



# Chichester CURSILLO®

Registered Charity No 1099668

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Affiliated with British Anglican Cursillo Council

## AUTUMN - WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008

Dear Friends,

I do hope you have all had a good summer – whatever the weather! Since the last newsletter Chichester Cursillo has been involved with a very joyful Caritas at Brighton which brought a number of inquirers and cursillistas new to this diocese to the Cursillo stand. The following week we had another very happy picnic day at Latchetts; we even had some fine weather to really appreciate the gardens in the best light.

Then we had a very blessed Chichester #17 weekend in September. Each Cursillo weekend our family grows not just in numbers but in the personalities and gifts each brings. I believe that getting to know one another enriches our lives and encourages us to reach out to others. Learning about other people's lives can certainly help us to count our own blessings. This was particularly brought to our notice during Chichester #17. As those who attended the Clausura know, one of our participants, Hellen Ogwal came from northern Uganda. Although I have visited Uganda and know something of the problems the people face daily, talking to Hellen reminded me of their great needs and how much I take the everyday comforts of life for granted. I know I was not the only one to be shocked to learn that for Hellen's people (she is ordained) the Eucharist is not something that can be celebrated every week or even once a month; not only is there a shortage of priests but they cannot afford to buy Communion wine. What shocked me was that I had never even thought that it might be a problem. I so take it for granted that there will be wine at communion, but it made me ask myself - how much I do take for granted and fail to recognize as God's gifts?

Thanks to email we are in touch with Hellen and hope to develop links with her and her church in Uganda. The collection at the Clausura (£570.00) was given as a love offering to Hellen to take home the next day. Hellen has put aside £5.00 for communion wine. The remainder has been given to a project called "Hands of Hope" which is being set up to support children of poor clergy, orphans, returnees from LRA abduction, and vulnerable children (especially girls). Plans include paying for the education of 21 children and building a learning centre and an orphanage. Please remember Hellen and Hands of Hope in your prayers.

Cursillistas always seem to pull out all the stops and so it was for our Ultreya in October which had to be moved from Stone Cross with four weeks notice. Our friends at

East Blatchington did a great job and what a happy and blessed day we all had.

It is a great joy to work with loving Christian people and I am so grateful to all who contribute to Cursillo in so many ways – not least through their prayers, but also there are those who serve Chichester through their role as members of the Secretariat. Do you know who they are and what they all do? Someone who had quite a difficult time before the last weekend was our Booking Secretary, responsible for all the paperwork and producing the list of participants was not easy with so many late bookings. We would like to make that less stressful by suggesting that all booking forms should be received at least six weeks before the start date of the weekend. If you have someone you would like to sponsor for this weekend please contact Carol Wood, booking secretary, and have completed forms to her by 29th January 2009.

The members of the Secretariat serve three year terms so each year two or three new members are needed. If serving on the Secretariat is something you feel might interest you, or you know someone you think could be involved in this way please speak to me or any Secretariat member.

We also need venues for Ultreyas. If you think your church might be suitable please let me know.

The work of Cursillo moves on and Aileen Murray is preparing for Chichester #18 in March. Please pray for her and her team, and for the participants.

As Christmas approaches let us take the opportunity to share the real message of the birth of our Saviour with family, friends and strangers.

God Bless you and those you love. Have a very happy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Ultreya! Ruth.

### SWEATSHIRT ORDERS

Heather Fry is now handling orders for garments embroidered with the Chichester logo. There is a catalogue with a variety of styles or you may like to provide a garment to be embroidered. Contact Heather for more details. 01903 610530  
email [hethsie.fry@ntlworld.com](mailto:hethsie.fry@ntlworld.com)



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My Brothers and Sisters

Open Our Eyes, Lord! We want to see Jesus [this Advent].

Christmas is fast approaching and if we are not careful we can easily miss the beautiful season of Advent, so let's make this year's season of Advent a new beginning. If you've never had a personal experience of Jesus and his glory, don't be afraid to ask for it. And if you have experienced Jesus in a life-changing way, tell him that you want to know him even more deeply. Together, let's all pray, "Show us your glory, Lord! We want to see your face!"

The glory of the Lord is not like the glory we find in the world. It's not success oriented. It's not a human glorification - it is the expression of God's holiness, his power, and his majesty. It is nothing less than the revelation of the immortal, all-powerful God to us mere mortals.

So how do we find the glory of the Lord? Sometimes it happens through a dramatic act of God. Think, for instance, of the blinding flash of light that knocked St. Paul to the ground. At other times, it happens as we accept Jesus' invitation to *come and see*, just as Andrew did (John 1:39). We know that Andrew saw something of Jesus' glory, for the first thing he did after his time with Jesus was to find his brother Peter and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (1:41). Still others find the glory of the Lord in the normal circumstances of the Christian life—as they pray and ponder and meditate on Jesus; as they seek his wisdom through the Scriptures; or as they receive him in the Eucharist. Finally, others discover the glory of the Lord in the course of their everyday lives: in the mystery of friendship, love, and relationship; in the beauty of the created world; in the sweep of God's action in salvation history.

On that first Christmas night, an angel appeared to some shepherds and told them that he had news of great joy for them: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah" (Luke 2:11). Then, a whole host of angels appeared and sang out, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" (2:14). This vision grabbed the shepherds' attention and drew them to the manger. And when they saw the infant Jesus, they glorified God for what they were told.

Likewise, Jesus met many people during his lifetime. They saw his glory once they encountered him. The woman at the well (John 4), the leper who returned to thank and praise Jesus (Luke 17:15), the faith-filled centurion (Mark 5:21-43), and even the "good thief" on the cross (Luke 23:39-43) all saw his glory in one way or another. In every instance, these people were deeply moved by Jesus. Their eyes were opened, and they saw who Jesus was.

These stories are not in the gospels simply to tell us about what happened two thousand years ago. They are here also to tell us about what can happen here and

now. They are here to tell us what we can experience this Advent if we ask

Jesus to open our spiritual eyes and to show us his glory. Perhaps we will see it in the beauty of the natural world or in the love of friends and family. But even beyond these instances, he wants us to encounter him directly, intimately, and personally. All we have to do is seek him, and then we will find him.

Christmas would be a tremendous blessing for the church if we could all "be with Jesus" and "see his glory." This is the heart of Jesus' prayer, and of his deepest desires for all of us. As we ponder the glory of the annunciation and as we marvel at the angel's words to Mary and Joseph, and as we consider the way John the Baptist leapt in the womb when Mary visited with Elizabeth, and when we meditate on the manger scene, things happen inside of us. The Holy Spirit responds to our prayers and to our meditations by opening our eyes, showing us the glory of the Lord, and giving us his grace and peace.

Jesus loves it when we meditate on the mysteries of his incarnation. He loves to exchange our acts of service for his divine blessings. He sings for joy when we repent. He rejoices with us every time we come to receive him at the altar. Yet like any holy family, there is something that the church can do to make his joy *more complete*.

Every Christmas, we look forward to family dinners, to building good memories, to cheerful conversations, and to singing Christmas carols. We enjoy getting together with friends and family whom we may see only occasionally. It is amazing how Christmas has such an unparalleled impact on our lives and on so many people in the world.

Christmas can be even more special if we would try to find a few minutes each day to pray and contemplate the love and glory of the Lord. Jesus will respond to our efforts. He will open our eyes and show us his glory—just as he opened John's eyes and just as he opened Haggai's and the Israelites' eyes.

As we pray, remember that God lives in us and that he wants to help us each and every day. He wants to remove every veil that separates us from him so that we might know his glory firsthand. He knows that as these veils are removed, we will be transformed into his likeness and reflect his glory to the whole world in the way we live and act (2 Corinthians 3:16-18).

So let this Advent be a time when we can open our eyes to see Jesus and do our bit to put the 'Christ' back into Christmas and help others to do the same.

Finally, I am sure that you would all join with me in thanking Bishop Lindsay for all his encouragement of Cursillo during his time in this diocese. We shall all miss him greatly and pray for him as he begins his work in Walsingham. We pray too for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for those who have the responsibility for appointing his successor.

With every blessing – Ultreya!

Father Norman



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The following secretariat positions will become vacant at the AGM next May :-  
Treasurer, Weekend Rep and Palanca Rep.  
If you think you might be interested in filling any of these or for more information please contact Ruth or the relevant secretariat member.



## Have you heard of Face2faith ?

### If not, why not !!

We have had a link from our website since the 22nd November.

#### What is Face2faith?

This is a new faith sharing website has been launched by the diocese. It is a follow-up to Caritas, and is run similar to Facebook.

The address is [www.face2faith.co.uk](http://www.face2faith.co.uk), then click the face2faith community button to join.

John Twisleton would love people from Cursillo to become members. It's also a place to advertise Christian events and courses that are happening in the Chichester diocese (.....like Cursillo...).

Cursillo has set up its own Group, so all updates to the website + much more, will be notified here. There is already a forum for Cursillista views on 'The Shack'.

This is a great tool for all of us to use in our fourth day.

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One participant of Chichester #17 wrote the following:-  
' Wow!! What can we say about this amazing, wonderful, mind blowing, Spirit-filled, weekend of extravagant love given unconditionally to us, surrounding us. So much joy, laughter, learning, challenging and answer to prayer. We were just blown away by all the prayers given both to the Cursillo weekend from all over the world, and to each participant separately, some over many months. I have never felt so loved and special in all my life. If that's how fellow Christians can love us, I can't begin to imagine the depth of God's love for us. Such a truly blessed time. The surprises were amazing and kept on coming!!

We were "pilgrimageing" our way in our groups to the Chapel and singing, when as we reached the door of the chapel we were stunned to silence by the sight of a Bishop, waiting to greet us and who had taken the trouble to come to our tiny service. Inside - WOW there were the sponsors to celebrate with us and continue in their support. I was totally overwhelmed. What a wonderful, wonderful time. What an amazing, uplifting service. This is how Church should be.

I did not really know quite what to expect from a Cursillo weekend, but I hoped to find the means and strength to become more what Christ wants me to be and to find a group of people with whom to pray and encourage each other so that we can be more effective in our service to Christ in spreading His gospel.

I found the answers and blessings I was seeking and more.'

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The words, sheet music and mp3 copy of 'Cursillistas Together' are now available on our website. If you do download then a small donation would be appreciated. Thank you to Stephen for this new Cursillo song.

### Our Next Weekends

#18 March 12-15 2009

#19 September 17-20 2009

#### 2009

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009 Ultreya tba  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2009 AGM + Ultreya tba

#### Dates

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009 Picnic Latchetts  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009 Ultreya tba

### YOUR SECRETARIAT

<b>Lay Director</b>	Ruth Hitchcox	01903 765157	<b>Spiritual Director</b>	Revd. Norman Taylor	01903 693499
<b>Secretary</b>	Janice Lelliott	01903 504384	<b>Treasurer</b>	Andrew Meredith	01403 733519
<b>Booking Secretary</b>	Carol Wood	01903 248894	<b>Palanca Rep</b>	Yvonne Austin	01903 267719
<b>Fourth Day Rep</b>	Judy Lowe	01273 464488	<b>BACC Rep</b>	Linda Tempest	01903 268633
<b>Weekend Rep</b>	Susan Maund	01903 242105	<b>Publications Rep</b>	Catherine Gleadow	01903 723709

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