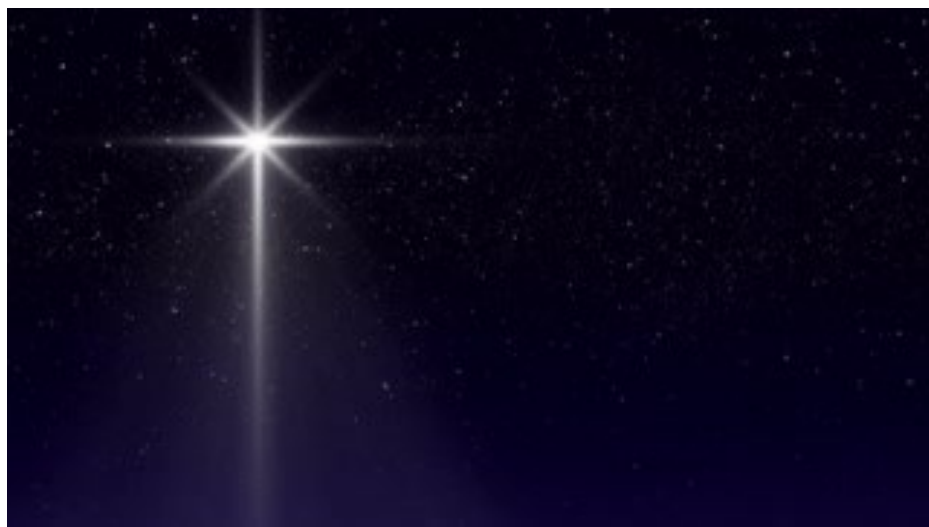




The Peterborough Pilgrim



Pilgrims follow the *true*
light from the Star of
Bethlehem all their lives

From The Comms Team (of One)

This time last year I was looking at standing down from the Secretariat at the AGM as I was approaching the end of my three years as Communications Officer. Here I am a year further on and still here. However, this really is the end of my time with Communications as I have



found an able and keen person to take over this position from Sunday 10th March at the next AGM. In fact next year's Secretariat will look very different as there are six members who will have completed their three years and are standing down. We are fortunate that we have found new Cursillistas willing to take over four of the vacancies but we are still looking for two further members to join the secretariat. The positions vacant are the BACC and Weekend representative so if anyone is interested in either position, please speak to Cheryl directly or via pbcursillo@gmail.com

Whilst mentioning Cheryl, she is one of the members standing down at the AGM. She will be sorely missed by Peterborough Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat as she has worked tirelessly for many years in different roles. Our loss is BACCs gain as she will be moving into a new position on the National stage. We all wish her well for the future and realise she will be a hard act to follow.

Next year we have some interesting events lined up. The

headline event is a Cursillo Quiet Day at Peterborough led by Bishop Donald on Saturday 8th June 2019. The exact format for the day has still to be agreed but the fact that Bishop Donald has offered to host and lead the day reflects on the importance of Cursillo within the Diocese.

On a personal note, it has been a pleasure being the 'voice' of Cursillo through emails, this magazine, on Cursillo weekends and at Ultreyas for the last four years. It is not a complete goodbye, as subject to voting at the AGM I will be remaining in a different role.

As we say, ULTREYA!

Paul

Something from Cheryl

Dear Cursillistas



As we come to the end of the Christian year with the start of Advent, we may want to reflect and review the year. We can't say we weren't blessed with a hot summer this year and so far the calendar year appears to be ending on a relatively mild note.

Our Cursillo year has had the usual commitments, the AGM, Peterborough #12 held in May followed by Welcome Back, and Summer Ultreya in September with the 10th anniversary celebration of Cursillo in the Peterborough Diocese.

There were very positive comments about having the weekend in May with the lighter evenings making walking between the buildings at Launde Abbey so much more pleasant. This feedback has been taken on board and while we have not been able to book Peterborough #13 in 2019 earlier in the year, Peterborough #14 is booked for May 2020.

With effect from 2019 I intend to get Cursillo dates on the Diocesan anti-clash diary. When we have discussed and agreed dates in Secretariat over recent years they have always been when there hasn't been anything else in the Diocesan diary. I hope this will mean in future that we won't have clashes with Diocesan events resulting in us having to change our dates.

I appreciate that Peterborough #13 is some 10 months away, on 3rd to 6th October, but I hope you are already starting to think and pray about potential pilgrims.

I wish you a meaningful Advent and blessed Christmas.

Ultreya!

Cheryl

A Reflection from Canon Káren

“O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder, Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy power throughout the universe displayed. Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art.”

On Sunday in the chilled and crisp early morning, I walked my dog, through the field where the sheep were still asleep. It was just before dawn and between the lack of moonlight and the canopy of the trees, it was so dark that I could not see anything. I used the small light from my phone to find the way to the top of the hill.



As I got to the top and looked back I froze with awe and amazement, for what I saw could only be the handy work of God. Given the chillness of the night, the lack of moisture in the air, the darkness of the night and the absence of pollution and city lights, the heavens opened up like I had never seen before.

I looked at the stars, recognised constellations and could only praise the awesomeness of God. As I saw what His hands had made, I thought how the universe displays His power. I could only think of how great He is, as I realised what I was seeing was only a thumbnail of the universe that can be seen with the naked eye.

With specially placed telescopes we constantly see articles about new discoveries in space. Recently astronomers announced the discovery of a fifth planet forty five times bigger than planet Earth orbiting a star about the size of our sun, some forty one light years away from earth.

Scientists tell us that the observable universe has been determined to have a width of billions of light years and continues to expand at an accelerating rate. When God said '*let there be light*' He really meant it.

As I walked I looked and listened dawn broke and the field and hedgerows came to life. As I watched a fox in a hurry

he seemed to waltz silently between the majestic trees and just as quickly disappeared before my dog had caught his scent. A group of birds disturbed from their slumber rose in unison and were gone from sight as quickly as they had appeared. I could only think that all was created by the hand of God.

My soul began to sing, how great Thou art, how great Thou art and for a few minutes the silence was broken by my voice as the words tumbled from my lips.

A thought: Have you taken the time lately to be still in the wonder of our Almighty God? Perhaps in 2019 you might find the time. To wander, and see all that God has created. *How great is our God.*

A very happy Christmas, Feliz Navidad, and New Year blessings.

Ultreya!

Kären

Summer Ultreya

The Summer Ultreya this year was held at St Andrew's Church in Wellingborough on Saturday 22nd September, a little later than usual. On arrival we were made most welcome. September is a month where there are many other events going on. Despite this, the members who attended enjoyed a Spirit led programme.

The occasion was also marked by Peterborough Cursillo celebrating our 10 years anniversary. There was a great display of photographs from events during that period. It was good to see how we have grown old gracefully.

We were further honoured by the attendance of our

National President Trevor King and also the National Spiritual Director Cynthia Hebden. They both delivered inspiring talks that gave us all food for thought.

On the subject of food we all enjoyed a very generous 'bring and share' lunch, and of course there was a cake to mark our anniversary. Ultreya wouldn't be Ultreya without cake!

Every body was in fine voice and our thanks must go to Bob Garbutt for his work in preparing the music.

Rev Cynthia Hebden led our Communion. Can I say, the witness talk given by Fiona Hailes was truly emotional, not only was it her home ground, but during the Communion her mum and dad read passages from the Scriptures.

The joy of all of our Ultreya's is that we get the chance to visit churches within the Dioceses, Our thanks must go to Rev Michelle Cotton and the members (who are Cursillistas) of her church for having us.

Ultreya!

David

BACC Autumn Meeting

The British Anglican Cursillo Council (BACC) held their autumn meeting on Saturday 17th November 2018 at the United Reformed Church in Norwich. Our Norwich Cursillistas provided wonderful hospitality for the Lay Directors, Spiritual Directors and BACC reps that were able to attend from their own dioceses. I was delighted to attend.

The morning was spent in worship, group reunion, a talk

from Rev Cynthia Hebden, our National Spiritual Director, and an opportunity to network with the other BACC reps in our area groups.

The talk from Rev Hebden focused on the building up of the Servant Community. It was suggested that as soon as the pilgrims had experienced their weekend they could be invited into a role in a pre-Cursillo, a Cursillo weekend or a post-Cursillo weekend group. All three groups would be led by a member of the secretariat and a member of clergy. In becoming an active member of the Servant Community pilgrims are then involved from the beginning and it can be a place for teaching and growing future leaders.

Following lunch, during the BACC council meeting, we were advised by our National President Trevor King that the Standing Committee now have the authority to revise the BACC Constitution. Trevor also informed us that America has started holding two day weekends. There will be a trial of three of these here this year, one in Scotland, one in Chelmsford and one in Southwell and Nottingham. We will be informed of the outcome of these trials next November with a decision of whether BACC will run with two day weekends or not. Watch this space!!

The day concluded with worship singing and a spirit filled Eucharist.

Wonderful!

Ultreya!

Liz Medlock

A Special Day

Saturday 29th September was a special day for a large num-

ber of Cursillistas with a huge turn out of people at Peterborough Cathedral. They weren't there for the Tim Peake exhibition, they were there for a joint service to license new Lay Ministers and for the five yearly re-licensing of existing Lay Readers, Lay Pastoral Ministers and Lay Evangelists. Many other Cursillistas were there to support their Lay Minister friends. It was a joyous occasion.



For they newly licensed Lay Ministers training to be Lay Readers they are still studying hard in their final year. Their final licensing as Readers will take place in their parishes by either Bishop Donald or John. Another joyous occasion to look forward to.

That Taboo Subject - Money



A review has had to be undertaken regarding financial sponsorship of Cursillo weekends. Whereas in recent years we have been able to sponsor pilgrims and staff by providing up to 60% of the cost, unfortunately our resources are not sufficient to continue at this level.

As with any business, prices increase each year and Launde Abbey is no exception. We do not have any external

funding, what funds we have come from within our own community. Secretariat is very grateful to those Cursillistas who give on a regular basis and the groups who make a donation every time they gather.

Have you considered giving to Cursillo? There is a banker's order form on our website. Any contribution you feel you are able to give whether you are in a position to gift aid or not would be greatly appreciated. It could be a regular monthly, quarterly, annual or one off payment. Please pray about this and think whether this is one way in which you can support our Cursillo community.

And Finally....

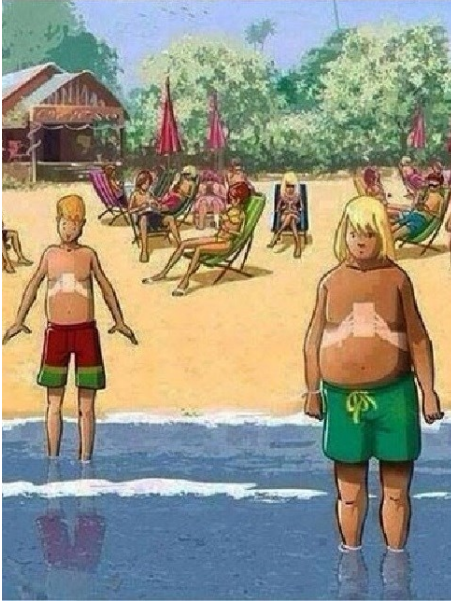
I was listening to a radio programme a few days ago where a group of people were reminiscing about their presents as children about forty years ago. There were always piles of presents of toys, board games and books. They felt they were very lucky. Today for a similar amount of money there wouldn't be a pile but one small packet—a mobile phone with apps for games, books and the like. They felt children of today might feel short changed by Santa.

A friend of mine recently sent me an email containing some mobile phone jokes which I'll share.

I'll call it a smartphone
the day I yell
"Where's my phone?!"
and it yells
"Down here! In the
couch cushions!"



The tan-lines of the next generation...



SHARED ON I'M NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD.COM



The phone my sister has (she's six)



The phone I had when I was six



And now it is time for is me to sign off.