

Anglican Cursillo in the Diocese of Oxford
Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on
Saturday 26 November 2022 via Zoom at 10:45am for 11:00am start

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM (see below) to be agreed
4. Matters Arising
5. Annual Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Adoption of Accounts
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Secretariat Elections & Vacant Posts
10. Treasurer
11. Pre-Cursillo Representative
12. Weekend/ Bookings Representative
13. Future Weekends/Ultreyas
14. Safeguarding Policy
15. AOB

Anglican Cursillo in the Diocese of Oxford
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held by Zoom on
Saturday 30 October 2021

Present:

Tony Price (Spiritual Director), Stu Vaughan (Lay Director & Chair), Margaret Vaughan (Co Lay Director & Minute taker), Karen Brooke (BACC Rep), Maralyn Rampton (Fourth Day Rep), David Leeming (Communications Rep), Vivien Leeming, Andrew Foran, Victoria Mort, Matthew Caminer, Jan Jeffreys, Liz Brandom, Janet Proudman, Peter Watsham & Elaine Mordaunt.

1. The AGM commenced at 11:00hrs hosted by Tony Price SD who opened with a prayer.

2. Apologies for Absence

One apology received from Barbara Essam.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 24 October 2020 were unanimously agreed; proposed by Matthew Caminer and seconded by Tony Price.

4. Matters Arising

It was noted that the appointments of Lay Directors hadn't yet been ratified by the Bishop; Tony will follow this up.

Action: TP

5. Annual Report

The Annual Report for the year ending 31 August 2021 had been distributed prior to today's meeting.

Stu thanked the Secretariat and the Servant Community for their hard work and for keeping things going during the pandemic. A special thank you to Tony,

Barbara and Caraline for their selfless contribution in the roles of Spiritual Director, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

6. Treasurer's Report

The accounts for the year ending 31 Aug 2021 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Restricted funds discussed and although it was agreed the restricted fund had probably been spent, the Treasurer was unable to account for it as we are unable to account outgoings against pledges. Rather than release them to the General Fund it was agreed by all those present that we would draw down the restricted funds against Clergy Taster Days and Communication costs.

7. Adoption of Accounts

In the absence of Caraline, Stu delivered the Treasurer's Report and proposed that the Accounts be adopted. Those present agreed with a show of hands.

8. Appointment of Independent Examiner

It was agreed that Mr Steven Rawlins continue to be our Independent Examiner. Mr Rawlins has said that he is happy to do this.

9. Secretariat Elections & Vacant Posts

Spiritual Director: Andrew Foran has kindly agreed to take on this responsibility; Tony is prepared to remain in the background for the transition period and he thanked Andrew for accepting the post. Stu thanked Tony for his excellent work and support over what has been a very difficult time.

Treasurer: With Caraline Hedges standing down this year, the role of Treasurer is now vacant. Although absent from the AGM, Stu thanked Caraline for her diligence and commitment to the role over the last few years; she will be greatly missed.

As there had been no volunteers for the role of Treasurer, Stu will take advice from BACC as to whether the Treasurer needs to be a member of OAC.

Action: SV

Secretary: Barbara Essam is standing down as Secretary. Stu said that Barbara had done an amazing job as Secretary over the last 3 years and will also be greatly missed. Margaret said that she would be happy to take over the role as Secretary but would have to stand down as Joint Lay Director. This was agreed; proposed by Matthew and seconded by a show of hands. Tony will write to the Bishop to notify him of this decision.

Action: TP

Pre-Cursillo Representative:

This post remains vacant.

Weekend/Bookings Representative:

This post remains vacant.

Vacant Posts/ Servant Community:

Addressing the vacant posts, Stu proposed that the OAC Servant Community is rebuilt in accordance with OAC's Constitution. This generated constructive discussion around keeping the use of technology, remobilising the community through loving joyous activity and encouraging apostolic action whilst ensuring the Cursillo experience remained authentic.

The four teams in priority are:

- Fourth Day
- Pre Cursillo
- Communications
- Weekend

Stu ended the discussion by adding that communications needed to be more streamlined - which is a work in progress, and he will send out a communication to the community requesting volunteers to fill the teams.

Action: SV

10. Future Weekends/Ultreyas

Stu reported that his enquiries with the Community of St Mary the Virgin at Wantage were ongoing. It was suggested that it may be worth thinking about

Rippon College, Cold Ash and Douai Abbey as potential venues for Autumn 2022. Stu asked those at the meeting to engage informally with possible guests.

With reference to planning a face-to-face Ultreya, Stu said that he was mindful of people's anxiety over Covid and it was agreed to wait until Spring 2022 for this.

11. Safeguarding Policy

The OAC Safeguarding Policy was circulated previously. Stu said the National SGP was an agenda item at the upcoming BACC meeting and will advise the Secretariat if any review actions are to be carried out.

12. AOB

Peter Watsham provided an update on his role as South West Rep and the situation with Cursillo in the dioceses of Exeter and Bristol whilst highlighting that the remaining Exeter funds had generously been gifted to OAC (referenced under 'other donations' for the year 2021).

Andrew Foran thanked us for inviting him to be the new SD. In turn everyone thanked Andrew for agreeing to join us.

Elaine Mordaunt said that although she has now moved to Kent it was good to be back on Zoom for the AGM and that she still feels part of Oxford Cursillo. Thank you Elaine for joining us!

Stu thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting finished at 12:10 with a closing prayer given by Andrew.

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Reports for 2022 AGM

Spiritual Director's Report:

Immediately after I was appointed at the end of October 2021, I was invited to attend the BACC Annual Meeting in Shepshed, Leicester, within a month. Meeting some other Spiritual Directors and Revd. Stephen Bowring, National Spiritual Director, infused some initial confidence in my new role.

In March 2022 I attended the first out-of-lockdown Cursillo Leaders' Workshop in Crewe followed in May with the 2022 Annual Conference at Swanwick Conference Centre. Both meetings gave great networking opportunities with other Cursillista Secretariat members from all over Great Britain and to hear of some best practices as in making more creative use of Fourth Day activities. One of these was learning of a simple Order for Commissioning into Office and I and Stu have subsequently worked on this for our own Commissionings.

In April I attended the Ultreya in Kidlington, giving the Gospel talk and presiding at the Eucharist, our first meeting out of the lockdowns and an opportunity to introduce myself and meet with Cursillistas present.

In July Stu and I met with Bishop Steven of Oxford to seek his blessing on our Cursillo ministry and to explore ways of engaging with the Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Strategy. We also discussed Commissioning. This was a very positive meeting, the Bishop readily giving Oxford Cursillo his blessing and support. The challenge is for us all to respond as we continue to now work with Diocesan colleagues to promote our presence and ministry. At the time of writing, we are in communication with the Diocesan Spiritual Adviser, Canon Sally Welch, and the Cathedral Precentor, Canon Philippa White, to include setting the date for the Commissioning as after a weekday Cathedral Evensong. As soon as it is announced we will circulate the invitation widely to encourage support and to help put Oxford Cursillo back on the map.

In the meantime, following discussion at a Secretariat meeting, I have started a programme with Stu of making phone contact with Local Group Leaders to offer pastoral support and encouragement. To date I have spoken with two

Group Convenors and the discussions are proving it to be a very helpful and welcomed exercise in an otherwise isolated environment.

Rev'd. Andrew Foran - Spiritual Director

Lay Director's Report:

The year has been one of some promise, but also (post Covid) more trials and tribulations. This would have been a lot worse without the support of the secretariat and the OAC ... so, I will start by thanking you all.

As Andrew has reported we held our first face to face Ultreya at Kidlington with an encouraging number of Cursillistas enjoying the warm hospitality of Jan Jeffreys and Liz Brandom and a very informative 'Action talk' from Victoria Mort. At the time of writing, we have another Ultreya planned which I pray will see another good attendance. Looking farther afield, a few Cursillistas represented OAC at the recent National Ultreya which, sadly I couldn't attend to raise our banner ... apologies but a family emergency meant that Margaret and I spent the day in the Royal United Hospital Bath.

Andrew and I had a very encouraging meeting with Bishop Steven, which we communicated in the latest OxonFourth and with his blessing, Andrew is soon to be commissioned. Although the meeting was encouraging, expectations were realistically set and the Bishop believes that the Church and OAC will take circa two years to recover from the effects of Covid.

So what does that mean? The BACC resource manual discusses the 'Health and Well-being of the Movement' highlighting a number of 'diseases' and we seem to suffer from all of them! Truth be told we were probably 'diseased' for some time only to be exasperated by Covid. However, now we have the Bishop's blessing I think we can move forward by focussing on improving how we do 'Fourth Day' which probably means replacing weekends with 'Days of Deeper Understanding and similar initiatives to build us back better. However, I'll repeat my message from the last AGM which is we can't do this without a functioning servant community!

Over the past year I have had a few people come up to me to enquire "what's happening with Cursillo?", this is normally followed up with "it would be a shame if we lost it". Indeed it would and after an encouraging reply I end it with the list of roles they could fill and suggest they could host an Ultreya!

Still, it is encouraging to know that Cursillo is on the minds of those we don't normally see at Ultreyas or, respond to the numerous servant community email

requests. It reminds me of the positive way of how Cursillo changes the way in which we view of our communities when we return from a weekend and enter the 'Fourth Day'. It brings to mind the soldier in Kipling's 'The Return'. However, rather than boys matured to men by the Boer war, we become leaders blessed by God through Cursillo, so that we can become a blessing to others.

Stu Vaughan - Lay Director

Financial Report:

To follow.

Fourth Day Report:

After the two years of Covid restrictions we held our first face to face Ultreya in April. The last one had been in February 2020. We are thankful for zoom meetings and Ultreyas which kept us together. We were apart yet together in our love and worship of our Lord Jesus! But to be back together in person after all this time what a difference! The action talk was given by Victoria Mort on being a prison visitor and the repose was by Revd Andrew Foran SD, who, although retired from full-time prison ministry is still quite involved.

November brought us together again, at our 2nd Ultreya of the year held in Blackbird Leys, with a bring and share supper. Just like old times.

Our thanks goes to both of our Ultreya hosts, Jan Jeffries at Kidlington and Victoria Mort at Blackbird Leys.

Maralyn Rampton - Fourth Day Rep

BACC Report:

Andrew and I travelled to the Cursillo Leader's Workshop at Winstanton Hall, Crewe in March. There were some excellent talks and we met new friends with time for reflection and prayers. There was a Labyrinth in the gardens and the slow walk to the centre sometimes close to the centre, sometimes far away showed me how life can be with Christ sometimes. But there is only one way there.

In May the BACC conference was held at Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. Again, a time for lots of discussions and fun.

In September a few of us joined the throngs at St Paul's Cathedral for a short service, followed by a walk to Southwark Cathedral. The service and talks were interesting, and it was great to have a reunion group with other Cursillistas. Lots of hard work went into organising a fabulous event.

Karen Brook – BACC Rep

Communications/Palanca Report:

I have continued to send communication circulars as requested by the Secretariat, mainly by email but also by post (OxonFourth and AGM only) for Cursillistas without email/internet access. I have also kept the registers – Excel and Mailchimp - up to date.

As Palanca representative I have responded on behalf of Oxford Cursillo to requests for Palanca from international and national weekends (now the latter have resumed). I have also circulated the Wall Palanca to our Cursillistas so that we can all join in prayer support for those Weekends.

David Leeming - Communications and Palanca Representative

Oxon Fourth Magazine Report:

As usual I have produced 2 issues of OxonFourth, in spring and autumn, this year. Most are sent out online, with a few small paper copies printed as booklets and posted to those without online access.

I had great difficulty in finding enough material as my requests, hints and tips have largely gone unheard. Luckily the National Ultreya in September produced some excellent copy and photographs to feature in the autumn issue.

I had hoped to feature some of our reunion groups to help us get to know one another and exchange ideas and perhaps attract more participation. These groups are a fundamental part of our movement, and know they are a huge support to many of us. However, no-one got in touch so that idea bit the dust.

However, because I feel strongly about the importance of these groups to our support and growth as Christians, I am not going to give up! I shall be contacting groups personally over the next few months, encouraging you to contribute to a regular feature, with two or three groups in each issue. It will include who and where you are, where and when do you meet, and comments on what you personally value about these reunions.

A group photo would accompany each one featured and would help us to get to know more people in the movement – useful for when we attend Ultreyas!

Life generally is improving since the pandemic, and Cursillo must be part of that.

Vivien Leeming - Editor