



# Annual Report

For the Annual General Meeting  
15<sup>th</sup> November 2014



**The Annual General Meeting of  
Anglican Cursillo in the Diocese of Oxford  
will be held at 11.30am on  
Saturday 15th November 2014  
at St Helen's Church Centre, Abingdon**

**Agenda**

1. The meeting will open with Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. The Annual Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2013 and adoption of accounts
8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
9. Elections
10. Any other business (To be notified to the secretary at least 7 days before the meeting.)

If you are unable to attend, please send your apologies to the secretary, Ellen Turtle.

[secretary@oxfordcursillo.co.uk](mailto:secretary@oxfordcursillo.co.uk) or 07890 825465

## Lay Director's Report

By the time of the AGM, the last year will have welcomed more new people to Oxford Anglican Cursillo than in any previous year (assuming the twelve Oxford #15 guests arrive safely at Clausura!). You may find the following history of our weekends interesting.

Year	Spring	Autumn	Total
Cold Ash:			
2005	#1 9		9
2006	#2 12		12
2007	#3 8	#4 8	16
2008	#5 8		8
2009	#6 8	#7 8	16
Douai Abbey:			
2010		#8 12	12
2011	#9 10	#10 10	20
2012	#11 8	#12 10	18
2013		#13 7	7
2014	#14 9	#15 12	21

This will bring the number of Cursillistas in our diocese to 162 including four who joined us this year from other dioceses. In the first nine months of 2014, 75 of us have attended at least one of our eight Ultreyas which have been spread right across our large area including two locations used for the first time. It would be interesting to know how many of us have participated in a local reunion group.

To me it feels that God is blessing our movement with a period of growth and I pray that through this he is blessing each of us with continuing spiritual growth and in our apostolic action. You can read more detail about our activities in the reports which follow from other members of the outgoing Secretariat.

This year has also marked a number of endings. After a great deal of prayerful thought, we decided to return from Douai Abbey to Cold Ash, the

home of our first seven weekends, from #16 onwards. The decision was at least in part in response to Bishop John's repeated encouragement to aim for larger numbers of guests than can be accommodated at Douai Abbey and to our belief that we are in a period of growth which may make larger numbers possible. So we have brought to an end our series of eight wonderful, memorable and spirit filled weekends there, but are looking forward to the future at Cold Ash which for many of us will feel like returning home.

At the last AGM we welcomed two new people to the Secretariat, Janet Proudman as 4<sup>th</sup> Day Representative and Stu Vaughan as Weekend Representative. Unfortunately both of them have been hit by unexpected excessive workloads away from Cursillo and have had to call it a day. They have both brought valuable gifts to their roles and to the Secretariat more broadly and we will miss them, but not, of course, from Oxford Cursillo altogether. I thank them both personally and on behalf of us all for their contribution to our journey.

After joining the Secretariat as 4<sup>th</sup> Day Representative, Gilly Robinson moved on to become our Treasurer and is now standing down having completed her three year term in that role. We all owe Gilly a great deal and our thanks for being such a dependable friend of Cursillo.

One of the most upsetting things to happen this year, both for the Secretariat and for all who know her, was the severe stroke suffered by Mary Willets in the middle of June. Mary has been part of Oxford Cursillo from the beginning, on the team of Oxford #2, serving as Secretary, writing the initial constitution, editing Oxon Fourth and, most recently, being our BACC Representative. Since moving to Buckinghamshire last year, I had got to know Mary much better, through Group Reunion and travelling to and attending BACC meetings together. She had accepted the Secretariat's invitation to be Lay Rector for Oxford #16 and was looking forward to being on the Oxford #15 team as Observing Lay Rector. Now 2014 has marked an end to both her Secretariat and weekend team participation, or rather a postponement, we pray. Mary has been in our prayers and continues to

need our prayerful support through what is likely to be a long slow road to rehabilitation.

Last, but by no means least, 2014 has marked the end of Oxford Anglican Cursillo's time under Bishop John. +John has truly inspired many to discover Cursillo as a 'bubbling spring water' with 'a wonderful contribution to make in renewing faith and planting joy and gratitude at the heart of the Christian life'. He has presided at Clausura on three weekends, held a clergy taster day at his home, recorded a message on DVD for a Day of Deeper Understanding, commended Cursillo in several of his letters to clergy and met with the Secretariat on three occasions. His wife Wendy has been a wonderful member of the team for two of our weekends. They will both be greatly missed and we pray that Cursillo will continue to provide fuel for their ongoing journey in retirement. They have provided a 'tough act to follow' for +John's successor, but until his (or her) appointment, we pray that our path of growth will continue to flourish under the leadership of Bishop Colin who is also so supportive of our Cursillo movement.

To all of those named above, to the other members of Secretariat and of our extended Servant Community, especially Sarah Smith, palanca organiser, Victoria Mort, prayer diary organiser, Barbara McGarry, newsletter editor, Ann Moss, booking secretary and Kevin Beer, our web servant, and to many others who have served on weekend teams, organised and hosted Ultreyas and played music at Clausura and at Ultreyas, I say a huge thank you on behalf of us all.

For all that has been ... **THANKS!**

Christ is still counting on us, and we on him, so please keep spending quality time with God (piety), getting to know him better (study) and bringing his presence into your environments (apostolic action). May God bless all that we do in his name in the coming year.

For all that will be ... **YES!**

*Peter Watsham, Lay Director*

## Spiritual Directors Report

I have cited the parable of the seed growing secretly at night as an apt description of the Cursillo movement, and it remains for me an apt one. In so many ways there is growth, especially and most importantly in the lives of individual Cursillistas, as they return to their churches and see their place and role in new ways. At another level there seems to be obscurity—a fog that prevents others from hearing our message, responding to weekend invitations, seeing the plain benefits to the life of the local parishes of the Cursillo ‘method’. Can a clearer message be articulated in ways that can be shared and heard throughout our diocese—that is a task that remains for us.

The shaping of the Cursillo movement as a trade-marked programme is based on a rather rigid structure of representation, protocols and roles, all of which bear the marks of the ‘builder’ and ‘boomer’ generations, and hardly the marks of the various generations that have come subsequently. That means that the way of doing business in the movement, at the national as well as the diocesan level, is very much based on committee membership, terms of office, meetings, etc. We find in our diocese that it’s hard to co-opt others into these roles, and that individuals get re-circulated; they move through portfolios rather like Cabinet ministers! I wonder what the future of that way of working is? Is it serving the basic aims of the Cursillo movement? Such thoughts have struck me over the past year and may need to be tackled somehow as the next year unfolds.

Having said that, we seem to have picked up momentum with weekend participants. What a gift! As a result, the monthly Ultreyas have been well-attended and well done. Thanks are due to those who have hosted, led, and testified on such occasions. I always go away impressed with what the Spirit does through the Cursillo experience and fellowship.

It’s common knowledge that the clergy of the CoE are under strain. The smiling faces on church literature and in church media cannot distract us from that fact. The problem is one that the CoE as a whole needs to face more creatively and fearlessly. I mention it simply because it appears to have an impact on the Cursillo movement: it is challenging to find clergy

ready and willing to act as SAs on weekends. As Spiritual Director I feel this problem especially. It seems so odd in light of the clear benefits that a dynamic Cursillo presence in a congregation can have, not least an expansion of ministry and a deepening of discipleship—the very things that ‘vicars’ say they want.

So, how can we move from offering Cursillo as a useful ‘tool’ to sharing it as an inspiration for growing more genuinely into the living Body of Christ? That, too, is a challenge we need to face.

On a practical level, I want to thank Bp John (now in absentia) for his support, and Bp Colin too. It has been much appreciated and makes a difference. Likewise, I want to express my admiration for our Lay Director, Peter Watsham, for his positive spirit and organizational flare in guiding the Secretariat in its deliberations. It is a pleasure working with him. Finally, and by no means least, I want to thank those who have over the last year served as Lay Rectors, Spiritual Advisors, and team members for the two richly blessed Cursillos over the past year.

*Faithfully,*  
*Charles Miller, Spiritual Director*

## **Accounts**

As will be seen from the accounts, after taking into account gift aid tax refunds still awaited at the end of August, our income has again covered our expenditure. Our expenses have mainly related to the cost of weekends, which, including incidental expenses, works out at about £200 per head (team and guests). Our other expenses include BACC membership, room hire and administration costs.

Our income consists of gifts for weekends, monthly standing orders and collections at ultreyas, with sundry other donations. Standing orders are very helpful in forward budgeting.

Bank details for standing orders or ‘faster payments’ are:

Account name: Anglican Cursillo in Oxford Diocese  
TSB Princes Risborough Branch, sort code 30-96-86  
Account number 00560745

Please also remember that if you are a taxpayer you are eligible to make a gift aid declaration so that we can claim back an extra 25p for every £1 donated. Please ask for a Gift Aid form.

Many thanks to all those who have given during the past year.

*Gilly Robinson, Treasurer*

## **Fourth Day Report**

Over the past year our programme of regular Ultreyas has become well embedded across the Diocese, with various areas hosting them, some for the first time. It is great to see new venues for Ultreyas emerging as new areas reach a 'critical mass' of active Cursillistas to organise and attend them. It has also been encouraging to see and hear new Cursillistas being involved in running these and giving Action Talks.

Between the Ultreya's and Clausura's, we have had opportunity to meet together every month with the exception of December, when it seems we're all busy with Action – and hopefully with Piety and Study too. It is hoped to build on this momentum over the coming year.

It has been especially good to see that the best-attended Ultreya's have been in conjunction with the Welcome Days run for new Cursillistas. These were introduced to give guests a chance to reflect post-weekend, and catch up with their fellow guests, team and Secretariat. As it is often the first 'Fourth Day' event a guest will attend, it is wonderful that they are so well supported, both through physical presence and prayer.

The other important aspect of our Fourth Day activity is Reunion Groups. At present there is limited information available about when and where groups are meeting, which makes it harder to get new Cursillistas into Reunion



(although this is something which Sponsors can and should help with). It would be great to hear more about what Reunion Groups are doing, and over the coming year build up a better picture of the network across the Diocese. If we can get feedback from Reunion Groups this could also be included in OxonFourth. We have produced two issues again this year, but need a steady stream of content if it is to be another tool in encouraging us in our Fourth Day.

Although I am stepping down from my post this year, I look forward to seeing many of you at our Fourth Day events over the coming year, as we support one another in faith. Ultreya!

*Janet Proudman, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Representative*

## **Pre-Cursillo Report**

I really got back into the role this year sending/and giving out Cursillo information to people I had come in contact with, or who had contacted me about Cursillo.

There is still more work to do extending the Cursillo movement into parishes where it does not currently operate but we are getting there slowly but surely. During the year there were several Cursillo tasters: one at Beaconsfield organised by Kevin Beer, one at Oxon Spice organised by Matthew Caminer, and one at the Schorne Team (Vale of Aylesbury) Annual Church Meeting. Peter Watsham attended all of these and spoke at two of them, and the Secretariat will be happy to give practical support to anyone who might be interested in hosting a taster session for their local area.

In September, Cursillo participated at the Grand Day Out in Oxford, where we had a table to promote Cursillo and Kevin Beer led a short act of worship including a group reunion. This led to at least 20 leaflet packs of Cursillo information being given out as well single leaflets. We talked to a lot of people who were very interested in Cursillo, and wait prayerfully to see if any become involved in our movement.

For the Grand Day out, we also purchased a new pull up banner; this is very light and easily transported and can be borrowed by anyone involved in a promotional event for Cursillo.

I am grateful to Ann Moss who is looking after applications and bookings and doing an excellent job, and also to Sarah Smith who is doing an excellent job organising and managing Palanca.

Sorry I will be unable to be at the AGM, because of the date clash with Diocesan Synod which I must attend, but I will be praying for you all.

*Teresa Carter, Pre-Cursillo Representative*

*Team: Ann Moss (Bookings Secretary), Sarah Smith (Palanca)*

## **BACC Report**

The BACC AGM was held at High Leigh Conference Centre on 31st May 2014 as part of the wider 'Catch the Vision' weekend. Hugh Burgess, National Spiritual Director, unsettled many by opening with the question "Has Cursillo had its day?" He then went on to lead some thought provoking and challenging bible study sessions examining our priestly (piety), prophetic (study) and pastoral (action) calling. The overall conclusion of the weekend's discussions was that the question would have been better posed as "Has Cursillo had its day in its present form?" Those present were inspired to look forward to a fresher feel to Cursillo as it strives to be relevant in the present age.

The AGM also included an emotional handover of the Presidency from Lyn Radcliffe to Sally Henniker-Major. Several BACC Standing Committee members also reached the end of their terms of office and their successors were commissioned. This included myself as the area representative for the Central region.

The National Ultreya was generously hosted this year by Canterbury Cursillo and proved to be a very uplifting occasion in a beautiful setting. Opening worship, which had a very contemporary feel, was led by the inspirational

youth band 'Change Music'. The Bishop of Dover presided and preached at the Eucharist service in the Cathedral. Blackburn Diocese was commissioned to host Ultreya GB 2015 and we look forward to this highlight in the Cursillo calendar next year.

*Alison Askew, Acting BACC Representative*

## **Weekends Report**

Since the last AGM we have been pleased to welcome another 9 new Cursillistas from Oxford #14 and by the time of the AGM will have hosted our eighth and final weekend at Douai Abbey (#15) with a further 12 guests.

I took over the Weekend Representative role from Alison Askew at the last AGM. She handed materials over to me in very good order following a particularly busy term in office as the weekend format had undergone some significant modifications, resulting in extensive work updating the documentation required for each weekend.

This year we have spent some more time evaluating the modifications and fine tuning the programme for the #15 weekend in particular to accommodate of some requests from our hosts at Douai Abbey. Most significantly we decided that the larger size and number of public rooms at Cold Ash Centre would more easily meet our future needs especially in enabling us to cater for larger number of guests, so more work will be needed revising documentation prior to the next weekend.

I regret that greatly increased demands in my work life have made it necessary for me to cut short my term of office in this role. I would like to express my gratitude the many Cursillistas who have supported me and our weekend activities. Your generosity in terms of time and effort has been very much appreciated.

*Stu Vaughan, Weekend Representative*

**ANGLICAN CURSILLO IN THE DIOCESE OF OXFORD**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St Helen's Church**  
**Centre, Abingdon on 9 November 2013**

Present: Peter Watsham (Lay Director), Charles Miller (Spiritual Director), Ellen Turtle (Secretary), Gilly Robinson (Treasurer), Mary Willets (BACC representative), Ali Askew (Weekends representative), Terry Pitt (4th Day representative), and 17 other Oxford Cursillistas.

1. The meeting was chaired by Peter Watsham and began with prayers led by Charles Miller.
2. Apologies were received from Teresa Carter, Pre-Cursillo representative, and 34 other Oxford Cursillistas.
3. The minutes of the previous AGM on 10 November 2012 were unanimously agreed.
4. There were no matters arising from the minutes.
5. The Annual Report for the year ending 31 August 2013 had been sent to all members. Reflecting on the year, and picking up on a comment that we were 'thin on the ground', Peter Watsham noted that many people were not present simply because they were busy getting on with their apostolic action in their own environments. Ultreyas and other gatherings are only a means to an end, not an end in itself; Cursillo is here to support us, not to be what we do. Peter also admitted that he had been somewhat distracted this year thanks to a house move, but hopes to be more focused on Cursillo now; that focus will be upon getting the balance between growing Cursillo and supporting Cursillistas in their own apostolic action.

Peter then invited any other additions to the Annual Report. Mary Willets noted that the next National Pilgrimage will be to Santiago de Compostella, with the options of a 100km walk or a coach journey; further information is on the BACC website. Peter and Mary will also be attending the national BACC meeting on 16th November.

6. Treasurer's report: Gilly Robinson noted that there was £4,700 more in the bank this year (not £2,900 as in the Annual Report). We are faith funded and it works! PPlanned giving is an easy way for some to give, with c. 15 regular standing orders. Otherwise, people are generous and expenses are low.

A question was raised regarding the restricted funds. Gilly explained that these were amounts previously given for specific weekends, outreach, and promoting Cursillo amongst the clergy. £1000 which was previously restricted has now been 'unrestricted' by the original donor during the 2012-2013 accounting year. Kevin Beer noted that some restricted funds had been to cover expenses incurred by clergy in attending weekends. Ellen Turtle mentioned that Bishop Colin had been pleased to see our finances looking so healthy. Peter said that the Deepening Discipleship weekend had also more than covered its costs despite there being no set charge for it. Mary Willets noted that the Deepening Discipleship weekend had been a new idea not only in Oxford but at a National Cursillo level too.
7. Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Ann Moss, seconded by Mary Willets and unanimously agreed.
8. Mr Soutter had indicated his willingness to continue as Independent Examiner. His appointment for the year 2013-14 was proposed by Terry Pitt, seconded by Ali Askew, and unanimously agreed.
9. Elections and Servant Community vacancies:
  - a. Peter expressed our thanks to the outgoing Secretariat members: Terry Pitt, standing down after two very busy years as Fourth Day Rep and previous time supporting the Secretariat; Ali Askew, having completed her three year term on Secretariat in the roles of BACC Rep and Weekend Rep; and David Atkinson, after two years on Secretariat bringing enthusiasm and ideas to the roles of Pre-Cursillo Rep and Communications Rep. The outgoing Reps were presented with tokens of appreciation (David's to be delivered). Peter also recorded our thanks to Linda for acting as our Music Co-ordinator, storing musical resources and making the annual return.

- b. Peter noted that we had three 'Reps' vacancies on the Secretariat; nominations would be to the Secretariat and the Secretariat would then agree who would be allocated which 'Rep' role depending on their skills. Nominations were received for two people, Stu Vaughan and Janet Proudman.  
Stu Vaughan was proposed by Peter Watsham, seconded by Toby Wright, and unanimously approved.  
Janet Proudman was proposed by Gilly Robinson, seconded by Matthew Caminer, and unanimously approved.
- c. Teresa Carter's appointment to the Secretariat since the last AGM also required confirmation. Teresa was proposed by Charles Miller, seconded by Terry Pitt, and unanimously approved.
- d. Kevin noted that Janet will need additional support in her role as she is also the Lay Director for Oxford #14.

[Terry Pitt left at this point].

#### 10. Constitution

Ellen summarised the ongoing exchange with the Charity Commission regarding changes to the Objects Clause within our Constitution, explaining that the further amendment, made at the Special General Meeting in July 2013 had also been rejected, although it had been based closely upon the original (approved) wording. The problem was the phrase 'develop Christian faith' which was not acceptable as a charitable objective; the Commission prefers the phrase 'advance religion [Christian faith]'. If we substitute this phrase, the Charity Commission has advised that the Objects clause would then be acceptable to them.

Ellen therefore recommended that we adopt the following Object Clause: The objects of Oxford Anglican Cursillo (OAC) in common with the worldwide Cursillo Movement in the Church, are to advance religion [Christian faith] in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England in the Diocese of Oxford by providing short religious education courses (including Cursillo Weekends), encouraging members to meet together in small groups for mutual Christian support (including Group Reunions) and by holding larger regional and Diocesan gatherings

(including Ultreyas), so that those participating might review their Christian commitment and practise Christian principles in their everyday life, thus helping others to discover and achieve a Christian way of life. This was proposed by Charles Miller, seconded by Kevin Beer and unanimously approved.

11. Any Other Business

A time of silence was held in memory of Ken Cotterell, who made his Cursillo on Oxford #2, and served our community in many ways including on the Secretariat.

The meeting closed at 10.15am.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....

# Future Weekends



## Oxford #16

16 - 19 April 2015 at Cold Ash Centre



## Oxford #17

22 – 25 October 2015 at Cold Ash Centre



## Reminder:

The Secretariat is hosting a Welcome Gathering for Oxford #15 guests, sponsors and team members in the upstairs room at St Helen's Church Centre from 9.30 on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

Coffee will be served for everyone from 11.00am

The AGM will start at 11.30am on 15th November 2014.

An Ultreya will follow the AGM and this will be followed by a bring and share lunch.