

BACC Pages

The magazine of The British Anglican Cursillo[©] Council

Hello by Trevor King, BACC National President

Welcome to this new edition of BACC Pages. I hope you find it's packed with interesting and relevant articles. It's the first one since Jenny Neve stood down as Editor and I'm sure that everyone would like to thank her for her hard work over the past few years. As we haven't had anyone volunteer to take on the job I've compiled this edition. I was Editor way back in the late 1990s but would prefer someone else to take it on. There's a Job Advert on p11!

Inside you'll find a report and photos from our recent National Ultreya at Southwell as well as details of next year's event at Chelmsford. We have advice from Revd Cynthia Hebden, our NSD, about 'selling' Cursillo and making sure that we hold authentic Ultreyas, news of a major revision of the



Cursillo Resources Manual and information about our biennial Conference at Swanwick in Derbyshire next May, together with a Booking Form at the back. We've also got news from Sheffield, Newcastle and Bristol dioceses as well as the usual book reviews, prayers and CLW update.

Following a number of comments about the booklet format of previous editions and the difficulty some have had printing them off I've reverted to straight A4 format. I've also tried to limit the amount of colour used

but photos always make things more interesting. If you want to avoid printing a whole page of them don't print p15.

This is also my first opportunity as President to address a large number of Cursillistas. I just want to say again what an honour and privilege it is to serve you all as President and I hope to get to meet many of you over the next 3 years. My priorities are to support and encourage Cursillo dioceses, especially those that are struggling; helping to promote Cursillo to the rest of the Anglican Church; encouraging Cursillo dioceses to work more closely together in their areas; and making sure that Cursillo is still relevant and capable of helping the Church grow and serve in years to come.



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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.

From the National Spiritual Director

Rev'd Canon Cynthia Hebden

I am now nearly half way through my term of office as National Spiritual Director and am very grateful for the opportunity. I believe that Cursillo is the best gift that God has given to his Church and it is wonderful to be able to serve on something which I am so passionate about.

As always, one enters a role feeling very much like a fish out of water. It feels like everybody knows everybody else and you do not really belong. That feeling did not last long as everybody has been so welcoming and encouraging.



It has been wonderful to work with Sally for my first year; she is such an inspiring person and her commitment and dedication must be applauded, especially bearing in mind that the last few months were shadowed by ill-health. We thank her for all she has done as President of BACC but know that she still continues her commitment to the movement.

Every blessing to Trevor as he enthusiastically takes on the role of President for the next three years. It has been great to start to get to know one another better.

The members of the Standing Committee are a wonderful group of people but the person who really holds it all together is our secretary, Linda. Every organisation needs a good secretary. There are many changes on Standing Committee this time so I am starting to feel like the 'old girl' and look forward to getting to know new people.

Of course, Cursillo in some dioceses is flourishing whilst in others it is struggling and people are in danger of being discouraged. We need to look at ways of encouraging and strengthening Cursillo throughout the United Kingdom.

One of the most encouraging things that has happened since I became NSD has been the weekend spent at Nantwich with a small group of people headed up by Sally, looking at the Cursillo Resource booklets, which are way out of date. Not only was it good to re-word the booklets but it gave us an opportunity to look at the things that are important and it was a really wonderful time of sharing together from our various experiences. We were also hosted in true Cursillo manner by Beth and the Cursillistas from Nantwich to whom we give our grateful thanks.

I am writing this the day before the 2017 National Ultreya in Southwell and really look forward to the day. I am sure that there will be more about that in another part of BACC pages. We are grateful to Mark and Tony and all the Southwell people for their hard work. Organising a National Ultreya has its challenges but is usually very rewarding.

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to the Autumn season when in Cursillo we see another tranche of weekends being rolled out.

As Timm Engh used to say, 'Hang in there'. **Ultreya!** *Cynthia*

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From Sally Henniker-Major

My dear Fellow Cursillistas,

It feels very strange to be writing for BACC Pages as the *previous* National President of British Anglican Cursillo after my three very happy years at the helm! I know however that you have already given Trevor a very warm welcome and will support him and encourage him as he seeks to support and encourage you and all that you are doing to further God's kingdom through the gift of Cursillo in your own Dioceses. I am delighted to know that Trevor has already made a big impression on you all.



Thank you all so much for your extraordinarily generous gifts which I received at the AGM in May. I was absolutely overwhelmed by all your cards, kind words and thoughts which you shared too. The beautiful gold butterfly earrings have already been worn on several occasions and I love the new purse – it's very splendid. The cheque has not only bought me a new TV (mine 'died' just after the AGM!) but also some roses and fruit trees for my garden which will be planted very soon and I will enjoy tending them in my spare time next spring when I will be able to remember all the happy times I have shared with you and think of you all 'blooming where you're planted'.

I had a wonderful time as President of Cursillo nationally and have loved meeting so many committed and lively Christians all over the country. National events like the National Ultreya and the conference really do help make us all feel less isolated and there's nothing quite like the singing when Cursillistas get together to praise God and give Him thanks for all the blessings we have received. At the end of the National Ultreya at Southwell on 2nd September the Bishop of Southwell and Notts, on behalf of the House of Bishops, thanked everyone in Cursillo who worked so hard to support the church's mission in the world. His appreciation and understanding of what Cursillo is *really* about was so uplifting and I for one went home with a definite spring in my step!

In a world where there is so much that is troubling and worrying and where we can feel so very helpless it is a great comfort to know that we are only expected to bloom where we are planted, wherever that may be. We know that because of Cursillo we always have a network of supportive friends and companions who share our journey with us and this is the great gift of Cursillo – our Reunion Groups. I could not have coped as National President without the company, comfort, compassion and caring of mine, whether it was a floating GR or my own here in Durham. This is why I began every meeting I held with a GR and prayers for each other. So I thank God, not only for my own Group, but also for all those with whom I shared on their Christian journey these last three years, wherever I have been 'planted'. It has all been a huge privilege and joy and I thank God for all of you.

When I was LR on Durham 10 I chose to make use of a modern hymn 'Colours of Day dawn into the mind.....' which I learnt when my children first started at school. It was, I believe written as a pop song in 1974! The chorus goes like this:

'So light up the fire, let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return,
Take seeds of His spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.'

So in Cursillo, let us 'light up the fire' for others, and 'let the flame burn' in our Group Reunions and 'let

Jesus return' to the centre of all that we do, especially when we serve on team or sponsor someone on a weekend. May we be the ones who have sown the seeds to enable others to grow in God's love and grace. Then together we will all be able to tell everyone of Jesus and let his love show in us. Ultreya!

With love and prayers of grateful thanks. Sally

Painted Prayers by Joy Hadley, York diocese

I have lived in Millington, East Yorkshire for four years and worship in a small, traditional rural church, complete with its original pews, situated on the Yorkshire Wolds which was showcased by David Hockney's paintings in 2014. The Wolds Way is a popular walking and cycling route passing through the village. We have a very small congregation with just two services per month, alternating BCP with Common Worship services. However, the church is also well used by visitors because it is open every day. We have many grateful



visitors, as evidenced by our visitor book, who welcome a place to stop and rest and enjoy the peace and quiet offered. Other visitors have made a special trip to view our modern, very artistic stained glass window 'The Road to Emmaus' by Tom Denny.

For some years I have used art as a means for my own personal prayer and reflection. I try to paint most days; in a busy life painting allows me to 'BE STILL' and make time for prayer. Of course there are many ways to pray; written and spoken prayer is the most familiar, as well as sung and instrumental prayer. Indeed, I believe that any expression or action – if done with intention – constitutes a type of prayer. I have been leading 'Colourful Prayer' workshops for three years here in Millington and have found that many people



find this a fulfilling and effective way of prayer once they have been introduced to it and I am reminded of Joyce's Huggett's wise words; "Pray as you can, and not as you can't".

As the recognised parish assistant (RPA) here I am always trying to find ways to encourage more people; locals and visitors to come into our little church, not just to look at the building and our beautiful stained glass window, but also to use it for personal prayer and to experience the presence of God. In 2015 I decided to stage an exhibition in the church to show examples of 'Painted Prayers'

I have now had three 'Painted Prayers' exhibitions in the church. For the first one in 2015 I dusted off some of the many paintings I had done over the years and put them all on show for the first time. This was something I found very scary to begin with, anyone who paints will know that there is a little bit of you on display in every painting and you leave yourself 'exposed' to criticism and even possibly ridicule. My fear left me when I realised that no-one who had taken the time to visit would criticise or ridicule me for praying. In the same way I know that many of us find speaking of our faith daunting; we assume someone else, anyone else, is better suited or that it's someone else's job (i.e. the vicar), but as Christians we are all called to be God's witnesses. I realised that I could let my paintings speak for me and enable me to be a witness of God.

Encouraged by the positive reaction to this first exhibition I hosted a second in 2016 during the Archbishops' week of prayer leading to Pentecost. For this exhibition I included more recent work and art resources provided on-line by 'Thy Kingdom Come'. I was able to advertise this exhibition more widely through Christian communications in Yorkshire, and our local Churches Together group. Again I was delighted by the response and realised that this is most certainly a form of prayer which people can appreciate, enjoy and respond to.

The third exhibition was held in August 2017 and this time I included work by some of the many people who have attended my art workshops over the past three years. I had photographed work as it was completed and I was able to print out A4 copies which I then laminated and used to make 'prayer bunting' which I displayed around the church. Each picture on display represented a visual prayer and I gave the invitation below to people as they entered the church. Our little rural church became a very active centre of prayer for a very special weekend.



This exhibition of PRAYER is arranged to allow you the opportunity to see visual prayers.

Which one 'catches your eye or your heart?'
Sit and look – what does it say to you?
Who or what do you want to pray for today?
'BE STILL'

Enjoy the peace and quiet; stay as long as you want to.

All Christians are appointed as God's witnesses. I hope this account will inspire you to try something new, not just painting - use your own gifts and with God's grace you will reach out to others whilst sharing your faith.

Ultreya!

New home wanted for Church Organ

St Giles, Stanton St Quintin, Chippenham, Wiltshire, hope to start reordering work in the church early next year. They intend to purchase a modern electronic organ and are looking for a new home for their current pipe organ. It is a 2 Manual Organ, in fine working order and is played regularly at weddings, funerals and at a monthly family service. It was originally purchased from Griffin & Stroud (Bath) in 1928 when it was 60 years old.

If you are interested in giving this well loved organ a new home, or know of anyone else who may be, please contact Nick Greene iamnickgreene@gmail.com for further information.



Book Reviews

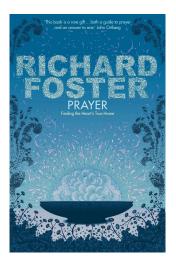
Prayer - finding the heart's true home Richard J Foster

HarperOne an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. ISBN 978-0-06-062846-8

Review by Deirdre Davis, Lay Director London Cursillo.

I found all 256 pages of this book to be absorbing and easily accessible. I assure you that there is something here for everyone and in fact it was the list of contents that attracted me.

The book's three sections each describe 7 types of prayer, with abundant examples of conversations between God and people in the Bible, as well as stories and anecdotes of today's people discovering what prayer is, or can be, and what the fruits are, and what pathways open up for them.



The first section: 'moving inward' – seeking our personal transformation – covers 'simple prayer' ["we will never have pure enough motives, or be good enough, or know enough in order to pray rightly. We must simply set all these aside and begin praying. In fact, it is in the very act of prayer itselfthat these matters are cared for in due course."], prayer of the forsaken, of the examen, of tears ['may those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy' Ps 126:5], of relinquishment, formation prayer and covenant prayer.

The second section: 'moving upward' – seeking our personal intimacy with God - includes adoration ["in one sense adoration is not a special form of prayer, for all true prayer is saturated with it"], the prayer of rest, sacramental prayer, unceasing prayer, the prayer of the heart, meditative prayer and contemplative prayer [thankfully we are told this one is not for the novice!]

The third section: 'moving outward' – seeking our personal ministry - covers 'praying the ordinary' [prayer is not another duty to add onto an already overcommitted schedule; all that we do in our day *becomes* prayer], petitionary prayer, intercessory prayer, healing prayer, the prayer of suffering, authoritative prayer and radical prayer.

Each chapter ends with a prayer relevant to the topic. References are at the end of the book along with a scripture index and a subject index. I am still learning from this book, and find it immensely encouraging. Try it for yourself!

Please pray for:

- Those in our own Cursillo communities who have recently died, for their families and friends who will miss them.
 May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- We also remember those who are ill, but who have given much to Cursillo in our own Dioceses and in National roles in Cursillo.
- Those on the BACC Standing Committee, for their next meeting and for the full BACC meeting in November.
- The Cursillo Conference and AGM at Swanwick next May.
- All of the team in Chelmsford Cursillo preparing for the National Ultreya 2018 next September.



The Will of God
never takes you
to where the
Grace of God
will not protect you.

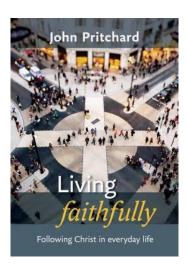
Living faithfully: following Christ in everyday life John Pritchard

SPCK 2013

Review by Very Revd John Morley, SD Leicester Cursillo

I have picked up many a Christian self-help book with this sort of title but they often fail to come up to expectation - this one does not disappoint!

John Pritchard was Bishop of Oxford until two years ago and he writes in a very fluid and engaging way. He starts with the premise that Christianity is a public faith and is lived out in action - how Cursillo is that? "Christianity is a verb before it is a noun" he writes and in this book he seeks to relate our faith to the everyday things of life. He has chapter headings like 'Facing myself', 'Knowing God's guidance', 'Handling money', 'Doing justice' and 'Building community'.



Each topic is divided into four sections: What's the problem? How could we think about this? and What could we do differently. Each chapter ends with a section 'Taking it further' based on a scripture verse of passage which can be used for either private or, better still, group reflection. There are some wonderful stories and quotations throughout the book from the Bible and other writers, ancient and modern.

Justin Welby writes of the book, "We need to close the gap between the sacred and the secular, and that's what this book helps us to do. Each chapter identifies an issue, explores how we might respond and encourages us to seek to make a difference". Many of the sections could be an excellent resource for some or our Cursillo talks: Living gracefully (Grace), Facing temptation (Obstacles to grace), Nurturing friendships (Environments).

For me, this book does what it says on the tin. Go forth and buy!

God would not have put a dream in your heart if He had not already given you everything you need to fulfill it. Joel Osteen

Prayers for pilgrimage

Our Cursillo journey is often likened to a pilgrimage, and we sometimes refer to the participants on a Cursillo weekend as Pilgrims. So here are two Pilgrimage Prayers by Jenny Child taken from the Pilgrims Way Canterbury website.

You call us, Lord, to leave familiar things and to leave our "comfort zone".

May we open our eyes to new experiences, may we open our ears to hear you speaking to us and may we open our hearts to your love.

Grant that this time spent on pilgrimage may help us to see ourselves as we really are and may we strive to become the people you would have us be. Amen God of our pilgrimage,
you have given us a desire
to take the questing way
and set out on our journey.
Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus,
that whatever we encounter as we travel,
we may seek to glorify you by the way we live.
Amen



Please save the date—Saturday 1st September 2018

By John Tomlins, Chelmsford Diocese

Where? Chelmsford in Essex. Yes, we all know the jokes about Essex inhabitants, but Chelmsford is a thriving city in the centre of some wonderful countryside with lots to see and do. The people are quite nice too! Chelmsford Cursillo's plans for National Ultreya GB 2018 are well advanced but a huge amount remains to be done before we welcome you here next year.

We propose to use our lovely Cathedral as a base for the day, meeting there for registration and to greet each other on the Saturday morning. The idea is to have all the talks and Floating Group Reunion there before breaking for lunch. Lunch will not be provided but there are lots of cafes and eating places close to the Cathedral unless you prefer to bring your own picnic.

After lunch we plan to gather at the far end of the pedestrianised High Street and process with banners back through the happy throng of shoppers (also passing the Saturday market where there will be lots to tempt those still hungry!) till we arrive back at the Cathedral for the Celebration Eucharist. It's a route of about half a mile. After the service it will be goodbye time for those not staying on for the evening but there is a 5.15pm service in the Cathedral for all who would like to attend.

Our own activities recommence back in the Cathedral at 7.00pm for a meal and ceilidh. Places for this will be limited and there will be a charge, but at this stage we are not able to provide full details.

For those seeking accommodation we are planning to have the use of student rooms at Anglia Ruskin University (about 10 minutes' walk from the Cathedral) but the staff there will not be able to commence booking till February. There are a number of hotels and B&B premises nearby and further details will be available when our webpage for the event goes live. That will be some time yet but we will notify all Diocesan Cursillos when that happens. Till then, please ensure the date is in your diaries, mobile phones or whatever.

September 1st 2018. ULTREYA!!



Cursillo Leader's Workshop (CLW) By Revd Dr Judy Craig Peck, CLW Convenor

Have you ever done a CLW? If you haven't been on one in the last 5 years, or indeed have never done one, we would highly recommend that you consider attending one.

Who can come on a CLW?

Anyone who has done a Cursillo weekend and wants to know more about how Cursillo works is welcome to apply. It is recommended that anyone stepping into leadership roles in their secretariat should attend, especially **Lay Directors, Spiritual Directors**, and **BACC reps**, however anyone serving on their diocesan secretariat should be encouraged to come.

It is suggested that anyone preparing to be a **Lay Rector** (LR) for a weekend would find it useful because it helps put Cursillo into context. This is not about learning how to do that particular job, which is learnt locally; a future LR will learn about the role and how to do it by staffing on other weekends, including acting as Observing LR and learning from previous LR in their diocese. Obviously sharing with other people who have done the role may be part of the CLW, so tips can be picked up, but that is not the main purpose of the CLW.

What happens on a CLW?

The style is informal with talks, group discussion and worship. Many delegates report the most useful aspect of the CLW is sharing in groups; there are plenty of opportunities for small group discussions following the talks. Topics covered include emphasising the importance of good sponsoring for participants, highlighting what is needed to ensure an authentic weekend is experienced by everyone and generally helping people understand more about Fourth Day activities, especially Group Reunion and Ultreya. As with all things Cursillo there is plenty of singing and fun, along with prayer and hard work.

Who runs the CLW weekends?

BACC is responsible for the workshops. There is a CLW convenor who organises the weekends and a team of three people staff on the CLW weekends including a Spiritual Advisor.

Practical arrangements

CLW weekends take place around the country 2-3 times a year. There is a cost for the CLW and many Diocesan secretariats sponsor members to attend. Applications are made to the CLW administrator Paul Thacker, details on the BACC website.

Those who come almost invariably report how informative they found the experience, especially meeting with folk from different dioceses, sharing ideas, challenges, joys and struggles. Look at your diary and book a place now, you will be very welcome.

Upcoming Cursillo Leaders' Workshops

20 October 2017 to 22 October 2017 at Shallowford House, Stone, Nr. Stafford.ST15 ONZ

23 March 2018 to 25 March 2018 at Shepherds Dene, Riding Mill, Northumberland. NE44 6AF

28 September 2018 to 30 September 2018 at Purely Chase, Atherstone, Warwickshire. CV9 2RQ

Further information about CLWs

Bookings should be made no less than 2 months before the week-end and places are allocated on a first come first served basis. (Though last minute places are sometimes available – contact Paul Thacker to enquire).

Contacts

CLW Administrator: Paul Thacker, Chapel Cottage, Chedburgh Road, Chevington, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,

IP29 5QU. Email: admin@anglicancursillo.co.uk Tel: 07909 730973 / 01284 850384

CLW Convenor: Rev. Judy Craig Peck, The Vicarage, 15 Church Mount, Guilsborough, NN6 8QA.

Email: clw@anglicancursillo.co.uk Tel: 01604 743734

Further information and application forms are available on the BACC website www.anglicancursillo.co.uk

How do we 'sell' Cursillo? By Rev'd Canon Cynthia Hebden, NSD

The words we use to tell people about Cursillo are really important and can either encourage or completely 'turn off'. To tell people that 'you must go on a Cursillo weekend – you'll love it' is a bit risky really because they might not. 'It completely changed my life' might be very scary for some people.

Remember that Cursillo is a course 'Cursillo de Christianidad – a short course in Christian living'. It's not a pilgrimage; it's a course.

The way I explain Cursillo to people, especially clergy is like this:

- What we use is the Jesus method.
- Although Jesus did speak to large groups of people like the Feeding of the 5,000, most of his time was spent with a small group of people.
- In Cursillo we take people out of their parishes for 3 days and spend time with them, living together, worshipping together, listening to talks, including witness talks from lay people, and also some meditations.

It's different things to different people.

- Some people just find a sense of love and affirmation they've never known before
- Others off load baggage that they've been carrying for many years. (We usually include a meaningful healing service)
- For some it's the '12 inch drop' from the head to the heart and they come away with a much deeper faith.
- Most people come back having changed in some way.

I usually say to the clergy that if they're anything like me they would want to go and experience it for themselves before they send their parishioners on it.

No need to mention surprises - they aren't important, and for some can be scary.

I also tell clergy that when they have people in their parishes who have been on Cursillo if they are encouraged sensibly, they will enhance and grow the community from within.

How authentic are your Ultreyas? By Rev'd Canon Cynthia Hebden, NSD

The AGENDA for any Ultreya should be:

- 1. Group Reunion
- 2. Witness Talk
- 3. Response

Obviously other things should be added like a welcome, especially to new Cursillistas or visitors.

HYMNS are optional but usually appreciated. Don't over-do them. Maybe two or three at the beginning, one before the Witness talk and one at the end.

FLOATING GROUP REUNION should be three-fold. Some people have got confused with the alternative Group Reunion card which Hugh produced. I find that really useful for the beginning of large meetings, PCC meetings etc. when it's useful just to pick out one of the three aspects of Cursillo – prayer, study or action (which, of course sometimes merge). But in Group Reunions we should try and each identify one thing from each group and share that with our friends.

It is really important, of course, not to comment on what people say, tempting though it might be. You can have those chats over coffee later.

In an Ultreya depending upon the size of the Group it might not be possible to get through to Action but as long as we've done the moment closest to Christ that's the most important.

The **WITNESS TALK** is really important and should be encouraging and inspiring. People should go away thinking 'I wonder if I could do that', or 'would that work in our parish?'

The Witness Talk should **not** be 'how we came to faith'.

It should **not** be 'how wonderful my Cursillo weekend was and what difference that made to my life'.

The Witness Talk should be about what I am doing for Christ in my life at this time or what is Christ doing in my life at this time. It does not have to be given by a Cursillista; anyone who is an active Christian can give this talk.

After the Witness Talk the Spiritual Adviser prepares to give the **RESPONSE** but before doing so asks the congregation if they would like to add anything to that talk from their own experiences.

The **RESPONSE** to the Witness talk should be given by a Spiritual Adviser but could be given by another authorised person, like a Reader, for example.

The person giving the Response should do what Jesus did and take the listeners back to Scripture by finding texts or situations from the Bible which resonate with what the speaker has said.

Quite often at Ultreyas someone will then make some intercessions; these are an optional extra, as we already have our prayers in the Group Reunion part, but are not to be discouraged.

Obviously, it's good to give out notices whilst you have the Cursillo community gathered.

Anything else is not part of an Ultreya. If you really want to have a Holy Communion service then do so but be sure that it is separate from the Ultreya. Personally I think that the evening is long enough without anything else.

The other really important part of an Ultreya is Fellowship, an opportunity to meet up with like-minded

friends and to meet new ones. Often people will travel long distances for Ultreyas because they want to meet people they have been on weekends with etc. and this is really important not just for Cursillo but for the Church itself.

When our new Bishop of Leicester was installed last year, he said that Christianity is about Prayer and Parties and I assured him that that's just what Cursillo is about. Some dioceses have restricted the refreshments at Ultreyas to Coffee and Biscuits; I think that's a shame, as most churches are good at making a bit of a party with sandwiches and cakes etc.

Lastly, the venue. Ultreyas do not have to be held in church buildings, which can sometimes be cold and uncomfortable and inflexible in their furnishings. If you've got a nice hall then do use that – or even take a room in the local pub – what a witness that would be!!

BACC Pages

is the bi-annual magazine of the British Anglican Cursillo® Council. Thank you to all our contributors for this issue.

If there is anything you would like to contribute to the next issue, any thoughts, prayers, study recommendations or action tips that you would like to share please send to (preferably by email) to either of the following addresses:

Email: president@anglicancursillo.co.uk

Post: 123 Scalby Rd, Scarborough, N. Yorkshire. YO12 5QL.



This edition of BACC Pages had been put together by me, Trevor King. Whilst I enjoy using my creative side on things like this (and I did the job over 20 years ago) I would prefer it if someone else with appropriate desktop publishing experience and a love for Cursillo were to volunteer to become the Editor. If you think this job is for you please contact me as above.

Prayer for strength and guidance

Lord, I reach out to you for your guidance.

Please show me which way to turn.

Calm my anxious thoughts, come speak into my mind.

Strengthen me as I falter and feel weary.

May I feel strength rising up within my heart.

Bring clarity into my visions and dreams.

I trust that you are with me, no matter where I go,

Or what I decide to do.

You journey with me always.

Amen.

Resource Manual revision By Sally Henniker-Major, Chair of the Revision Working Party

Nine new and previous members of Standing Committee or its servant community met at the home of Beth Roberts in Nantwich on 4th August for a weekend when we planned to update the booklets in the Resource Manual. This followed the BACC meeting last November when, having scrutinised some of the booklets, views were shared by all of BAC Council on their usefulness and accessibility. SC had, as a result, started to rewrite selected booklets at the February all day meeting whilst striving to keep them accurate and true to the ideals of the Cursillo movement and the method which it provides. Two booklets had been completed and circulated before we began work over this weekend.

The working party consisted of Beth Roberts, Cynthia Hebden, Judy Craig-Peck, Tony Tucker, Linda Ross, Paul Thacker, Jacqui Johnson, Libby Bradshaw and myself. We were largely accommodated by Nantwich Cursillistas and after lunch began our work on Friday afternoon with a Group Reunion and prayers. We agreed a standard style and format and subsequently divided into 3 subgroups each consisting of a member of the clergy and 2 others and began work on the booklets which we had been allocated previously. We made excellent progress but by the Saturday afternoon it was evident that we weren't going to be able to complete all the booklets in the given time. We were able to reassign some booklets and find a time when we could meet in our subgroups and complete the task in hand throughout September.

Completing all the booklets, given that some were very 'wordy', had been, we realised, over ambitious! We now have plans to circulate the booklets between each other as they are completed for proof reading and checking for any duplication. We are hopeful that this process will be completed and that by the February meeting of SC all will be completed. We had a very hard working but nevertheless very enjoyable time together, lots of laughter and fun in true Cursillo style, enhanced by jelly babies and lots of sticky lemon slice! We are immensely grateful to Beth who had organised so much from lunch and a 'take-away' on Friday, to accommodation, endless tea and coffee, lunch on Sunday and much in between.

We were welcomed by the Nantwich Cursillistas who invited us to share in their monthly Ultreya and provided us with a delicious supper on the Saturday evening. It was wonderful to be able to share with them all too and we were all very grateful for their generous hospitality and supporting us in this venture. We started work again early on Sunday morning and afterwards joined in the Parish Eucharist at Nantwich's huge and very active Parish Church, where incidentally an early (1980s) National Ultreya had been held. Cynthia and I were privileged to be asked to take part in the offertory procession and we were warmly welcomed by the presiding priest. It was good to give thanks for having achieved so much in one weekend.

We ended our productive stay in Nantwich with an excellent Sunday lunch at the Crown before we set off for home. I thank God for such a wonderful and diligent team to work with and for all that we have done. We all had a great time and achieved so much, and no longer feel daunted by the task in hand, with only reviewing and proof reading amongst our working party left and ultimately approval from SC.

Ed. The intension is that, when the revision is complete and approved, the Resource Manual booklets will be made available on the BACC website for download and printing by dioceses **free of charge.** The ring binders will still be available from the Resources Officer, Revd Tony Tucker, who will also print copies of the booklets for those with printing problems for a small charge. In the meantime all resources are still available from Tony. **Use the order form available our website and go to the bottom of the 'Information for dioceses' page.**

Ultreya GB 2017 Southwell "Your Goodness will lead me home"

By Rev Jonathan Couper, Spiritual Director York Diocese

People came from Dover and Scotland; from North Wales and Norfolk to a lovely well organised day at Southwell, Nottingham. We owe a big "Thank you" to Mark and Tony and the team of committed workers who served efficiently and effectively to make the whole day run so smoothly. One delegate said to me "It is always worth coming (to the national Ultreyas). What you get out of it is fantastic". No doubt every delegate has some encouragement and blessing to take away with them.



About three hundred gathered at the Minster school before

10:30a.m. and the numbers swelled to fill the cathedral in the afternoon. Why had God called us together? What was His purpose? No doubt there are many answers to this, but I want to share mine. I was looking for answers to these question from common themes from what was said by the speakers knowing that God had called us all to be there and that much prayer had already enabled everyone to get there safely. Also the fog which was present on the roads northwards and southwards had cleared to become open skies over Southwell where we gathered. I took this to show there was an open heaven for us that day and that God would speak.

The theme I saw was summarised by the last line of the Bishop of Southwell and Nottingham's address in the cathedral when he said "Go forth from here in the goodness of God". Earlier Linda Tucker had shared how God is good through help, encouragement and grace in answered prayer and action even in the worst of times. Others gave moving testimonies on the same theme. In one of the first hymns of the morning, we sang the line "your goodness will lead me home". This is based on Psalm 23 "Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever". Goodness (and Mercy) follows us because it is only as we look back that we can see it. Linda reminded us the goodness we see calls us back to an eternal anchor. I saw we are being called to align our hearts to the God who is good and so we find ourselves standing on a path which leads us home on paths towards belonging together and to Him as family. This is contagious so others then join the family and we all grow together in our relationship with God.

The Bishop, The Rt Revd Paul Williams on behalf of the church of England thanked the Cursillo movement for its contribution to the life of the church and also of our calling shared with Christians all over the world to be transformational as the one of founders of Cursillo Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo had been in seeking to renew church members to change Spain by the courses which emerged as Cursillo.

We look forward to Chelmsford next year and pray our hearts will be ready for what the Lord wants to speak to us. The leader of the Chelmsford Ultreya GB team said how God was "well-pleased" and they would be "well -pleased" (in Essex dialect) if we all came and brought others. God's favour is indeed on these gatherings and it would be wonderful if you can book September 1st in your 2018 diary.

Ultreya!

Over the page you'll find a selection of photos from the day.



























ACTION # 15 # ACTION

Action Witness Talk given at the July CLW

By Sally Davies, Sheffield Diocese

The first time I really went to church was for my sister's confirmation — I would have been about 12 years old. I started attending regularly and went on to teach Sunday School, got involved with the music, joined the Church Lads' & Church Girls' Brigade and became a Warrant Officer. During my University years I drifted a little, for a number of reasons. But when I returned home I became involved in the life of St Luke's again, and eventually trained as a Reader — I've been licensed for about 6 years.



In September 2015 I stumbled upon a job advert on the Sheffield Diocesan website. I wasn't particularly looking for a job, but it looked interesting, so I applied. Less than 9 days after first seeing the advert, the job was offered to me, and I began work in the November - I'm certain that God's hand was in that process. I now work for four churches in Barnsley, which work together as a Mission Partnership. I am their Mission Partnership Development Worker, which sounds more grandiose than it is. I basically do general admin, funeral bookings, wedding registers, publicity posters, minute-taking, printing of services, pulling together children's resources, creating pew sheets / notice sheets, and whatever else crops up. It's a bit of everything, and no two days are the same. But I love it!

In my new role I found myself working with one of the Spiritual Directors, the Lay Rector, and the Observing Lay Rector (OLR) for Sheffield Cursillo #10. So it's hardly surprising that I was gently persuaded to attend. I went along to that weekend, in April 2016, not really knowing what to expect at all. What happened was that my relationship with God was transformed, and it basically changed my life. I realise that sounds somewhat melodramatic, but it's true. I came away feeling immersed in the Holy Spirit, and overwhelmingly loved and cared for, and that amazing sense of being an integral part of the body of Christ has remained with me. So how has this manifested itself in my life?

For about 12 months before this I had been meeting quite regularly with a new Spiritual Accompanier, and we had been exploring what God was asking of me. I felt constantly nudged by the Spirit and it seemed that God was calling me on to do something more than my current ministry at St Luke's. I had spent some time working with a couple of other churches in my Deanery, looking at their worship and liturgy and exploring some new ideas. I had also embarked on the year-long Worship 4 Today course, to increase my knowledge and understanding of liturgy and worship, and of what was possible. But the opportunities to grow and develop my ministry within my own parish were quite limited, and I was becoming increasingly frustrated in trying to fulfil God's call.

A time of meditation on my Cursillo weekend, followed up with a helpful conversation and time of prayer, gave me the courage to pursue the question of Ordained Ministry. I wasn't certain that this was what God was asking of me, but I was certain that he wanted more of me, and that my ministry needed to grow, so it seemed like a good place to begin. The whole process of discernment has been both challenging and enriching. I was being asked to reflect deeply upon my own faith and spirituality, and to really tease out where my ministry was and where it might be leading. Through lots of reading and many conversations, as well as prayer and reflection, I was able to begin to make sense of what God might be doing in my life. There

is so much we don't understand about ourselves, and generally so little time to learn those things. But the discernment process requires you to make that time and to really grapple with the difficult questions. It's hard, but it's also a privilege and a wonderful opportunity.

In the midst of all this, one of my work vicars went on sabbatical for 3 months, and my own incumbent retired – both on the same day! Knowing that David was going on sabbatical, I had been busy enlisting clergy to cover services during his absence. For a number of the evening services I had struggled to find cover and decided – in consultation with David and his ministry team – that it would be easier to take the services myself (as I'm a licensed Reader). This was before I became aware that I would be looking after my own church during our interregnum. Needless to say, life became very busy in the run-up to Christmas last year!

The Lay Rector for Sheffield #11 asked if I would be prepared to serve on team for the next Cursillo weekend and, although I was juggling a number of balls at this point, it felt like exactly the right thing to do. I said yes. And so began my growing involvement with Cursillo.

In March I went before a local selection panel, as part of the discernment process, and all of them felt that this was not the time to pursue possible ordination. It was difficult to hear, largely because I felt frustrated that I was no closer to knowing what God wants of me. If it's not ordination then what is it? They all agreed that I was undeniably called, and called to ministry, but that ordained ministry didn't appear to be the right path. One of the panel actually commented that I currently occupy a space – at work, in my own parish, and elsewhere through my ministry – that is exactly Sally-shaped. And the DDO felt that the "something more" that God has in mind for me may well come with our new incumbent. Reassured that I'm already working towards fulfilling God's plans, I've been listening out for the "something more" where I am, rather than looking for something new (which ordination would ultimately have been).

As our interregnum has continued, I have found myself taking services at St Thomas' – the other church in our united benefice – and would hope that this is something I can do more of when our new vicar comes along. There's currently no Reader at St Thomas's, so they have been greatly dependent on outside help. I feel certain that the new incumbent will work much more collaboratively, and it will be more of a team ministry for the two parishes, which will open up new avenues for me.

The relative flexibility of my current job, as development worker, has enabled me to become more involved in bereavement ministry and taking funerals. I've even taken a funeral within the Mission Partnership, when we were in a particularly tight spot during David's sabbatical. So this is growth in another area of my ministry.

Cursillo seems to have cropped up increasingly since I made my pilgrimage. I am now the Fourth Day Co-ordinator for Sheffield, and sit on the Secretariat; I've been asked to serve on team for Sheffield #13 next February; and I've also agreed to be OLR for Sheffield #14, and thereby Lay Rector for Sheffield #15. I recently attended a Cursillo Leaders' Workshop (CLW) weekend at Shallowford, to learn more about the bigger picture, and I plan to speak about Cursillo at our annual Gift Day in my home church, in November.

God certainly seems to be finding plenty for me to do, and that has largely been as a result of Cursillo. My Spiritual Advisor shares my sense of intrigue at the many and varied experiences that my slowly unfolding ministry keeps presenting to me. And she feels certain that none of these seemingly random events are quite as random as they appear. Something is afoot...

That evening in the chapel, back in April last year, I felt a real sense of abandonment to God's will. My heart was truly saying, "Here I am, Lord!" And I continue to be open to the nudging and cajoling of the Holy Spirit, as God gently leads me in his path.



Carrying one another's burdens

By Revds Ali Dorey and Fiona Kouble, Diocese of Sheffield Spiritual Directors

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, for each one should carry their own load." (Galatians 6.1-5)

A few years ago, possibly like some other dioceses, in Sheffield Anglican Cursillo we reached a point where our Diocesan Spiritual Director, Revd Canon Ian Smith, had become pretty tired and was also wanting to shift his work priorities round a little. After about 14 years in the role, we had to recognise that he deserved a rest. We suspect that Ian had actually been looking around for another clergy person to take over from him for a while but drawing a blank, as most of the clergy Cursillistas in our diocese are either retired or have very demanding other roles of one sort or another.

lan approached me (Ali), as a new Cursillista, to ask whether I would consider taking on this role. I was very honoured to be asked, of course, and welcomed the idea, particularly as I'm not a parish priest, so I rarely have the opportunity to inhabit my priestly role with a church community I'm really familiar with (opportunities for covering absent clergy/interregnums etc are plenty, but somehow it's not quite the same as being a priest for your own church community). I had also worked out that in my mission development role, Cursillo needed to be a priority, as many of the most active disciples of Christ in the outer urban estates where I worked were Cursillistas. So in a way, I was predisposed to say "Yes" to Ian straight away. BUT, as with all of these things, I



Revd Ali Dorey



Revd Fiona Kouble

felt pretty anxious about how I might fit in being Diocesan SD for Cursillo with my other responsibilities.

Then I remembered one of my rules of thumb; never do alone what you could do together. Never do alone what you could do together.

I heard myself in a hundred training sessions for mission reminding people, "Jesus sent his disciples out in pairs. What you can't manage on your own, you could do with others, couldn't you?" And I thought about our "action" bit on the Group Reunion cards, and how it encourages us to plan for action together. So I wondered, "Could the bishop appoint *two* Diocesan Spiritual Directors?" And I thought, "I probably couldn't manage this on my own, but I could with Fiona... and I reckon she might be up for it..." So I rang my colleague and friend Fiona, who'd become a Cursillista years previously, but hadn't been particularly involved in the diocesan Cursillo community much until she became an incumbent, when she'd begun sending people on the weekends and serving on team, too. She was up for it.

So, having been invited by the bishop to take up the role, I rang him and asked the question could he appoint two Diocesan SDs? He said "No". But I'm pretty sure he would have liked to have said "Yes", if we'd had longer to talk through why.

So I thought, "Well, let's do it anyway". So in 2014 I formally accepted the title Diocesan Spiritual Director, but when we celebrated Ian's fabulous years of care and commitment and my picking the role up at our AGM, I made it clear to *everyone* in the Cursillo community that although I was the one with the title, Fiona was going to share the role with me.

How does it work in practice?

In truth, there are often times when neither of us can make it to an Ultreya, but we trust our wonderful laity to contribute and they step up every time. We try to make sure that at least one of us is present at Secretariat. For the weekends, we divide up the clergy talks, meditations, presiding at communion and all the other tasks between ourselves, and usually a third colleague, too, because we've found it helpful pastorally (and also good fun) to have a male colleague on the weekends. We have recently begun to gather the group of four clergy who are most proactively engaged with Cursillo in our diocese as a clergy group reunion, too. In every other aspect, we are massive advocates of the Cursillo clergy and laity partnership, but we've found it more practical to meet in a separate group reunion, because of the pastoral confidences we need to keep and the particular demands we face as clergy.

Within a year of becoming Diocesan SD, Ali was diagnosed with cancer. Once I (Ali) got over the initial shock of it, and started to think about how I was going to delegate various parts of my work while I was off having chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy, I began to think about Cursillo. And I gave thanks to God that he'd reminded me in the nick of time about that rule of thumb; "Never do alone what you could do together." Poor Fiona had to then really step up, but Ian also helped a lot during that year when I was off particularly.

We are really glad to report that Ali is cured of cancer (at least she's one and a half years clear, anyway), and lan remains positively involved with Cursillo still, too. And even in our initial experience of doing the clergy group reunion, we are realising just how needed this kind of thing is among clergy, who are often good at looking after others, but not always so good at caring for themselves. So we are hoping to entice a few more clergy to join in perhaps, and also to come to a clergy taster or a weekend.

Perhaps our most important testimony is that this role is so much more fun together than it would be alone! And when did God say, "Thou shalt not have fun"?? We can't find it in our Bibles, and we're pretty sure having fun is part of what Cursillo and our journey following Christ is all about.

I (Ali) have just changed roles, so although I'm still based in Sheffield, I now work for Fresh Expressions UK developing their training for mission. So we are already beginning to think about succession, and we're thinking about which *two* people might take this role forward. Fiona is definitely in the frame, but who will be her partner in crime? We shall see...



Welp to carry one another's burdens.

ACTION # 19 # ACTION

Cursillo or not Cursillo?

By Janet Proud, Newcastle diocese

Cursillo in Newcastle has been in the embryonic stage for a far longer than normal gestation period and I know a few people have been asking – Why?

Believe me, it's not for the want of trying!

My husband George and I made our Cursillo in 2004 in Kinnoull, Scotland on the strength of a sermon given by Christopher Lewis, our then Priest in Charge of our Parish in Riding Mill, Northumberland. Christopher had been the BACC Spiritual Director and together with his wife Janet, encouraged a few of the congregation to 'give it a go'. After experiencing the usual 'what am I doing here?' first day, we were hooked and were very keen to get involved.

At about that time, Cursillo in Durham was being developed and several Newcastle Cursillistas were very involved in the setting up, planning and panicking stages of Durham #1. The Weekend dawned and was a huge success – George was on Team and I was the Town Gofor as Shepherd's Dene Retreat House, hosting the Weekend is in our parish. Durham #2 saw me as OLR; Durham #3 saw me as Lay Rector with my husband observing me as he was Lay Rector for Durham #4!

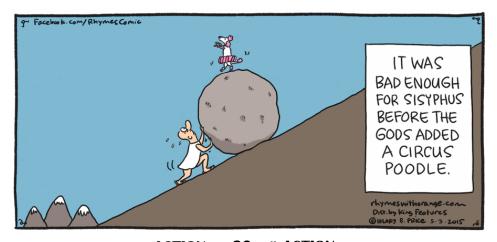
Several of us continued being fully involved with Durham for some years until we thought that the time was right to start up Cursillo in the Newcastle Diocese. We had huge support from Ripon & Leeds Cursillo who were keen to be our gifting Diocese and we made several firm friends there who kept encouraging us. We had the backing of our Bishop, although we couldn't persuade him to attend a Weekend, but a big sticking point was the clergy. We had great difficulty to get any on board and that proved a major problem.

A lot of time was spent setting up a steering group and we travelled many miles (Newcastle is a huge diocese!) arranging, organising and leading Ultreyas in various churches. Most of the Ultreyas were a success on the day with attendees showing enthusiasm and keenness, but pinning folk down to attend a Weekend proved very difficult.

After several Ultreyas up and down the diocese, we arranged one in our own church — only 5 turned up despite big publicity and 3 days later we had a planned steering group meeting — 13 turned up for that! I felt that God was telling me something!! I believe he was telling me to give it a rest for a little while! Meanwhile, we spoke to the Durham Secretariat who were only too pleased to have us back on board again and I now have a non-voting place on that Secretariat. That way we are kept in the loop and are involved in Weekends which are still held locally. Most Durham Weekends (they are now up to #26) have had at least one Newcastle person on Team and that continues to be the case.

We had (and still have) two Group Reunion meeting regularly in our own church and one of the groups is now getting rather large, so will be splitting very shortly. Another small group meets in Newcastle and we have successfully integrated Cursillistas and those who have not yet attended a Weekend and we are slowly widening our circle to include other churches.

That's the story so far.....



Signs of growth in Bristol

By Angela Smith, Lay Director Bristol Diocese & South West Area Rep

I attended my weekend in June 2007 and served on team at the next weekend in 2008. At this time Cursillistas participated in group reunions the whole length of the Diocese from Bristol to Swindon and Cricklade. What changed? Those in key positions were no longer involved. Some because they had moved from the area, some had died and some had moved onto other service. The Cursillo method of prayer, study and action had helped them grow in faith and action and some had taken on more responsibility serving their local church and community. Group reunions became fewer and smaller. Twice there was concern that there would not be sufficient to fill the roles required on the Secretariat but by God's grace Bristol Cursillo has remained active. Perhaps I should say that God has remained active in Bristol Cursillo.

Over the last two years there has been growth. Active Cursillistas have moved into the area and joined in group reunions. Links were formed with Oxford and Exeter and one person attended a weekend run by Oxford at which three Bristol Cursillistas served on team. Some Cursillistas who had been unable to attend group reunions have found themselves in a position where they are now able to participate.

Revd Alastair Davies became active in Bristol Diocese over 30 years after first attending his Cursillo weekend in Southwark and after our last AGM was licensed by the Bishop of Bristol as SD when Richard stood down at the end of his term of office.

We have gone back to basics, two of our Secretariat members attended a CLW two years ago and a further two attended the one held at Shallowford in July. This has helped not only those who attended but the whole Secretariat. The current secretariat meet on a monthly basis, follow the format of the Leaders Group Reunion, and are growing together in prayer, study and action. The steps are small, but progress is being made and a plan is being developed to strengthen Cursillo in the Diocese.

The Bishop of Bristol is retiring this month (September) and in his farewell letter to the churches in the Diocese he quoted Luke 10:2 "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into the harvest field." He encouraged all to play their part through prayer "we need to pray for Him (God) to renew all vocations among the body of Christ." Encouraging others "to use their gifts and explore their vocation"; and to respond ourselves. He asks "How are you responding to Jesus' call to follow Him? How are you following Jesus in the spheres of your lift, loving God and serving others? Is God calling you to ministry?"

I believe that by following the Cursillo method of prayer, study and action Bristol Anglican Cursillo will be able to support Cursillistas grow into the roles that God has waiting for them.

Ultreya!





The British Anglican CURSILLO® Council

ANGLICAN CURSILLO NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM # 7

"Successes and Challenges"

Friday 18th May 2018 - Sunday 20nd May 2018

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire. DE55 1AU



We look forward to sharing time with you at our biennial conference.

The Hayes, in Swanwick, Derbyshire, has been a Christian Conference Centre since 1911. Set in beautiful Derbyshire countryside with easy road, rail and air links, the Centre is comfortable and well equipped. You can get directions via the Hayes web page. www.cct.org.uk

The BACC biennial Cursillo Conference and AGM is primarily for all Diocesan Lay Directors, Spiritual Directors & BACC Reps and all Standing Committee members. They have priority booking up to 29th January 2018. After that other Cursillistas will be welcome to book.

The conference aims to inspire you through teaching, workshops, worship and prayer.

The theme of the weekend is 'Successes and Challenges' and will be led by our National Spiritual Director Rev'd Canon Cynthia Hebden and our President Trevor King.

With a Ceilidh on Saturday evening.

The full cost is £175 per person.

(This covers accommodation and all meals from Friday evening dinner to Sunday lunch)

Saturday Day Visitor £30.00.

(Includes lunch and afternoon tea. Spaces are limited so please reserve early).

Bookings for LDs, SDs and BACC Reps to be received by 29th January 2018. Bookings from Cursillistas not representing their Dioceses to be received by 16th April 2018.

A booking form is on the last page of BACC Pages.

ANGLICAN CURSILLO NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM # 7

Friday 18th May 2018 – Sunday 20nd May 2018

The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire. DE55 1AU

Full cost: £175.00. A non-refundable deposit of £60 to secure a place to be paid on booking and the balance by 30nd April 2018. Or you can pay the whole amount on booking.

mail Address:	Phone:
ursillo Diocese:	Post held (e.g.) LD; SD; BACC Rep:
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EDROOMS: All rooms are ens We have some disabled access	and single rooms and but these need to be booked early.)
lease tick here if you would like	a room for a couple.
you are willing to share twin roo	om. If you would prefer a ground floor room.
you need a disabled access roo	от.
DAY VISITOR: £30.00 Includes	s lunch and afternoon tea - spaces limited so please reserve early
II cheques should be made pa	ayable to 'BACC'. Or you can pay by bank transfer:
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ookings from other Cursillistas t	to be received by 16 th April 2018.
is important to have holiday i	insurance as cancellations are not refundable.
ate:	Signed:

BACC looks forward to welcoming you at the Conference.

finance@anglicancursillo.co.uk

Or scan and email to:



This page is deliberately empty so that you can fill in and send off your Conference booking form.

See you there!