

OxonFourth



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CURSILLO

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WELCOME TO EDITION FOUR OF OXONFOURTH

A word from the editor...

In this New Year edition, we have a farewell message from **Marilyn Parry** as she stands down as Diocesan Spiritual Director after three years sterling service, and review 'Time for a Pause'. the special event we held at Cold Ash as a replacement for Oxford #2, which has been postponed to next April.

The editor is always interested in receiving articles and other contributions. Please send your contributions to:

OxonFourth, 9 Millstream, Weston Turville, Aylesbury HP22 5YL or email them to **mary@willets0.fsnet.co.uk**

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARIAT

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome **Gill Lusby-Taylor** from Chelmsford and St Edmundsbury & Ipswich Cursillo, **Marie Carey**, who made her Cursillo in New Brunswick, Canada some years ago, and **Revd Kathy Ferguson**, also a Cursillista of long standing. We also have three new Cursillistas, **Alison Askew** from Banbury who made her Cursillo in Ripon and Leeds, **and Ian and Joan Harrison** from Headington, Oxford who made their Cursillo in Wakefield.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Revd Canon Dr Marilyn Parry stood down on 1st December as Diocesan Spiritual Director with the grateful and affectionate thanks of us all. Her successor is **Revd Angela Linton**, to whom we extend a warm welcome.

Andrew Garrett will complete his term of office as Bookings Secretary and Registrar after Oxford #2 – thanks Andrew, for all your hard work. He is to be succeeded by **Gill Lusby-Taylor**.

We welcome to the Secretariat **Mary Willets** as Secretary. Thanks to all who have said 'Yes' when the call came!

The position of Treasurer will fall vacant at the end of August, when our financial year ends, and the position of Diocesan Lay Director will also fall vacant at the end of 2006. We ask you to pray for the Holy Spirit to find the right people.

CONSTITUTION AND CHARITY STATUS

The Secretariat is currently finalising the text of the Constitution, which in the first place will be used to support our application for charity status. This will enable Oxford Cursillo to reclaim tax on many financial donations.

A farewell message from the Spiritual Director Revd Canon Dr Marilyn Parry

I wonder if you are the sort of person who likes maps? I am. I take pleasure in looking at them and making plans for a journey, by whatever means of transport. My husband, however, has learned to ask questions when I propose an interesting route. He wants to know just how interesting the journey is to be so that he can judge whether he is prepared to go my way! I suspect that a particular trip down Glen Coe is in the back of his mind. The truth is that neither of us is especially good at heading off into the distance without some sort of a plan.

In some ways, this desire for a plan doesn't sit very well with being a Christian. One thing that is particularly important about following our Lord is that we don't know the way ahead. We know our ultimate destination, but the route to it is often obscure. Unfortunately, no one has yet written a reliable "Rough Guide" to our earthly pilgrimage. There is nothing for it but to trust God. Only, trust isn't always easy. It is much easier to get something done and do it right if you are in control and if there is a clear set of instructions.

As the seasons change, and especially at New Year, our thoughts tend to turn a bit inwards, helped, no doubt, by the long dark evenings and all those retrospective programmes on TV. There is value in looking back and weighing up where God has been active in our lives, perhaps even drawing a map of the road taken up till now. The truth is that we can't really map the way ahead with our Lord, but we can usually see the hand of God in our lives to date. So, where has God taken us over the years? And where do we hope we might go next in our journey with our companion, Christ our Lord?

Wherever that might be, go well!

Marilyn



Bishop Colin looks on as Jill Iredale presents Marilyn with a thank you gift from Oxford Cursillistas

A message from the Lay Director Matthew Caminer

My name came up on the reading rota at church for the first Sunday of Epiphany, and I found myself reading the beginning of Genesis. And as I thought about it in advance, I kept finding myself drawn to the opening words: ***“In the beginning God...”*** I reflected on how they represent just about everything. What more needs to be said? I could do a lot worse than adopt those words as my motto for the new year.

As we continue our Cursillo journey together, it seems to me that if I try to remember ***“In the beginning God...”*** then everything else will flow from that. Whether there are sufficient guests for Oxford 2... whether we find the few missing people for the team... whether the rhythm of our Fourth Day activities becomes established... whether and how we fill the remaining Secretariat vacancies... whether our application for charity status is successful... whether we get set up well for Oxford 3 in the autumn... whether we can settle into a shared understanding of what Cursillo is and what we're meant to do with it... all of these things and more will fall into place if we remember ***“In the beginning God...”*** Starting with me!

I remember a time about a year ago when it felt as if God was underlining this message in my life over and over again. I lost count of the number times, in different ways and in different places, that I seemed to be reminded of the words ***“Unless the Lord builds the house its builders will have toiled in vain.”*** (Ps 127 NEB). I have always tried to let this be my guideline throughout the ten years that I have been involved in Cursillo. It doesn't mean that I always get it right, that any of us do. Keep reminding me!

So, as we set out on the adventure of another year, I wish us all well on our journey. As each of us helps and supports and works for Cursillo, each in our special way, we need reassurance, we need communication, we need affirmation and we need prayer. And above all, we need to remember ***“In the beginning God...”***

Ultreya!

Matthew

Time for a Pause

The decision to postpone Oxford #2 was in some ways disappointing. What it did do, though, was give us the opportunity to spend some quality time together at Cold Ash in a prayerful and reflective environment, reviewing where we are and planning where we are going. **Mary Willets** tells the story.

While we all regret that the Oxford #2 weekend had to be put back to April, the facilities at Cold Ash were put to good use. Cursillistas living in the Oxford diocese were invited to attend together with support from members of the National Cursillo. It provided a time to get to know each other better, to worship and pray together, to study together, and to discuss openly the problems and difficulties faced by Oxford Cursillo. I believe we left tired but also refreshed, stimulated, deeper in mutual friendship and understanding, and hopeful but aware of the need for prayer.

Jacquie arranged for palanca support for the whole weekend. There were clocks on the wall for each hour and when that hour arrived she put up the name of the person praying for us together with the place they came from.

Saturday morning began with worship and introductions, followed by the five modules that comprise a Day of Deeper Understanding. Jean Whitton from BACC, started with an Instructed Ultreyas. She reminded us that Ultreyas are not about food or music – that they are primarily for strengthening us by sharing and listening on our journey through the Fourth Day.



Marie Carey (2nd left) in conversation with (L to R) Anne Beer, Alison Askew, Jacquie Griffiths and Gill Lusby-Taylor

Marie Carey gave a wonderful and entertaining witness talk on how God took her to work in the remoter parts of Canada. Her graphic description of how God saved them when they were caught in a boat in a storm reminded everyone of the similar bible story. It showed the power of God when we really

trust and listen to Him. Liz Dowding gave the Gospel Response

Later in the day several talks were given. Anthony Lury on The role of the Structure of the Movement, Jill Iredale on the Three Day Weekend, Kevin Beer on Group Reunion and the Rule of Life, Andrew Garrett on Personal Contact technique and Matthew Caminer on Sponsorship. These talks reminded us of what Cusillo is and provided a platform for discussion of our way forward. Revd. Dominic Barrington, BACC National Spiritual Director and Jean Whitton gave helpful input in our discussions. We decided that the size of the diocese causes problems with Ultreyas. So it is proposed to have one big Ultreya in the summer, with smaller local ones throughout the year, to which anyone can come – see back cover for the dates. Then we had communion led by Marilyn Parry, followed by some welcome free time.

After an excellent dinner and an evening of socialising and games, Saturday ended with compline in the Chapel led by Miriam Caminer. It was a beautiful peaceful end to a long day.

Sunday began with early morning communion, led by Bishop Colin, and was a warm spiritual encounter with the Trinity of God. In his address, Bishop Colin was so kind, understanding and supportive of the setbacks, which Oxford Cursillo has suffered. His experience of Cursillo and knowledge of wilderness times was very helpful and encouraging. Thank you Bishop Colin. Immediately after this service the Revd. Angela Linton received her commission from Bishop Colin as the new Spiritual Director of Oxford Cursillo. Her term of office began on 1 December.



Angela Linton receives her commission as Diocesan Spiritual Director from Bishop Colin

Marilyn Parry was thanked for all her hard work as Spiritual Director during the last 3 years and was presented with a present of a box of wines.

The First Annual General Meeting of Oxford Cursillo followed. There were reports from the Lay Director and the Spiritual Director. Jill, our Treasurer presented the accounts and said that we were too heavily dependent on a few

generous donors. We needed more people to make regular payments through their banks. Mary Willets agreed to take on the vacant role of secretary to the Secretariat, and to take future responsibility for the magazine. Kevin Beer will assist Jacquie with the palanca and Gill Lusby-Taylor will succeed Andrew as Bookings Secretary after Oxford #2.

General discussion followed on what we should be doing especially regarding sponsorship and the way forward. The morning closed with a short time of worship.

The general consensus was that it was a very rewarding although tiring weekend. *Ultreya!*



Yes, it was busy! Miriam Caminer and Gill Lusby-Taylor deep in conversation during one of the breaks, while Marie Carey, Mary Willets and Jill Iredale peruse the reading material on display. On the wall are the prayer vigil clocks

Faith funding – giving to God

We have been greatly blessed financially, and have been able to fund both Oxford #1 and the 'Time for a Pause' event on a faith basis, and there is already enough to fund #2. However, the funds won't last for ever: please pray about what part you can play.

Dates for the diary...

Spring Local Ultreyas

From now on, we will be holding a mixture of local and diocesan ultreyas, to help build up local communities and make it more practical for people to attend ultreyas, while still offering us all the opportunity to get together from time to time. Everyone is welcome at all ultreyas, local and diocesan.

Buckinghamshire

Monday 16th January 8:00-9:30 pm

14 Culverton Hill, Princes Risborough, as guests of Gladys Page

East Berkshire

Saturday 25th February 9:15-10:45 am

Chapel of St Mary and St John, Ascot, starting with a light breakfast

South Oxfordshire

Thursday 2nd March 8:00-9:30 pm

1 Milldown Avenue, Goring, as guests of Robin & Wendy Middleton

Oxford #2 27th-30th April, Cold Ash, Nr. Newbury

Team Evening: Thursday 23rd March, The Old Barleycorn, Princes Risborough

2nd Training Day: Saturday 1st April, St Mary's Church Hall, Princes Risborough

Clausura: At Cold Ash, starting at 3:00, followed by tea. Please arrive by 2:45.

Diocesan Festival Ultreya and Picnic

Date and venue to be advised – likely to be a Saturday in July

25th Anniversary Ultreya GB

Saturday 2nd September, Durham

Oxford #3 2nd-5th November, Cold Ash, Nr Newbury

Dates for training days to be notified

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

