

# Annual Report

For the Annual General Meeting

21<sup>st</sup> October 2017





**The Annual General Meeting of  
Anglican Cursillo in the Diocese of Oxford  
will be held at 12noon on  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017  
Soltau Centre, Stubbings, Henley Rd, Maidenhead SL6 6QW**

**Agenda**

1. The meeting will open with Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 12th November 2016
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. The Annual Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Accounts for the year ended 31st August 2017 and adoption of accounts
8. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
9. Secretariat Elections Vacancies for
  - a. Secretary
  - b. Bookings Secretary
  - c. OxonFourth editor
  - d. Pre Cursillo Representative
10. Any other business (to be notified to the Lay Director at least 7 days before the meeting.)

If you are unable to attend, please send your apologies to the  
Lay Director, Pauline Stanton-Saringer.

[Lay.Director@OxfordCursillo.co.uk](mailto:Lay.Director@OxfordCursillo.co.uk) or 01280 820769

## Lay Director's Report

The last twelve months have included good fellowship and encouraging Ultreyas tempered with some disappointment.

Group Reunions have continued steadily, but we still aim to get more Cursillistas meeting together in groups. Thank you to all the groups who have organised and welcomed us to Ultreyas. They are always enjoyed by those who can attend.

We do realise that Oxford Diocese extends a long way and few can get to all the extremities for an Ultreya. The thinking is to encourage more local get togethers - keeping the format, but reducing the catering and the time frame. Evening Ultreyas can work well in the summer months so they do not have to happen on a Saturday. Could your Group Reunion think about organising one on in 2018? Please keep the 4th Day Rep informed.

National BACC events like the Ultreya on Sept 2nd are such an encouragement, and the Regional Ultreya in Coventry in March organised by Ali Askew was a very special day. (see Elaine's report). Again it is well worth making up a group of your local Cursillistas to attend. Oxford was ably represented, but it would be even more fun with a larger contingent.

Our chief disappointment, this year was the postponement of the Oxford#18 weekend – due to unforeseen family commitments and the lack of guests.

However, we have rebooked at Cold Ash for 19th-22nd April 2018. Please pray for Johanna Raffan as she puts her team together and makes all the preparations.

We can all show our support by:

- prayerfully considering any potential guests you could invite now.
- coming to Clausura and being willing to volunteer help that afternoon.

If you have a person in mind, please pray and act on it. I would like to see a full weekend by Christmas.

Cursillo aims to help Christians to grow in their faith and have the confidence to become more active in the life of their home churches. This is what we are about.

Our new Bishop Steven was welcomed all across the diocese during the past year. On each occasion, I was glad to hear that Cursillistas sought him out to mention Cursillo. You can be sure he got the message! Keith and I had a positive meeting with Bishop Steven in March. (see Kevin's report).

So, having looked back over the year, I would like us to look forward with hope and trust in God. He can renew our vision and our energy. He can sustain us in what we do now and inspire us to explore new things for Him.

*Utreya*

*Pauline*

*Pauline Stanton-Saringer, Lay Director*

## **Spiritual Directors Report**

Despite the disappointment of having no weekends in 2017, I believe Cursillo still has plenty to offer to enable mission and ministry within our large diocese.

Pauline and I had a good meeting with Bishop Steven in March, to welcome him on behalf of Cursillo and to seek his endorsement for us to continue to operate in the diocese, which of course he was happy to give! Indeed, we were able to draw strong parallels with the Cursillo method of Piety/Prayer, Study (of environments) and Action for Christ with his new diocesan strategy based upon the 3 'C's of Contemplation, Compassion, and Courage. The ultimate aim of both is that we become more Christlike, both as individuals and as

a church, as we root ourselves in God's love, grace and mercy, study the needs of the world around us with the "mind of Christ", and then respond courageously in the power of the Spirit. We agreed in principle to hold a Clergy Taster Day with Bishop Steven in the new year.

We encourage all our bishops to go on a Cursillo weekend, but if this is their only experience of Cursillo, then we need to re-emphasise that Cursillo is not about sending open-minded Christians off on a warm, fluffy retreat where they are bathed in God's love, but about our response in our "4th day" back in our own parishes – to "bloom where we are planted". That is why it was good to that so many of us were able to introduce ourselves as active Christians (and also Cursillistas) during his tour of deaneries. Cursillo is primarily about creating modern-day apostles, being sent back to our communities, empowered and enabled to share God's love with everyone.

Another way in which this was apparent was to be able to celebrate our three Cursillistas who were ordained in the summer: Ellen Turtle (our former Secretary, now in the Guildford Diocese), plus Wendy Middleton and Paula Smith in this diocese. We pray for them and for all Cursillistas in their various ministries and callings - we all have a part to play in changing the world for Christ.

Remember, Christ is counting on you... (I trust you know the appropriate response!)

*In his Love, Kevin*

*Spiritual Director*

## **Fourth Day Report**

I'm at the end of my third year now as 4th Day Rep and am coming to the end of my tenure. I'd be happy to stay on for another year if we don't manage to recruit anyone at the upcoming AGM but will definitely hang up my banner in 2018. It's been a mixed year for me. Unfortunately, due to work and family commitments I don't I feel like I have achieved as much as I would have liked to this year. Hopefully this year the prayer diary revamp will go ahead.

### **Ultreyas**

There have been 2 Ultreyas so far this year (at the time of writing). These were in Ascot Heath in February and Whitchurch with Creslow, in the Schorne Team Benefice, Vale of Aylesbury in May. There are also 2 coming up, one on Wednesday 27th September, 7.30pm at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell and an Ultreya before the AGM at the Soltau Centre on Saturday 21st October from 10am. It has been lovely to have a mix of weekend morning and weekday evening events and hopefully next year we can build on this and have at least 5 Ultreyas across the diocese throughout the year.

We were also blessed to have our Regional Ultreya at Coventry Cathedral on 11th March organised by our outgoing BACC Rep Ali Askew. This was really well attended and a wonderful occasion with a good number of Oxford Cursillistas. The venue was incredible and we were treated to an inspiring and moving Action Talk by Ali on her prison ministry.

The National Ultreya was at Southwell on 3rd September this year and several members of the Oxford Cursillo family went along.



*Pauline Stanton-Saringer,  
Caraline Hedges, Peter  
Watsham, Ali Askew, Elaine  
Mordaunt at the Regional  
Ultreya, Coventry Cathedral,  
11th March 2017*

### **Day of Deeper Understanding (DDU)**

This was held at the Soltau Centre, Henley Road, Stubbings SL6 6QW on Saturday, 22nd October 2016. It was a great event, with a mixture of new Cursillistas, old faithfuls and a few returnees who hadn't really been involved with Cursillo for a while. There were 6 talks on different aspects of the Cursillo movement including an instructional Ultreya. One of my aims was to reinvigorate the 4th Day activity of Oxford Anglican Cursillo and I know of at least one Cursillista who is back in Group Reunion after coming along.

### **Supporting New Cursillistas**

One of the talks at the Day of Deeper Understanding was about the importance of the sponsor's role before, during and especially after the weekend. In the last year's annual report I wrote about supporting new Cursillistas just after their weekend, perhaps by a phone call to touch base and to find out if they are in Group Reunion (with a view to helping them find one if not). As we haven't had a Weekend since the DDU this hasn't got off the ground yet, but will hopefully be part of the 4th Day for Oxford #18.



## **Prayer Diary**

Following on from the calls for the Prayer Diary format to be revamped, the Secretariat have looked at possible different formats including spreading people to pray for across several months or praying for deaneries, areas, Reunion Groups and ministries instead. Confidentiality is of course paramount and we would only include specific ministries on the list if the individual gave us permission for it to be distributed to the database.

I look forward to seeing old friends at the Ultreyas and AGM and to meeting new ones after Oxford #18. Have a blessed year.

*Caraline Hedges, 4<sup>th</sup> Day Representative*

## **BACC Report**

As an observing BACC Rep I attended the Regional Ultreya in March 2017 held in the nave of Coventry Cathedral. It was organised brilliantly by our own Ali Askew. It was well attended with a good representation from the Oxford Diocese. The two-hour gathering contained so much – the usual floating reunion groups, prayers and a communion service. Ali gave an inspirational Witness Talk about Prison Visiting and of course there was lots of singing of worship songs lead by local musicians. I'd last visited the Cathedral when it was new and controversial. It was good to go there again.

More recently, at the beginning of September 2017, I went to the National Ultreya at Southwell, Nottinghamshire. There were five of us from our Dioceses. The morning started in the local secondary school with an Ultreya. We were welcomed by the new National President, Trevor King, who is easily recognised by his colourful Cursillo waistcoat! The Witness Talk was given by Linda Tucker about how God seemed to have had a hand in so many difficult situations recently. After a much-needed baked potato lunch we took part in the Procession of Faith from the School to Southwell Minster, which is the cathedral for the local Diocese. We all looked very colourful with the many diocesan banners held high. It was a big surprise for the departing wedding guests when we lined the long pathway as they left the Minster! The resident organist and choir gave us beautiful music and the local Bishop preached the sermon. It was a really uplifting Cursillo service.

Next year the National Ultreya will be on Sept 1st in Chelmsford, a bit nearer home.

*Elaine Mordaunt, BACC representative*

## **Weekends Report**

I am sorry not to be able to enthuse about a successful weekend, since there has not been a sufficient number of applicants to run one in the past year. I have therefore had little to do in the way of preparing the necessary paperwork. Hopefully you are all busy discerning who you might sponsor for next April and will get their application forms to Jill in good time to ensure a viable weekend.

*Alison Shaw, Weekend Representative*

## **Communications Report**

This has been a year of greater consolidation, and has felt quieter.

Hilary Derbyshire continues to look after our website and related matters. Our thanks to Hilary for doing an excellent job. Please do keep the information coming; she can only work with information which has been given to her.

In the absence of an editor we have not produced OxonFourth. The Secretariat is considering how we move forward with it.

Our thanks are also due to Victoria Mort who continues to look after the Prayer Diary.

The difficulties encountered with using Mailchimp for bulk mailing members meant that we needed to find an alternative. Happily, one has been found which means that emails go out apparently individually. Please do contact me if you believe that you have not received any recent Cursillo emails so that I can check the details which we hold.

*Elizabeth Taylor, Communications Representative*

## **Secretariat matters**

I would like to record my personal thanks for all the support and encouragement given by the Secretariat during the year.

Kevin has hosted three of the four Secretariat meetings held this year at his Crowmarsh Giffard Vicarage which is about as central as anywhere in the Diocese!!

We are still without a Secretary so I have carried some of this role helped by Elizabeth Taylor and Alison Shaw.

It is not an arduous role: mainly agendas, minute taking, some emails and some liaison with the BACC. Please do not be afraid to volunteer.

*Pauline Stanton-Saringer*

## **The Financial Report**

will be given at the AGM

# Anglican Cursillo in the Diocese of Oxford

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at St. Helen's Church Centre, Abingdon on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016

The meeting started at 11.25am.

### 1. Present:

Alison Askew, Sue Austin, Anne Beer, Kevin Beer (Spiritual Director), Peter Bourton, Marie Carey, Dorothy Donald, Barbara Earl, Hazel Glennie, Libby Hawkness-Smith, Linda Hobbs, Jill Iredale, Sister Barbara June SLG, Angela Linton, Tangy McDowell, Sally Mears, Charles Miller, Victoria Mort, Ann Moss, Alison Shaw, Rosie Smith, Pauline Stanton-Saringer (Lay Director), Elizabeth Taylor, Penny Thompson, Susan Worthington.

Apologies were received from 30 Cursillistas

2. **The minutes of the previous AGM** on 28th November 2016 were unanimously agreed after corrections to the list of those present.
3. There were no **matters arising** from the minutes.
4. **The annual report for the year ending 31st August 2016** had been sent to all members. The following additional comments were made.

#### 4.1. Lay Director's report

Pauline Stanton-Saringer said that there had been a significant learning curve for her in her first year as Lay Director. She expressed her thanks to the support given by the Secretariat with special thanks to Caraline Hedges as a very active and encouraging 4th Day Representative and to those who had given their time and effort for the special events such as the weekends.

The Day of Deeper Understanding had proved to be good with increased understanding and fellowship for the 22 attending.

Pauline expressed thanks to those now stepping down from their roles: Ann Moss, booking secretary; Libby Hawkness-Smith, editor of OxonFourth; Sarah Smith, Palanca Representative.

#### **4.2. Spiritual Director's Report**

Kevin Beer admitted that starting a new incumbency at the same time as becoming the Spiritual Director had not been the best timing. He has conducted a survey of members but has not been able to do anything with it yet. Charles Miller, the previous Spiritual Director, confirmed that it is not any easy role with the most important, though difficult task of encouraging other clergy. To have the prayerful support of Cursillistas is very helpful.

#### **4.3. Communications Representative**

There have been problems with emails which are being addressed. Cursillistas are asked to share information at Group Reunions and to advise where other Cursillistas are not receiving emails.

### **5. Treasurer's Report.**

The treasurer's report was circulated at the meeting.

The high cost of cancelling the booking at Cold Ash for the postponed Weekend was because we were late in making the cancellation; this delay was because there was hope that we would have a viable weekend. A generous donation covered the loss. There will now be just one weekend each year.

Planned giving is up but other donations are down. Gift Aid is yet to be claimed; it is expected to be £616.

The overall balance remains close to that at the last end of year.

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Charles Miller, seconded by Ann Moss, and unanimously agreed

## 6. Independent Examiner

Mr P B Hicks was nominated as Independent examiner. He was proposed by Libby Hawkness-Smith and seconded by Kevin Beer. Mr Hicks was unanimously appointed.

## 7. Secretariat Elections

**Secretary** : there were no nominations received so the position remains open.

**Palanca Representative** : Ann Moss and Linda Hobbs offered to fulfil this role together. The meeting accepted their offer.

**Booking Secretary** : Jill Iredale was proposed by Pauline Stanton-Saringer and seconded by Ali Askew. She was elected unopposed.

**OxonFourth editor** : there were no nominations so the position remains open. The format of OxonFourth may change for it to become an online publication which will be sent to members by email and be put on the website.

**Music Coordinator** : there were no nominations so the position remains open.

Concern was expressed about the difficulty of finding volunteers for the roles which need to be filled. It was agreed that the situation should be left with Cursillistas' prayers.

## 8. AOB

Charles Miller advocated attendance at national Cursillo events. Several Cursillistas had attended them and found them very good. He particularly recommended the Cursillo leaders' workshops. Charles encouraged everyone to talk about them at our Group Reunions.

Charles was pleased to tell those present that the Abingdon clergy now use a modified form of the Group Reunion Card.

Peter Watsham gave a vote of thanks to Pauline Stanton-Saringer who, in turn, thanked Peter for his fellowship and encouragement.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm

