



NEWSLETTER Spring 2019

Lord

Give me strength in my weakness.

Give me faith in my fear

Give me power in my powerlessness

I'm trusting you

Amen

Hello to you all

This is my first piece for the newsletter as Lay Director and last newsletter as Communications officer! I first want to thank all those who have sent messages of prayer & encouragement since my election at the Diocesan Ultreya, it's those prayers that will uphold me during my time in office.

I was asked to consider being LD when Mary stepped down in November & I initially said no, I felt I had too much on already.

Over the weekend of Chester 58 I prayed that God would find someone to take on the role of Lay Director and on Sunday morning He did 2 key things. In the smiling faces of a couple of our wake up visitors I saw Gods love shining out and I knew with a certainty that I couldn't have explained a Lay Director was going to be found. Secondly during one of the talks that morning the speaker talked of looking & praying for someone to do a role & realising the right person was themselves, that really shook me. Don't think for one minute I jumped & said ok I'll do it, but I did start to think about it. The following Saturday I attended the area Ultreya & during a time of Guided prayer, we were asked to use the prayer shown above, to think about our weaknesses, our fears & times when we feel powerless. I used the prayer to make a list of reasons why I couldn't be Lay Director! I then turned over the page, to find the words of the Kyrie on the other side, the line that spoke to me was 'Lord Jesus when we are in need, you do not abandon us' I felt then that God was saying you can do it & I'll be there to help you. So, here I am Lord, I hope I heard you correctly.

Carol Thayer

(Weak & powerless but no longer fearful Lay Director for Chester Diocese)

SD's letter

God is our refuge and strength

*"God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of trouble.
² So we will not fear when earthquakes come
and the mountains crumble into the sea.
³ Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge!*



*⁶ The nations are in chaos,
and their kingdoms crumble!
God's voice thunders,
and the earth melts!
⁷ The LORD of Heaven's Armies is here among us" Psalm 46 verses 1-3, 6-7*

I avoid the news at the moment because it is too horrifying to watch. I can't do anything to stop Brexit, I can't do enough on my own to stop global warming, I can't solve the problem of the huge gap between rich and poor that is growing every larger, in this country and globally. It seems we are heading for total disaster as a nation and as a planet.

The state of our nation and the state of the world are not accidents, they are consequences of the actions of each of us. We are responsible for what has happened. Blaming other people is easy, but the truth is we are all to blame. We enjoy a comfortable lifestyle in this country at a huge cost to other people and the environment.

We are not isolated individuals, we are connected with every other human being, with every other plant and animal on this planet. What we do affects all life. When we fill the oceans with toxic waste then we destroy the life that we depend on. When we demand cheap food for ourselves then we reduce the wages of agricultural workers. When we fill our roads with lorries emitting toxic diesel fumes then the communities closest to those roads suffer from a higher risk of lung and heart problems. There is a madness about the way we are behaving as a species. We are destroying each other and the planet we depend on for every breath we take.

The only answer is to return to the one who created us and all life and listen to what He has to say about how best we can organise our world. In the Old Testament, in Leviticus, we read about the concept of Jubilee: a year when slaves were to be set free, when debts were to be written off, when the land itself was to be rested and not ploughed or sown. A rest from making money from each other, a rest from plundering the earth for profit. I'm told that it was never properly implemented, that people ignored it as a strange unprofitable idea that would never make them rich.

In the New Testament we have the wisdom of the Son of God, who spoke more about money than any other topic. Jesus warned His followers to beware of becoming attached to material possessions and money:

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where

moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be. ”

²⁴ *“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”*

³³ *“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew chapter 6 verses 19-21, 24, 33*

The miracles we need to solve the problems of this world are found in the commands of our religion. It is God alone who is our refuge and strength and if enough of us put our faith in His wisdom and live by His commands then we will see those miracles.

The Lord of Heaven’s Armies is here among us!

Rev. Vicki Schofield



Getting to knowJoan Clare

(This picture was painted by Joan)

Continuing our series of Getting to know the secretariat, this time we interviewed our Fourth Day Officer

Tell us a bit about you please

I’m a Cursillista from weekend #41 at Wistaston. Now retired from primary school teaching with the total belief that I was born to be retired as it suits me so well. Farewell alarm clock and wristwatch. I attend St Michael and All Angels in Runcorn, which is my family church

How did you find out about Cursillo?

heard about Cursillo from Vicki Schofield when she was appointed Vicar at our church. “You’ll enjoy it” she said. In the mistaken belief that it was some sort of retreat I went along, a little apprehensively , I have to say.

What was the highlight/outstanding memory of your Cursillo weekend?

What I remember from that weekend is the laughter; the love and care shown by those staffing; the palanca; the Service of Light [WOW!]; palanca; Vicki arriving at ‘Wake-Up’ having set out at silly o’clock to get there....I cried...of course; and palanca! All so different from what I expected but so very glad it was.

What impact did the weekend have on you?/What changes occurred in you after your weekend?

I don’t think there was a profound change after that weekend, more of a gradual one in effect. I think the first weekend I staffed had more of an impact. The privilege of being asked; helping the participants feel at home and listening to the talks again. For me staffing along with our group re-unions give structure and a deeper understanding of my relationship with God and my place in the community.

My faith has become stronger and more deep rooted thanks to Cursillo and it holds me in place during the dark days.

I'm now 4th day officer and a member of the Secretariat. I took on that role in November following on from Sue Joy. I'm still finding my feet, so to speak, and there's probably a lot more to it than I've yet realised. The Officer co-ordinates with the Lay rectors of the various 4th day communities in Cheshire. There are four meetings a year; two to organise the palanca needs for the weekends and two pastoral ones, hopefully with Eucharist. Here we discuss how each 4th day community is faring and whether prayers or practical help.....or both are needed.

What's your favourite way to spend a day off?

What I do on my days off depends on how energetic I feel. On lazy days there's nothing better than curling up with a good book and letting the outside world go by. On more energised days I paint or patchwork. It's all about colour; putting it together to make a scene or a quilt. Deeply satisfying. And there we are....me, in a nutshell!

Thank you Joan



Banner Blog

Since we last spoke I have had a few outings.

I went to Crewe and for the Chester Diocesan Ultreya, this is always a lovely event, meeting with the new Cursillistas again and also meeting up with friends from around the Diocese.

Then.....what a treat, the next weekend was in February not May, so I got to show my colours early. It was a wonderful weekend always a privilege watching the participants grow as the weekend unfolds. Also watching the staff team work together to provide the best experience they can. Then I got to go to Crewe again for the closing service. I think Mary is getting a bit forgetful these days, as they were clearing up after the tea and people were leaving, she suddenly remembered me. I was still in the Church looking radiant, I wouldn't have minded being forgotten (a lovely Church and lots of Cursillista friends to look after me), but Mary had to find someone to unlock the Church door to get me out. The weekend after, I travelled with Mary and Irene to Foxhill for a new venture. Helen (our BACC area rep) had organised an Ultreya to include Cursillistas from Chester, Lichfield, St Asaph and St David's. (Unfortunately no one could make it from St David's). It was a lovely event, I believe, watching everybody's enjoyment of the time together. But...As the Saturday came to a finish, I watched Mary and Irene get into the car (I could see from my position in the room down onto the car park), then saw Mary jump out and come back in...she had forgotten me again (nearly).

Next outing is to the Diocesan Ultreya in Holmes Chapel, looking forward to meeting up with everybody and our new Cursillistas, please could you keep an eye on Mary that she doesn't forget to take me home after!



GB 2019

I'm sure I don't have to remind you that Chester Diocese is hosting the GB Ultreya in 2019!

On Saturday 31st August 2019 Cursillistas from all over England, Scotland & Wales will be gathering at Chester Cathedral for our annual GB Ultreya.

In the autumn newsletter we asked for help.

We still need...

- First aiders prepared to be 'on duty' in case of an emergency or even just a minor injury (first aid kit to be provided!).
- A worship band for the occasion so if you sing or play in your own church we will want you, Linda Lewis has kindly agreed to co-ordinate this. The group will lead worship & play as people are arriving.
- 12 People who are used to administering the chalice at the Eucharist in their own church

Please contact us at ChesterCommunications@gmail.com if you can help.

Whether you're helping or not we still need you to register on the website so we know that you're coming



My Cursillo

by John Hulme, Chester Cursillo #58

God's love doesn't work by bundling you into the back of a van and kidnapping you into His heart. But if it did, it might leave you feeling a little like I do after my Cursillo experience.

I had very little idea what to expect when going on a Cursillo weekend. A friend of mine told me about it over a meal one evening - some kind of short Christian thing he had been involved with, and an experience he thought I might wish to look into if I ever got the chance.

I mentioned this to another couple of other people in the following days, and they both said they had heard good things about it, and that it might be good for me. Feeling more and more curious, I looked it up online and watched a couple of YouTube videos. I still wasn't really sure what to expect, but something just seemed to tug at me. So I applied to go on the next local weekend, which was little more than a month away. I got a response very quickly: very friendly, very accommodating and still leaving me with no clear idea what I was in for.

It wasn't deliberate secrecy. Nobody was preparing to send me on any international espionage missions. The fact is, it's just very difficult to prepare anyone for what happens on a Cursillo weekend.

On the surface, it is simply a course - a series of short talks, discussions and meditations to build up a picture of the Christian life. But what really makes Cursillo stand out is the way this happens, the environment in which you find yourself.

As the weekend progresses, you find yourself increasingly, sometimes overwhelmingly seduced by a sense of being held, valued and loved.

Restored and Forgiven by Ray and Vi Donovan, pub. Bridge Logos.
-A book review by Lew Riches



I recommend you read the back outside cover first. It frightened and shocked me. It challenged me to read on. Even the endorsements were a challenge for me to overcome. Every page has something that challenged my view of the world, that shook my view of reality up and down. Every chapter had something that made me gasp. Why? Because I know it is the absolute truth. How? Because I heard the story directly from Ray and Vi over a period of 2 weekends even before I'd heard about the book. That means when I'd finished reading it I had and have a different view of : God, murderers, the police, justice as a philosophy, forgiveness, restorative justice and reconciliation. Equally I know, now that individual people can and do change aspects of society they feel strongly about.

This book is not a religious textbook. It is a statement of how a parents love for their son fortified by their faith drove them on to survive murder, to forgive and become reconciled with the murderers and to champion remarkable changes for restorative justice.



News from The Secretariat

Forthcoming weekends

The secretariat discussed at length participants on weekends
It is essential that we have at least 3 participants for a weekend to run. Therefore in order for Chester 59 to go ahead, we need 3 confirmed participants, that is completed forms with the weekend co-ordinator by the end of August 2019 and by the end of March 2020 for Chester 60. Please think & pray about who God might want YOU to talk to about Cursillo.

Chester 59 24th-27th October 2019 at Foxhill
Chester 60 28th-31st May 2020 at Wistaston Hall

Ultreyas 2019

8th June Ultreya & AGM at St Oswalds Church, Bollington (7 Bollington Rd, Bollington, Macclesfield SK10 5EG) starting at 12pm with a bring & share lunch

16th November Ultreya at St Pauls Rock Ferry, (306 Old Chester Road Rock Ferry Wirral CH42 3XD) starting at 12pm with a bring & share lunch

Secretariat members

The secretariat is the organising committee of Cursillo within a diocese. Secretariat members serve for a 3 year term, they can be re-elected for a further year. Newly elected members usually shadow the previous post holder for 6 months before 'going it alone'

At the March Ultreya Carol Thayer was elected as Lay Director. Because Mary had completed her term of office in November 2018 Carol cannot shadow her. Therefore the secretariat have co-opted Mary back onto the committee for 6 months to support Carol, in a non voting role.

Anne Vetter will continue as Communications Officer but we do need someone to edit the newsletter.

In May this year

Sue Hutt is due to complete her term of office as BACC rep

Beth Roberts will step down as weekend co-ordinator

Anne Smith will complete her time as secretary

If you feel you could consider any of these roles, please feel free to contact the person currently in post via the website for more information on the role. Any elected at the May Ultreya will shadow until November when they will formally take up their position.

In November Vicki will complete her term of office as Spiritual Director, if any ordained Cursillista would like to be considered for this role, please contact Vicki in the first instance.

Lay Director laydirector@chestercursillo.org.uk	Carol Thayer
Spiritual Director spiritualdirector@chestercursillo.org.uk	Vicki Schofieled
Hon Secretary secretary@chestercursillo.org.uk	Anne Smith
Hon Treasurer secretary@chestercursillo.org.uk	Tony Fisher
Weekend Co-ordinator weekend@chestercursillo.org.uk	Beth Roberts
Fourth Day Officer fourthday@chestercursillo.org.uk	Joan Clare
Palanca Secretary palanca@chestercursillo.org.uk	Sue Lewis
BACC Rep baccrep@chestercursillo.org.uk	Sue Hutt
Communications officers communications@chestercursillo.org.uk	Anne Vetter

