort to attend on occasions I always find such friendship, support, understanding and love. And what I enjoy the most about the Ultreyas after hearing the witness talk is the joy of the singing. Whatever the number attending, the sound always fills the space we are in. Group Reunion is so very special too - the confidential environment to hear of God's presence, share and pray with each other. I would be quite lost and alone without this wonderful community.

So with that support and witness of God's love we should go into the world and live out our Fourth Day sharing the love of Jesus and that can take many forms and the following by no means exhausts the possibilities:

*♦ Is God calling you to take up a new role within your church?*

Perhaps getting involved in the Welcoming Team, on the coffee rota, being a Church Warden for example? There are many opportunities within our own Churches and commitment should always start with our Church community.

*♦ Is God calling you to a particular ministry - lay or ordained?*

*♦ Do you know Christian's who would value the Cursillo experience and you could sponsor them and encourage them in Group Reunion?*

All pilgrims need the blessing of their parish priest before attending a weekend, so if you have a person in mind it would be advisable to discuss this with your parish priest before approaching the person.

*♦ Perhaps you would be interested in getting involved in your local Cursillo, being involved on the Secretariat, staffing on future weekends, gaining understanding of Cursillo through attending a Cursillo Leaders Workshop?*

*♦ Perhaps you could take part in the prayer vigil on a weekend.*

Every weekend is underpinned with prayer from 6am to 11pm on Friday and Saturday plus the times on Friday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning and afternoon. Signing up to the prayer vigil is not just the responsibility of Secretariat members and sponsors, but of the whole community. Do look out for notice of the prayer vigil for the next weekend.

*♦ Being interested in regular giving to Peterborough Anglican Cursillo to support the activities.*

Pilgrims and staff are sponsored on weekends, and the remainder of the funding comes from our resources. We

have no external funding. Our objective has been to fully sponsor pilgrims on a weekend, but our resources don't allow this. We have been in a position to give sponsorship of 60% but this is likely to drop on future weekends as we have insufficient funds to continue with this level of sponsorship. And we do have a policy that if a contribution is not possible from a pilgrim, they will be fully sponsored. Would you consider giving £5 per month, and if your circumstances permitted gift-aiding that would help too? Covenanting forms are available on the Peterborough Cursillo website.

Ultreya!

*Cheryl*

## A Staff Member's Reflection on Peterborough #12

Whilst many will remember Saturday 19th May as the day of the Royal Wedding or possibly Cup Final Day, those of us at Launde will recall that we were travelling along Day 2 of our pilgrimage. (Wi-Fi connections have improved and those of us anxious to see pictures of the other events of the day were not disappointed!)

Holding the weekend in May instead of the usual September was certainly a delight for all. Launde was at its best - the setting was, as always, simply beautiful but the glorious weather and long spring days provided many opportunities to find places to wander, to sit in the sun and quietly chat and reflect.

The staff team was led by a particularly calm Mark Willis who came armed with props (a cycling helmet for one) and reassured the pilgrims each day with anecdotes of his own

trepidation of a cycling holiday in Austria. We learnt that Rev Ray Hemingray is in fact Mary Poppins: you simply would not believe what he kept producing from his bag! He clearly was a boy scout and has taken the motto 'be prepared' to extreme.... I mean really, who keeps a printer in their bag?



The band of pilgrims bonded well and produced some truly amazing artwork and thought provoking feedback. The staff team was particularly joyful and supportive of each other. Indeed there was good humour throughout. The skits were excellent and there is still much chuckling when minds go back to the weekend.



The meditations were particularly powerful and much gratitude was given to both Neil and Ray for their obvious in depth preparation. It was apparent that 'The Rule of Life' card is definitely being dusted off and rewritten by many following periods of reflection on the meditations and talks. Similarly the need to encourage and re-energise group reunions was clear.

Thanks must go to all who prayed for us before and during the weekend; to those other diocese who sent their wall palanca; to those who sent such thoughtful palanca; and those who sponsored the pilgrims and attended

the Wake up and Clausura services. As always tears of joy flowed!

Despite the good weather, there was much talk of water and boats. Just mention that to anyone on Peterborough #12 and you will see their face break into a wide grin. But the message will stick and we want to share 'if you want to walk on the water you have to get out of the boat'. But Launde Abbey's advice is somewhat different although if you do God will be there to help you



Ultreya!

*Judith Willis*

## A Watership Down Moment

It was a new experience for this year's staff on Peterborough #12 as it took place in Spring and not Autumn. It was also a new experience for Jackie and me as we have always either sponsored Pilgrims together or staffed together. But this year I was a sponsor and Jackie was a member of staff. I kept on saying that would be great as it would mean I could get my assignment for the last module of the year on Christian Doctrine written whilst she was away. Well, guess what, that never happened!

I know I grumbled as the alarm went off at 4.30am on Sunday for 'Wake-up' as I haven't had to do that for at least three years since I retired. Before that I spent fifteen years consulting across the EU and so I was used to early morning dashes to various airports for the first flights out of the day. I remember I used to describe my drive down the lane from my village to the main road as a 'Watership Down moment'.





The road was always full of rabbits and hares, pheasants, partridges and Guinea fowl from the Lamport Estate hatcheries and a myriad of wild birds. For them the road was their domain at night time until dawn and not cars. This morning the sun had just risen above the horizon, there was mist across the fields and there was that ‘Watership

Down moment’. In fact that ‘moment’ continued all the way to Launde as various wild animals scurried into the undergrowth beside the road as I passed.

Launde Abbey was no different. Normally it is dark and we are desperately trying to spot torch lights to guide us to our parking spots. But this time, pausing at the cattle grid at the top of the hill, the view was glorious. There was mist hanging in the valley and the sheep and lambs were already grazing on grass. The trees were covered in white and pink blooms and others in fluorescent green catkins. It was a special moment. And it seemed all the more important as it was Pentecost Sunday and the end of the Ascensiontide Prayer period of ‘Thy Kingdom Come’. Looking at and experiencing such a beautiful view, nobody could possibly doubt that the kingdom of God truly does exist ‘on earth as it does in heaven.’

*Paul*

## Welcome Back Ultreya

The ‘Welcome Back Ultreya’ was not at our usual venue this year but at St Andrew’s Church, Wellingborough and what a welcome we were given. And it was good to see so many of the long standing Cursillistas joining with those that had made their Cursillo at Peterborough #12. The standout

moment was the Witness Talk given by Shelly Hensley—Stevenson, who talked about how her Fourth Day Prayer and social media has created a huge world-wide Prayer Group. The following is a transcript of her talk.

‘There’s a reason I picked the song ‘As we are gathered, Jesus is here.’ It says in Matthew 18:20 that where two or three are gathered, Jesus is there with us. I believe that it isn’t just a physical gathering, either. I’ve been prayed for over the phone and felt God’s presence so clearly.



I feel very strongly about prayer - I’ve seen what prayer can do. I know that is one of the most important things I can do when helping someone through a hard time (after, of course, feeding and clothing...) - because essentially, it’s not me that is helping, what I’m doing when I’m praying is giving them to Jesus. He knows what they need, how they need it - and he doesn’t need me to tell him how to sort it out, but I know he wants me to pray.

My husband and I were in Corby pioneering in Oakley Vale. We noticed that while we were trying to plant a Fresh Expression we especially needed prayer to help us. That’s when we began to use a Benedictine breviary three times a day. And then, for a treat, sometimes we’d have Night Prayer. We found that when we had Night Prayer we were able to let go of cares and put our trust in God - right before we slept. Often then it was such a peaceful night!

I began to notice how much that changed me - I had real rest. The world has really changed with digital technologies - there isn’t often much rest. It’s gotten faster, more rushed, no space or time to stop and refocus. This means I end up just running from one reaction to something to another reaction to something else. Stress becomes

overwhelming and I feel stretched in a very unhelpful way!

Because I was studying 21st Century broadcasting -and how people are not physically gathering as much as virtually gathering anymore, especially the 'digital natives'. I had an idea. Why not bring Night Prayer to the them. So I talked to my husband about doing a virtual night prayer. He thought that was a good idea - so we have been doing Night Prayer from Sunday to Thursday first on Periscope, and then on Facebook live, joining with others who need to stop what they're doing and change the focus to God.

This moment is to take a breath - and go to him before we try and sleep. We use a beautiful prayer book called "Celtic Daily Prayer" by Reverend Canon David Adam. Each day has a theme, Community, Holy Spirit, Incarnation... - today's is Resurrection.

We have had many people join us for one of the night that we pray, sometimes while we are live, and sometimes people watch and pray later. We pray for things that are happening in the world and we always ask if someone needs prayer. They let us know on messenger, or on the comments box or by a direct message. We don't have to pray for them by name, if it's a private thing - but we do want to pray.

We pray and then sometimes we hear how things go. Recently we've moved on to other platforms as well - which has been a bit chaotic trying to manage Facebook Live, Periscope, YouTube and Livestream. What has happened, though, is more people that we don't know in any way at all, have asked us for prayer. That excites me.

We've also heard that some people we have prayed for have recovered. I love that too! But the results aren't what we are aiming for, I know that prayer is one of the important things we need to do to listen to God, and so I love helping others bring things to Jesus and listen to what he might be

saying.

One man commented on YouTube - 'Is it okay to pray with you because I'm Muslim'? Nik (Shelly's husband) said, 'Sure - everyone is welcome.' They stayed until the end of prayer and then commented they felt blessed by it - and peace afterwards. Jesus was lifted high - and he gave that person peace.

Every time we do pray, we use a psalm or two - the original prayer book! And we have the Lord's Prayer. Sometimes our dogs feel the need to join in (we have three and one is very young) they even disrupt the proceedings, but we still continue.

I feel that this has been a success - sometimes we have 300 people that drop in for a bit of the chat and prayer. Other times, it's only 10 or so - but we pray before each time we stream that what we are doing is lifting Jesus up so that people can draw near. And I can't remember where it says that God's word doesn't come back void, but I know that it doesn't.'

It was a truly amazing and inspirational talk. At the time of going to press the details of how to connect to any of these platforms were not available but the Comms Team will circulate separately once they become available.

## Successes and Challenges

*What are we good at in Cursillo?*

*What can we do better in Cursillo?*

As your BACC rep (the British Anglican Cursillo Council representative for the Peterborough diocese) I attended the 2018 AGM and a conference featuring the above title. I thought, 'this is going to be interesting', and it was! Six sessions provided much discussion over the weekend and gave much food for thought.

### The successes included the following:

- ♦ Well attended weekends in many dioceses.
- ♦ Proof of living out the 4th day by new pilgrims.
- ♦ Successful clergy taster days in both Peterborough and Coventry.
- ♦ Promoting prayer for the Peterborough Cursillo weekend by publicising it in The Diocesan Cycle of Prayer.
- ♦ The turning of a cancelled weekend (due to lack of pilgrims) into a Fourth Day weekend.

### The challenges included:

- ♦ How to raise the profile of Ultreyas?
- ♦ Finding staff for the secretariat.
- ♦ The suitability and availability of venues for weekends at a reasonable cost.
- ♦ Staffing a weekend.
- ♦ Difficulty to get clergy involved.

Ideas that came from discussion were to make Ultreyas more interesting with the best cakes, speakers whom people want to hear and to choose the day and time and venue very carefully. The need is to have Ultreyas regularly to feed us all and we have the ability to join other dioceses!

To encourage people onto the secretariat by everyone having an understanding of how the secretariat works and for succession planning where people shadow to learn the post with help at hand.

Where there is a shortage of staff or clergy on a weekend to look further afield and share with neighbouring dioceses.

So many more ideas too!

The weekend was filled with fellowship, good food and worship; it really set me up to come back to Peterborough and to say, **ULTREYA!**

*Liz Medlock*

# Cursillo - Hope for the Anglican Church



BACC has produced a new film highlighting the fruits of Cursillo and how it brings hope to the Anglican Church. It was filmed at a Greater London Regional Ultreya and is well worth a

watch. The film is available on The Peterborough Cursillo website either to watch live or to download to use for promoting Cursillo at <http://www.peterborough-cursillo.btck.co.uk/Cursillo-HopefortheAnglicanChurch>

## And Finally...

Whilst trawling through the internet I came across the '687 best Cursillo place mats' site and I liked this one and thought I would share it with you.

