

# OxonFourth



The magazine of  
**OXFORD ANGLICAN**  
**CURSILLO**

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No 3

Summer 2005

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# WELCOME TO EDITION THREE OF OXONFOURTH

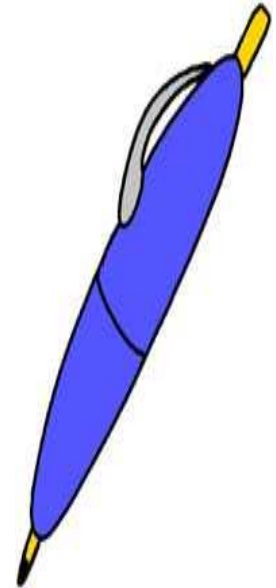
## *A word from the editor...*

Welcome to the third edition of OxonFourth, where the focus quite naturally is on the formal launch of Oxford Cursillo at our first Weekend last April.

There are lots of dates in the diary - see back cover. The **GB Ultreya at Chichester** looks fun and should be a great day out, and a chance to meet Cursillistas from all over Great Britain. Also news of an **extra Ultreya** as guests of R.C. Cursillo.

**The editor welcomes articles and contributions for future editions of OxonFourth... perhaps a reflection on your own Cursillo experience, or maybe a highlight in your life of prayer, study and action. It could be a poem or a book review, or perhaps something which shows how Cursillo supports the life of your church.**

Please send your contributions to:  
**OxonFourth, 9 The Grange, Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2PS**  
or email them to [OxfordCursillo@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:OxfordCursillo@yahoo.co.uk)



## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARIAT

**Andrew Garrett** (Bookings Secretary) will stand down after Oxford #2 for business reasons – congratulations on your promotion Andrew! Andrew has been a dedicated member of the Steering Group throughout the three years of planning, and he will be sorely missed. Please pray for Andrew and for his successor.

A special thank you and farewell to **Revd Oliver Simon** who has moved to Rugby. Oliver has contributed in many ways over the last three years, not least with his quiet wisdom. We remember with special warmth his Gospel Response at a Goring Ultreya, and are delighted that he was able to serve as part of the team for Oxford #1.

Enclosed with this edition of OxonFourth is a copy of the leaflet “**What can I do for Cursillo?**”, which is distributed to Guests as part of their weekend Fourth Day pack. Please read this carefully, and ask yourself how this might apply to you.

For instance? Well read the leaflet and see!

## **A message from the Spiritual Directors Revd Angela Linton, *Dorchester Area***

***The Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory (Ps. 84.11)***

Those words always remind me how surprised and delighted I am to feel the warmth of the sun on my skin after every long, cold and wet British winter and spring. That first touch of summer with its promise of fullness and fulfilment; a time when we are no longer smothered in heavy clothes but free to move easily in the sunshine, even with the occasional downpour.

This is also the time of year when our thoughts turn to holidays; perhaps flying off to pastures new, resting at home, visiting family or even catching up with some outstanding tasks in the house or garden, for it has been said that a change is as good as a rest! In whatever way that is best for us it's an opportunity to recharge our batteries. This is also necessary with our spiritual lives and it's always valuable to introduce some variety into our prayer and worship, maybe to try something completely different.

One of my favourite ways of praying is outdoors using a walk of thanksgiving and praise which entails walking very slowly and deliberately, heightening awareness of our surroundings, and all creation, by using all the senses, for example feeling the sun (or rain) on your skin, the ground beneath your feet; touching bark and leaves on the trees; looking closely and seeing those things in more detail; listening attentively for all sounds; breathing deeply in order to smell and taste what the air has to offer. It's a matter of taking things slowly and giving thanks and praise to God for all that is revealed, and for his grace and glory.

Why not give it a try wherever you are this summer, asking God to increase your awareness of his presence with you and, at the same time, praying that you may also be given an awareness of those people known to you that he is already calling to be a part of Oxford #2 in October. They may be in great need of help, encouragement and support from you. Most of all take time out with God for "*the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory*".

With every blessing for a glorious summer

***Angela***

Angela Linton is Team Minister, Langtree Team, South Oxfordshire

## **A message from the Lay Director Matthew Caminer**

### **“And now the *really* hard work starts!”**

We did it! We gathered a team and presented a Cursillo weekend to our first home-grown Oxford Cursillistas. Most, if not all, have joined reunion groups and attend ultreyas, and all of a sudden our family is bigger and more vibrant. We could have no better reward for the three years of prayer and hard work of so many people in this diocese and further afield, not least our wonderful friends in Coventry.

It's important to be realistic about where we are, though. I have lost count of how many times people have said to me that the *really* hard work starts now, but I am not really surprised.

One of the great characteristics of Cursillo is that it is much the same wherever you go... reunion groups and ultreyas have the same format, and weekends follow broadly the same pattern. It is into this framework that the Holy Spirit pours the gifts that energise us and bring Cursillo to life. There is a practical side to this same-ness as well. While we will certainly review Oxford #1 and see what went well and what we could improve, we will never again have the task of starting from scratch.

At the risk of being alarmist, however, we could take this as an excuse to sit back and hope it will all float along serenely. The reality is that assembling and training teams for Oxford #2 and Oxford #3 and all the forthcoming weekends is a challenging task. Encouraging people to participate actively in reunion groups and ultreyas is continuous. Making sure that we get all the background work done requires people. The one thing all of these have in common is that when an individual says 'yes' the whole community moves forwards, feels encouraged and everything becomes easier.

As we recognise the need to change gear, I would like to thank everybody who supports what we are doing in whatever way, for making Cursillo in Oxford Diocese a reality. And here's a closing invitation: if the opportunity arises to put something back into Cursillo, 'yes' is always a really good answer!

Best wishes

***Matthew***

# **OXFORD CURSILLO #1**

Jill Iredale writes

Looking out from the windows across the blossom trees in late April, the folds of the West Berkshire countryside roll gently away to the far horizon. I am at Cold Ash, near Newbury, and Oxford #1 is about to start after nearly three years of work and preparation. This weekend is in the safe hands of Lay Rector Terry Tipple, her gofor Jayne Hayward and Lead Spiritual Advisor Charlotte Gale, and it is my duty to observe and learn as much as I can in order to lead Oxford 2 over the summer and into the late October weekend 2005.

The team of seventeen, with eleven kindly coming from Coventry and six from Oxford, are to care for nine guests – in the end Terry's minimum number! They came from Ascot, Amersham, Langtree Team, Risborough Team and one from Peterborough Diocese.

Many hands, many boxes and a bowl of soup later, this large and rather institutionalised building has been transformed and is ready for God to work His magic in the hearts of all who are there – Team, Guests and even the convent's Sisters, who slip quietly by now and then during the days that follow.

Palanca from across the world marches steadily across the cut out paper people pinned along the Rollo Room wall, as laughter, colour and wonder blend in a kaleidoscope of prayer, learning and meditation. As the sweets get munched, the discussion gets deeper and the artwork grows to gigantic 3-D proportions involving ladders and makeshift viewing tunnels. The singing gets louder as confidence grows and over all the 'Ox' stands happily in his rainbow 'Ford' on the beautiful banner – one gift among many from the people from Coventry.

How can a rather plain chapel be changed first into a holy space in which to meet with Christ at the foot of the Cross – and then transformed again into a place of candlelit beauty to inspire and illuminate the soul? Around the tables, acquaintances of short duration become friends that can never be forgotten, and lessons are learned on give and take. Forthright people learn

to listen and gentle people learn to lead. It is the miracle that God gives through Cursillo.

Stunned faces receive the love of God through the palanca of His people: prayers and thoughts that are chosen with care to help and guide the guests – and Team – along their personal journey, long after the weekend has finished. And finish it did: in the white baroque ‘wedding cake’ church attached to the Community. Some 200 people travelled many miles to share the third and final Eucharist of the weekend, celebrated by the Bishop of Oxford, and to see the joy of nine new Cursillistas ‘count on Christ’ as they entered their Fourth Day.

I have learned much, and thank all of the team and the Guests for a deep and long-lasting experience. A big THANK YOU Coventry, for all you have given, and are continuing to give Oxford Cursillo.

Footnote: Nothing this side of Heaven is perfect: I still cannot count!

## **New beginning for Oxford Diocesan Cursillo Liz Dowding takes up the story**

Bishop Richard's greeting at the closing Eucharist celebrating the first weekend of Oxford Cursillo: *'Alleluia, Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia'*, echoed the thoughts of so many who had dreamed of and worked so hard for this occasion. There were people from as far apart as Scotland to the West Country, all joining together to share the joy of this first Oxford Diocesan Cursillo and to wish Cursillo well in this place. It was time to say 'thanks be to God'.



Readers of the DOOR will by now be familiar with the concept of Cursillo. It is not a new belief system. It is an aid, a loving and sometimes challenging discipline to help nurture our relationship with God and to support, affirm and encourage our Christian journey. It is

about kindness, respect, hospitality and gaining strength, all of which is so evident in a Cursillo weekend.

Each Cursillo weekend is special for both the teams leading and the guests participating. However Oxford Cursillo Weekend 1 was particularly special because it was making history: the 34th diocese in the UK to embrace Cursillo. None of this could have happened without the enthusiasm, support and encouragement of our Bishops and the generosity of time, energy and prayer of Cursillo in the Diocese of Coventry, as the 'gifting' diocese.

In part the weekend is made up of talks leading to discussion, and creative work. There was a great openness to listen, to share and to learn, which led to much animated conversation and some very creative discussions. The weekend also had its quieter times, worship, meditations and group prayer 'the being rather than the doing'.



‘The final service was very much an ordination service: being ordained into the ministry of the people of God, the laity’, said Dr Nick Trainor, from Ascot.

As the guests on this three day Cursillo weekend headed for home their 'fourth day' was just beginning. That is the rest of their life when they are able to put into practice all they have learnt. In Cursillo terms, 'to blossom where they are planted' to take the good news of God's love to the churches and communities in which they live and work.

*Reprinted from The Door, the Diocesan Newspaper of the Diocese of Oxford*

***Want to know more about Oxford Cursillo?***

**Visit the web site for details of Ultreyas, previous editions of OxonFourth, application forms for future Cursillo weekends, and much, much more**

**[www.oxfordcursillo.co.uk](http://www.oxfordcursillo.co.uk)**



## ***Dates for the diary...***

### **Saturday 10th September**

*Ultreya as guests of Roman Catholic Cursillo  
Checkendon Village Hall*

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September**

*First Training Day for Oxford Cursillo #2, Princes Risborough*

### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

**GB Ultreya - highly recommended!** *The annual opportunity to meet Cursillistas from all over England, Scotland and Wales. Starts at 9:30, includes the normal components of an Ultreya, a walk of witness through Chichester, and ends with a Eucharist in Chichester Cathedral.*  
*Further information: [www.chichestercursillo.co.uk/UltreyaGB](http://www.chichestercursillo.co.uk/UltreyaGB)*

### **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

*Second Training Day for Oxford Cursillo #2, Princes Risborough*

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

*Oxford Cursillo #2, Cold Ash Centre*

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

*Diocesan Ultreya & Annual General Meeting  
St Mary's Church Hall, Princes Risborough*

***All Ultreyas start at 11:00, with tea and coffee available from 10:30, and are followed by a bring and share lunch***

***Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action, and enabled to share God's love with everyone.***

**OxonFourth is published by Oxford Anglican Cursillo**

