



The Peterborough Pilgrim



August 2019

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT
I AM GOD"
PSALM 46:10

The first of many (I hope)

Hello Cursillistas

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Fiona Hailes, I have taken over the role of communications officer from Paul, so please bear with me while I find the ropes.

I did my Cursillo in 2017 at Lincoln #33. This was an amazing weekend as you all know. Since then I have grown in my faith through church and working alongside the ministry team to develop children and youth work, completing Gen2 children ministry certificate this July and the lay worship course through the diocese. This is a passion of mine as I have two daughters 7 and 10 that keep me busy most of the time constantly exploring their own beliefs.



Over the next 3 years I look forward to being able to share all the good news from fellow Cursillista's and prayers request that hold us when we most need them. Hopefully my next entry for the Pilgrim magazine will be full of great reflections from my first time of staffing at Peterborough #13

Ultreya!

Fiona

Something from Paul

Dear Cursillistas

Having spent the last four years writing semi-anonymously under the heading of 'The Comms Team (of One)' and hidden behind cartoon pictures of over-worked journalists of some sort, I feel a little 'exposed' seeing my picture looking back at me from the screen as I write this. But I must add it is a privilege to writing this as the Lay Director for Peterborough Cursillo for the next three years and it was certainly not what I was expecting this time last year when I was expecting to stand down from the Secretariat.



This year has seen significant change in the members of the Secretariat as many reached the end of their terms of office and stood down. Their experience and invaluable work on your behalf building up and driving forward Peterborough Cursillo in the Diocese will be missed but they have been replaced by an equally talented and enthusiastic team who are keen to carry on that magnificent work.

Over the past years, has spent a lot of time and effort in developing the Cursillo weekend to be a memorable and truly spiritually rewarding experience for each Pilgrim. And on that note, Peterborough #13 at Launde Abbey on 3rd to 6th October is well advanced in its planning and training of staff will begin in a month's time. Now is YOUR time; we need YOU to identify and sponsor pilgrims to attend. We have three booked in at the moment and congratulations to Uplands Benefice who has sponsored all of them. We are currently planning to run three tables so ideally would like a dozen pilgrims. So over to you!

But the weekend is only the beginning; the Fourth Day is the important part as it is the rest of our life. The Cursillo weekend has an effect on so

many Cursillistas' lives. This was brought home to me at last year's Licensing and re-Licensing of Lay Ministers in the Diocese at the cathedral last September. So many at the cathedral were Cursillistas, their lives had been changed as a result of their Pilgrimage. I am not sure we are as good at supporting and developing our Cursillistas through their Fourth Day as we are at running the weekend; I feel we let you get on with it on your own and as a result some drift away. We don't help groups of Cursillistas to develop into Servant Communities within their parishes, benefices or effective areas in the Diocese. As a Secretariat we need to address this issue and so the Fourth Day and our support will be focussed on over the next year or two. Expect contact from our Fourth Day Representative, David Bell, who wants to hear your views on this issue.

I think the coming years will be exciting and I look forward to working with you.

Ultreya!

Paul

A Wonderful Quiet Day

The planned first outing of the year for the garden furniture didn't happen. The opportunity to stroll around the garden in quiet contemplation didn't happen. It rained all day. Clearly God gave us the gift of rain which is what He knew we needed, rather than the gift of the sun which is what we wanted. As always He knew best and despite the rain it was a wonderful Quiet Day of prayer and thoughtful meditation at the Bishop's Palace in Peterborough on Saturday 8th June.

This was the first time that Bishop Donald had led a Quiet Day for Peterborough Cursillo and about 25 Cursillistas from across the Diocese attended. The theme for the day was the Holy Spirit which was appropriate as we were coming to the end of 'Thy Kingdom Come' period

of prayer and that Sunday 9th was Pentecost Sunday. During the day, Bishop Donald led us through three short reflections on passages from John 14 and 16 and gave us time to find somewhere quiet and relaxing to be silent between each talk to allow the Holy Spirit to talk to us. Having been daunted at the thought of the silent period at the beginning of the Cursillo weekend on Peterborough #7 I was amazed this time how quickly each period of silence went and didn't want it to stop. It helped that Bishop Donald had talked us through the process of being silent and had told us that stray thoughts would pop into our mind but that wasn't a problem as long as we allowed them to continue on their journey out again. He also told us that true silence meant that our minds were free of all thoughts and that we were being held in the hands of God. Well, I know I didn't achieve that it was a lovely experience trying to get there. The day finished with a simple communion service with rousing and uplifting hymns.

But a Cursillo event would not be complete without cakes and Bishop Donald did us proud. There were cakes and pastries with tea and coffee when we arrived, they were more cakes with our buffet lunch and of course, before we left after communion there were more cakes with tea and coffee.

This was truly a great day and one we would like to repeat if one of the Bishops is free to do so in the future.

BACC Meeting May 2019

Our National Spiritual Director, Canon Cynthia Hebden led a session on Servant Community and the Authentic Weekend. The concern of many Cursillos is weekends being cancelled, or running weekends with low

numbers. She questioned why Bishops aren't begging us to run more weekends.

Cynthia suggested that one of the best ways to gain the commitment of new Cursillistas is to invite them to join Secretariat or invite them to staff on the next weekend after the one they attended. It is agreed that usually Cursillistas get more out of staffing on a weekend than they do from their own weekend. If we don't engage new Cursillistas as soon as possible, then they disappear off the radar, (and of course they are our potential sponsors of Cursillistas on future weekends!)

Cynthia talked through the detail of the *Servant Community* and *Authentic Cursillo Three Day Weekend* booklets both of which can be downloaded from the BACC website (www.anglicancursillo.co.uk on the Resource Manual page).

Another way of involving Cursillistas is for sponsors to encourage their pilgrims to attend Group Reunions and Ultreyas. We were being encouraged to have local Ultreyas where there are clusters of Group Reunions. Reference was made by Cynthia coming to our Summer Ultreya last year. She said she knew where Peterborough was, but hadn't realised where Wellingborough was and our Diocese is like a 'long stringy thing'! All Dioceses cover large areas and have pockets of Cursillistas – so geography and Cursillista clusters make a good argument for local Ultreyas.

Ultreya!

Cheryl

Peterborough #13



**Peterborough #13
Launde Abbey
October 3rd to 6th 2019**

**Share the
gifts of the Holy Spirit
by sponsoring a Pilgrim**

**COME
HOLY SPIRIT**

With the speed the year is passing, our next Cursillo weekend, Peterborough #13, will soon be upon us. Most of the plans are now in place and staff training days are organised. All we need now are pilgrims. At this moment we are planning three tables which means we need about 10-12 pilgrims. The good news is we have three already booked but we are still well short of our target. So it is now down to all of us to find the rest of the pilgrims and sponsor them.

I am sure we all remember our own Cursillo gifted to us by a friend. What a wonderful experience it was, the great love

we felt during that weekend and the amazing feeling of the presence of the Holy Spirit enveloping us. I am also sure we have all experienced changes to our lives in Christ since then and realise how important Cursillo is to all of us. What greater gift can we give than to share this with others? PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GIFT CURSILLO TO SOMEONE ELSE.

Application and Sponsorship forms for Peterborough #13 are available as downloads on the Peterborough Cursillo website at: www.peterborough-cursillo.btck.co.uk/LeafletsforCursilloandSponsorship

The Servant Community



A few weeks ago I was at Swallowford House in Staffordshire spending a wonderfully informative and spiritual weekend on a Cursillo Leaders Workshop. Yes, I should have completed this weekend before taking over as Lay Director but three years of Lay Reader

training has somewhat got in the way! However, it is better late than never. It was led by an inspirational team and meeting other Cursillistas from around the UK meant we were able to share experiences, good ideas, create a network of support for each other but most importantly have time to pray and be in communion with God together.

During the weekend I was keen to learn more about the *Servant Community*, to see how it has been implemented and supported within other Diocese so we can do something similar as part of our drive to support of the Fourth Day activities more and to see the benefits it brings to Christian communities as a whole and Diocesan Secretariats. To be honest, it has been on the agenda of the Secretariat for the last couple of meetings and on each occasion it has been 'held over' until the next meeting to give us more time to think about the subject. Listening to others attending the weekend that have embraced the concept of the *Servant Community* it is clear to me that we have quite a way to go. I think it is true to say that we have small pockets of the *Servant Community* in various parts of the Diocese where Cursillistas have taken up the 'Rule of Life' of Piety, Study and Action since their weekends and are working together in their parishes, benefices and communities doing God's work in different ways. However, the impact these *Servant Communities* are having at the moment is limited because they are not wide-spread across

the Diocese yet like others are. Maybe it is unfair to compare Peterborough Cursillo with many other Dioceses as we are still relatively young in comparison with fewer Cursillistas but it does give us a goal to aim for.

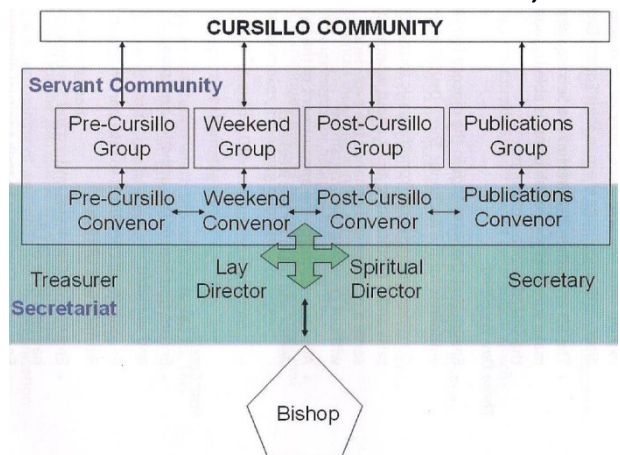
Our Cursillo Weekend Pilgrimage reminds each of us live our Fourth Days under our individual 'Rule of Life' embracing piety, study and action. We do not follow a 'Rule of Life' just to benefit our lives but do so to benefit the lives of others and as a result have a profound effect on them. Through our prayers we not only enrich our lives with a deeper relationship with God because they are personal one-to-one conversation between God and us, but when we include others in our prayers it enriches their lives and relationship with God as well. Through what we read, hear or see by studying we not only increase our personal knowledge of God and his love for us, but we have many opportunities to share that with others, so that they too, can enhance their understanding and share that love of God. And our actions can have the biggest effect on others. We know God has a plan for each of us and it is through our actions for others, whatever that may be, that we carry out God's plan to bring others to him. We may not immediately recognise what God needs us to do but through prayer, study and the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will discover his plan how we may serve others and in accepting it we become part of his '*Servant Community*'. As the number of Cursillistas grow and they more they are supported through Group Reunions and Ultreyas, at local, Diocesan and national levels, the '*Servant Community*' will become grow in strength and presence.



Is the '*Servant Community*' exclusively in the hands of Cursillistas? The answer to that is, of course, no; we have a duty to and responsibility to share it with others. Until recently there has been a reluctance to include non-Cursillistas in Group Reunions and Ultreyas and that has fuelled a suspicion among some that Cursillo is a 'secret society'. There are many

within the Church Family that follow a prayerful, studious and active live in Christ and are not part of Cursillo. We should embrace them within Group Reunion and bring them to Ultreyas, if they wish, because the way they lead their lives also makes them members of a '*Servant Community*'. If we think of the origins of the Cursillo Movement, it began with short courses and small groups of people meeting to encourage and support one another in the faith, i.e. Ultreyas and Group Reunions. It was later that the Cursillo Weekend Pilgrimage came about through Eduardo Bonnin. If we do the same within our group Reunions and Ultreyas, not only will they grow but they will be enriched and flourish with the presence of others and the '*Servant Community*' will further grow, enabling more of God's work to be carried out in our communities and throughout the world.

As I said earlier, there are pockets where '*Servant Communities*' exist or at least are beginning to exist in the Peterborough Diocese and having heard good work they achieve in other Dioceses it is something we should aspire to. They have also experienced another 'spin-off', that is they have more people willing to run Cursillo within their Diocese and that would certainly help us. . At the moment within the Peterborough Diocesan Cursillo, its running falls upon the shoulders of a few Cursillistas and that means that the work-load for each is large. Furthermore, Peterborough Diocese is long and narrow making it more difficult to easily reflect and respond to the needs of all Cursillistas across the area. In contrast, other Dioceses that have already embraced the '*Servant Community*' have experienced many more Cursillistas across their Dioceses willing and wanting to be involved with the running of their Diocesan Cursillo. This has enabled them run their Secretariats from a broad selection of people reflecting all views. It has enabled them to work



with sub-committees spreading the administrative burden and reducing the work-load for everyone along the lines recommended by BACC. It also enables and encourages 'succession through progression', a process that most organisations follow. So why don't we follow suit? I suspect if we did we wouldn't have unfilled posts on our Secretariat.

This gives us a lot to think about and impinges on some the things I said in my other article (which was written and submitted to the editor before this one). As I said earlier, it is on the agenda for the secretariat to discuss at our next meeting but we would also value your views. I am happy for you to contact me directly on paulanstice@yahoo.com

Ultreya!

Paul

It's That Time of Year Again

As the Cursillo weekend approaches, there will soon be a request for palanca. And it stresses so many of us. What should we send? Where can find suitable things to give? How much will it all cost?

What is palanca, and more importantly what isn't it?

Palanca is the offering of prayers to strengthen and lift and support someone to enable them to accomplish more than if they were alone. The palanca we send reflects that prayer support. It can be a note, a short piece of scripture, or a



written prayer. It can and should be simple but meaningful. It doesn't need to elaborate or costly. It isn't many things that we receive. It isn't colourful butterflies or rainbows. It isn't colourful pencils or pens. It isn't a packet of rainbow sweets.

Giving palanca is nothing to be stressed about, it a joyful time to hold someone in prayer.