

THE CURSILLO CONNECTION

September 2022



Cursillo News for the Diocese of St Albans

Welcome to your latest Newsletter!

Welcome to this late summer edition (autumnal?) of the Cursillo Newsletter. This is just a reminder that Cursillo is here for all Cursillistas, for friendship, for fellowship, to help and encourage people as they go about their everyday lives.

When I last spoke to you at Easter 2022, we were all feeling a lot more positive about the future and we had just celebrated the commissioning of our Spiritual Director, Sam Frampton at Sam's church, St Matthew's, Oxhey on Saturday 26th February 2022. Bishop Alan was able to join us and conduct the Commissioning service.

Our next Cursillo Weekend:

St Albans #9, that weekend that seems never to be coming. We have booked the Chelmsford Diocese Retreat House at Pleshey from Fri 10th Feb to Sun 12th Feb 2023. This will be our first time of running a shortened or concise (2 day) weekend, starting on the Friday evening and finishing on the Sunday afternoon. This will also be our first weekend since 2017!

Averill and the staff team are already planning for the weekend, but WE NEED PILGRIMS. Although the weekend seems far off, it is not too soon to engage with others in our churches who might benefit from the Cursillo message and method. Be open about what Cursillo is and what happens over a weekend and how you feel it has affected your life as a Christian. Remember, Cursillo offers committed Christians a proven way of discipleship in which they are supported and encouraged.

That is why we say "Your Cursillo needs you, to be a friend and bring a friend to Christ.

Remember the dates 10th -12th Feb 2023 and encourage fellow Christians to join us as Pilgrims. Booking forms are available on the website (stalbanscursillo.com) or from Mike Ashwood (mikes.ashwood@gmail.com)

Future dates for your diaries:

Sat 15th October 2022:
Ultreya/AGM/Eucharist 2pm at St John the Baptist Church, Barnet.

So, what have we got to report on since the last newsletter:

THE CURSILLO CONNECTION

September 2022



Cursillo News for the Diocese of St Albans

A Report from Geoff Nicholson- Lay Director who attended the National Conference and AGM, May 2022

On Friday 6th May I set off to attend the National Conference at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The conference started on the Friday and finished on the Sunday. The Conference was titled: "Reconnecting and Moving Forward". I was keen to find out what I may learn about this and very quickly found out that this was a problem that not only our Diocese has experienced but in fact everybody present had experienced at some level. Over 60 of us from every Cursillo diocese in England, and a few delegates from Scotland and Wales looked at this problem we are all facing. We shared ideas and prayed together along with what normally happens when a group of Cursillistas meet they will eat together, sing together, and laugh together.

Friday started with a floating group reunion, then a review from each Cursillo on problems they were encountering and finished with evening prayer.

On the Saturday, we did a Bible Study looking at the foundation of Cursillo and then had the first of three workshops. The first was on how to encourage the next generations of participants. Workshop two was on

communications and then the final workshop - Fresh Expressions of Cursillo. The day finished with a Eucharist with the order of service by the Church of Scotland. In the evening we had a quiz and social evening.

On Sunday we all gathered to look at what we felt were our priorities and how we are going to progress. We then all departed after lunch feeling more positive about reconnecting in our respective Cursillos but also recognizing the challenges we are all facing.

Remember, your Secretariat comprises:

- Lay Director: Geoff Nicholson
- Spiritual Director: Revd. Sam Frampton
- Treasurer: John Emmett
- Publicity Officer: Mike Ashwood
- Fourth Day Rep: Pauline Hinge
- Palanca Rep: Laurie Little
- BACC Rep: Elaine Nicholson
- Secretary/Minutes: Liz Puller

If you want to get in touch with anyone on the secretariat visit the website stalbanscursillo.com or e-mail: laydirector@stalbanscursillo.com. If

THE CURSILLO CONNECTION

September 2022



Cursillo News for the Diocese of St Albans

you want to find out more about Cursillo in Britain, go to the national website www.anglicancursillo.co.uk

ULTREYA GB 2022: ST PAUL'S TO SOUTHWARK - CURSILLO COMES TO THE CAPITAL

Saturday 3rd September saw the National gathering of the Anglican Cursillo movement come to the capital for the first time in over a decade.



Organised jointly by London Diocese and Southwark Diocese Cursillos. Seven of us from St Albans Cursillo joined just over 200 Cursillistas gathered at under the dome of St Paul's Cathedral at 9.45am for a short service of prayer and blessing led by the Rev. Ken Buckler, Spiritual Director of London Cursillo. As we came towards the close of this act of worship the banners of Cursillo Diocese from across Great Britain gathered in front of the altar with Rt. Rev. Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of



London, who gave the final blessing and sent us on our walk of witness to Southwark Cathedral.

Our walk took us over the Millennium Bridge and on along Bankside passing past such architectural icons as the Globe Theatre, the Shard, and then under Southwark Bridge, through the tunnel into Clink Street, passing the Golden Hind and on to Southwark Cathedral, where we were received by Southwark Diocese Cursillistas with a welcome cup of tea/coffee and biscuits. It was good to meet up with old friends and meet new Cursillistas.

Prior to lunch and following various welcomes to the cathedral our first session began with "Come down, O love divine." This was followed by a time of sharing our personal journey of faith within groups of four or five Cursillistas making sure they were people with whom we didn't meet in our home group reunions.

THE CURSILLO CONNECTION

September 2022



Cursillo News for the Diocese of St Albans



This was followed by more, full throated, singing and two wonderful action talks. The first, from Melanie Nazareth, a member of Southwark Cathedral, about how Christ had called her to take action to help with climate change issues, leading her to become an environmental activist. As Christians we should not look away, cross the road or avoid interacting with activists. As Christians, we should do something to try and stop the destruction of the world. Melanie detailed her own experiences of action - attending COP26 in Glasgow, lobbying at the Houses of Parliament and also stopping traffic in demonstrations.

The second, by Monica Bolley from London Cursillo, how her roots as a person of colour, had made her look at her history and the history of the oppression of black people by white people in the time of slavery and how this had led her to become active as a Christian against racism, to become joint chair of London Diocese racial justice committee.

Following the death of George Floyd in the USA in 2020, she reflected on what we as Christians can do to change the situation. We have a key part to play in the demise of racism and she believes that we all have a contribution to make in this endeavour, and that in order for change to occur, it is as much about the efforts of individuals as it is about anything that happens at organisational and institutional levels. It was all very thought provoking.

The National spiritual Director, Rev'd Stephen Bowering, gave the Gospel Response to these witness talks. He began by thanking both witnesses as making him feel desperately inadequate. He asked us to challenge perceived injustices and not to rely on others, not to say "they'll" sort it out!

THE CURSILLO CONNECTION

September 2022



Cursillo News for the Diocese of St Albans

We then enjoyed a break for lunch, some eating packed lunches in the cathedral garden, and others popping across to Borough market. Our afternoon session our Eucharist (on the Feast of St Gregory the Great), presided over by The Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. Lord Harries of Pentregarth, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Southwark and our preacher was the Rt. Rev. Rob Wickham, Bishop of Edmonton in the Diocese of London. The theme of his sermon was the theology of the state is our saviour. About how we have colluded to always expect someone else to do something about it, whatever that might be and who the "they" are. He related this also to the church and how often we expect other people to do what is needed. The conclusion was really that we need to step up to the plate and to do things for others. To be ready to volunteer when no one else comes forward. The service was interspersed with wonderful hymns sung with great enthusiasm by all present and then it was time to say goodbye for another year. And to book the date for next year's gathering in Rochester Cathedral.



The St Albans Seven. Left to right. Val Ashwood (Bishop's Stortford), Yvonne Bennett (Potters Bar), Geoff and Elaine Nicholson (Barnet), Ann Finney (Elstree), Mike Ashwood (Bishop's Stortford) and Laurie Little (Barnet).

Remember, our next Cursillo Weekend takes place at the Retreat House, Pleshey between the 10th and 12th of February 2023. Do think about who you might sponsor for this weekend so that we can be sure of enough pilgrims to make it viable. Booking is now open and booking forms can be found on our website or from Mike Ashwood, bookings officer, mikes.ashwood@gmail.com.

THE CURSILLO CONNECTION

September 2022



Cursillo News for the Diocese of St Albans

Editor's Message

My thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Their contributions were much appreciated. I hope you have found this Newsletter interesting and helpful. PLEASE remember that this is your Newsletter, and I am dependent on you to send me stories, experiences, anecdotes, insights, discoveries, pictures etc - anything to

do with your Cursillo experience. Please do not wait to be asked. Send me anything at any time by snail mail or, preferably, by email on mikes.ashwood@gmail.com

Ultreya! - and remember we need pilgrims for the next Cursillo weekend to go ahead!