

Chester Cursillo

Summer NewsLetter 2024

Pictures of Summer so far...



The yew Tree door at St Edward's,
Alcester



Lavender at The Blue Boar Inn



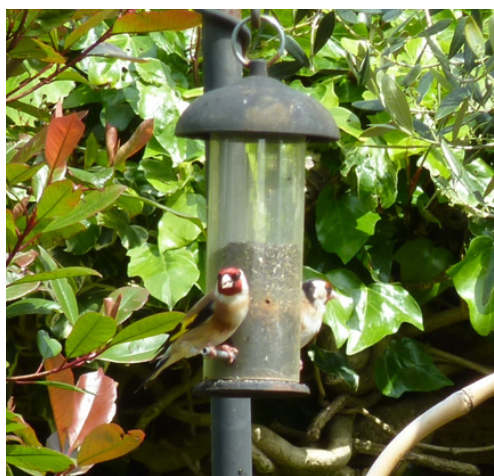
Walled garden at Coughton Hall, Alcester



Grounds at Sudley Hall, Liverpool



The Finding of the Saviour, Sudley House



Goldfinches, a Widnes garden.

and many more memories to be made...

John and I stayed at The Blue Boar Inn, outside Stratford upon Avon last week. It was such a peaceful place to return to, allowing us to just be. This is something we talked about in Bible study today...how do we make time to spend with God...I came across this...Sue Lewis.

All that noise pervading you—
all the scrolling, the browsing, the endless
rushing around—no wonder your soul
has crawled beneath your bones;
no wonder it doesn't want to come out.

Distraction pushes the whispers of your heart
outside of your awareness;
busyness crowds the space within you
until your spirit curls up into a ball.

Yet in stillness you can arrive, slowly,
at the truths of yourself.
In returning to quietude time after time
you can begin to gain the trust of your shy depths.

Let your being breathe.
Make space for time; make time for space;
create continuums of soulfulness.
Put Sabbath at the centre of your life
and you will find that your life becomes centred.

For how can you learn
The gorgeous secrets of your soul

Heugh, Gideon. Naming God



Bev's Blog

One of my priorities for this year is to raise awareness of Cursillo around the diocese of Chester and Lichfield. This is important for two reasons. Firstly, Cursillo is a great tool for churches to use to inspire faith sharing, and secondly, growing as a community is essential to our long-term survival.

As you may know, Chester has teamed up with fellow Cursillistas from the Lichfield Diocese for a few years in order to support and encourage them in their bid to re-establish Cursillo in Lichfield. Things are progressing nicely and the folk from Lichfield recently held a cream tea and information afternoon where people could come along and find out about Cursillo. After watching a video, they were invited to participate in a taster Group Reunion session and then enjoy some refreshments together, where current Cursillistas were available to answer any questions. The afternoon was very enjoyable and has inspired at least one person to sign up for the October weekend.



Chester Cursillistas were also out on the campaign trail at the Cheshire Show this year where we had a stand in the 'Church at the Show' table to join in with the ecumenical acts of worship each day and to meet with fellow Christians. Both of these activities were fairly simple to organise, and I would encourage you to think about doing something similar with your own 4th Day communities in your own churches. It could be a separate event, or just a Meet & Chat over coffee after a service. Let's get the word out there and share with the rest of the diocese just how fabulous Cursillo is!

Resources, such as leaflets, are available from the Secretariat on request





WELCOME BACC BETH!

At the biennial BACC Conference in Swanick this May, Beth Roberts was thanked as she stepped down from the role of President, after 4 years in the post. The new President, Helen Taubman, was welcomed warmly by everyone.

The good news for Chester Cursillo is that, now she has relinquished her duties with BACC, we will be seeing a lot more of Beth. In fact, she is jumping straight in by taking on the OLR role for weekend #65.

It's good to have you back Beth!



L to R - Beth Gascoigne, BACC Treasurer.
Helen Taubman, BACC President.



Welcome to the world of "Cursillo" (pronounced "Kurseeyo") If you were hoping for tortillas, sangria and sun-drenched beaches, think again! Cursillo is a Christian movement which was born in the aftermath of the vicious Spanish Civil War: shocked by the communal violence which had racked the Catholic country of Spain, some leading lights in the church - lay and ordained - resolved to work together for the renewal of both church and society. And so, Cursillo, (which means 'short course') was born; Christians were to be invited to a weekend course of talks, worship, fellowship, eating & drinking, and silence. And each weekend course would be upheld mightily in prayer - that God would use the weekends to renew, refresh and re-envision the faith of the participants; and it is exciting to see those prayers answered. At the end of the weekends, they would be invited to become part of the growing movement, in which, through meeting up in small groups with other local "Cursillistas", they would find the encouragement, love, support and discipline to keep going in their new-found faith. So, the church and society would be blessed and renewed. Well, the movement grew...and spread....to America....and Britain...and now to many countries. And it spread beyond the Catholic church....to Anglicans....and Methodists. So, in the Church of England, many dioceses here now have an active Cursillo movement. We operate under the authority of the Diocesan Bishop; and share with her/him in a concern for the welfare of the church and our communities. We usually hold our weekend courses at Foxhill, our Diocesan Retreat Centre. In our own parishes, we seek to serve God in whatever way He leads us, as far as we are able. We are a mixed-age, mixed-ability, ordained and lay, community, working together for the glory of God in Chester Diocese. Does that sound good? Are you seeking to deepen your own faith in God, and your experience of his love? Do you share a concern for the health of your local church, and its mission to your community? Do you feel you would benefit from greater fellowship, discipline and accountability in your Christian life? If so, Cursillo may be for you!! We would encourage you to "dip your toes in the pool" and see how it feels. You may want to come to a local small group meeting (without any expectation that you would come back again). Or come to one of our bigger Diocesan gatherings. And then think and pray about a weekend course. Our national website is: www.anglicancursillo.co.uk. My email is spiritual.director@chesterkursillo.org.uk. Well, there we are. Spain - and God - awaits! With thanks, Tony Rablen.



The Music of the Spheres

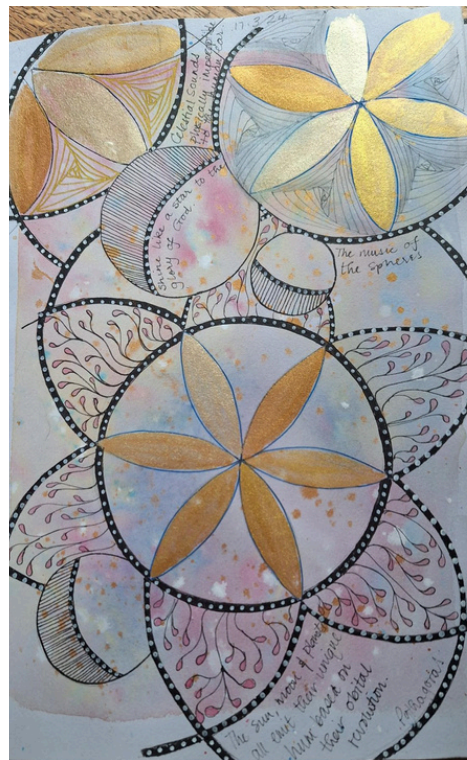
Joan Clare

At the beginning of Lent, Vicki started a prayer journaling course (by Zoom). It was so needed and relevant that we have continued with it.

This was done when I was suffering from a cold, which turned into Covid...but that's another story!

I like drawing circles; the way they overlap and make secondary patterns. For some reason this reminded me of the spinning of our planets, both around the sun and on their own axis.

Ancient Greeks thought that the planets sang, and it's true, they do! [NASA 1990]. Each planet does have its own sound. This all began with Voyager 2 [1979-1989].



Because of my faith I believe that the planets sing to the Glory of God in unending praise.

The whole Universe is singing to God.



Cursillo Weekend #65

The next Chester Cursillo weekend is at Foxhill from 25th - 27th October 2024. The team and I are all very grateful for the prayer support we know we are receiving from you, the Fourth Day Community.

We are already blessed in having 3 participants registered, but we have space for plenty more! If you know of anyone who is thinking of booking please encourage them to contact the Weekend coordinator on weekend-coordinator@chestercursillo.org.uk as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is Friday 13th September, the day before our second training day on the 14th.

Many thanks,
Kate Ingleby



Foxhill

House and Woodlands





ULTREYA GB 2024 @ SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL 7th September

We hope to be able to get as many Cursillistas as possible together from Chester diocese, to attend this day, with transport provided for those who need it. Please contact your local 4th Day community representative if you would be interested in attending.

Programme for the Day

A more detailed programme will be available soon as some timings are still being confirmed but the available details so far are that: –

- Registration will take place in the Cathedral at 9am with The Welcome at 10.15am followed by the Floating Group Reunion (Please feel free to slip in as you arrive as not everyone will be able to arrive at 9am).
- Lunch Although the Cathedral will provide the teas and coffee at the beginning and end of the event. You will need to provide your own lunch but there are a number of cafes in the vicinity of the Cathedral.
- Walk of Witness : At this stage we are hoping to obtain the necessary permission to have a Walk of Witness to start In the Peace Garden and to proceed to the Cathedral. There is currently work taking place along the planned route so the exact details will be announced nearer the time. We recognise that some people may find it difficult to walk the whole distance so we will announce a gathering point for those people just before the procession reaches the Cathedral. Please be aware it is necessary to cross the tram line just outside the Cathedral this will be controlled by marshals but please follow the instructions you will be given. Please bring your Diocesan Banners instructions of where to assemble will be given on the day. The Eucharist Service will commence when the Walk of Witness arrives at the Cathedral with the Procession of Banners The day will end with tea and cake at about 4pm.
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Thanks to all who contributed, The Communications Team.