



# Chichester CURSILLO®

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## Chichester Chronicles

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### The new Spiritual Director, Neil Tipple, writes .....

According to Cursillo publications, the purpose of Cursillo is to *“lead saints into apostolic action. Saints are people who know God, who know God’s love and grace, and who live their lives in this relationship. Apostles are saints who have a mission to share that same knowledge with others”*.

So, as the meerkat from the popular (or infuriating) TV advert says, “Simples”.



This is what Cursillo is all about! People like you and me, ordinary people in many ways but made extraordinary because we not only know “of” God’s love and grace but we have experienced it and that encounter with God’s Holy Spirit has changed us and our lives. We can truly say we are ‘alive in Christ’. If our voice is to be authentic, and it needs to be authentic in an often very cynical world, we must always live what we proclaim. People will quickly see through us if we don’t. The freedom and liberation we experience as adored, beloved children of God drives us to declare it and share it with others. Our apostleship is one of joy and not obligation. The Christ within us shouts out, “I came that they may have life and have it in abundance”. There is no such thing as an ordinary Christian because Christ, the Son of God lives in each of us. He is able to do extraordinary things through us.

Now you may say that this is common to all Christians and you are right. But there is something truly wonderful about Cursillo in the way it focuses us always on the two-fold imperative; make saints, make apostles. Cursillo gets back-to-basics. We are constantly called into a living relationship with Jesus and we are constantly called into action; bringing the Christ within us into all the situations we find ourselves in each day. Cursillo is not a church and should never become one. It is a movement within the church of Christ and if it is to be effective it cannot become bogged down in organisational inertia. Neither is Cursillo an organisation in and of itself; the only organisation is that required to call Christians into the two-fold imperative:-

Making saints; making apostles!

And Cursillo works, or rather God works through Cursillo. I have been changed through it. I’ve seen others transformed. I’ve seen countless Christians **Wake-up!** to the life they have been given and I’ve seen so many people taking action and bringing Jesus to the world in simple and astonishing ways.

As the new Spiritual Director of Chichester Cursillo I would love to see Cursillo reach out across the whole diocese and that all Christians wake up to the rich inheritance they already possess. I would love Cursillo to become a beacon for the truth that we are all one in Christ and that we are all united in Christ. I would love to see Cursillo afire with the Holy Spirit and a powerful instrument in bringing Christ to the world. To God be the glory! Amen!

*Revd Neil*

## The lay director writes ...

Holiday time is with us once again. Even for those of us who are not tied to the school holidays for our major trips away, the months of July and August tend to be quieter, with less going on, and become an opportunity either to catch up on those things which have put aside or else to simply take some time out to enjoy the summer weather (well, we live in hope!) and reflect on the events of the past few months.

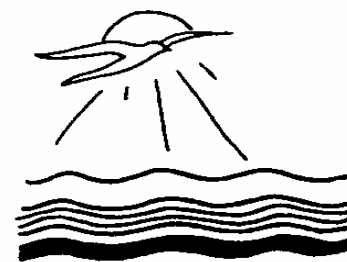
As you can imagine it has been an especially busy few months for me, so I expect I will be doing quite a bit of catching up over the next two months - as well as having a Cursillo weekend to prepare for! However I hope I am also able to take some time out and allow myself simply "to be" for a while. References to rest and taking time away from the normal stuff of life can be found throughout the bible, from God himself resting after six days of creation to Jesus seeking time away from his disciples and the crowds in the hills of Galilee. And a rich tradition of retreat and other ways to seek space for contemplation has developed over the centuries. Since society and culture now place such a high value on wealth generation and other economic measures like productivity & consumption, perhaps it is more important than ever that we take some time out to consider and develop those other things that are important to us - our relationships with family and friends, the inspiration of a walk in the countryside or along the beach, a good book or a piece of music ...

The rule of life cards that we are encouraged to complete during or shortly after our Cursillo weekend devote a whole page to taking care of ourselves. Our health and wellbeing - physical, mental and spiritual - are important both in themselves and because they underpin our effectiveness as workers for Christ in the communities in which we are called to serve. Or as a friend of mine put it recently and more simply, "if we care for ourselves better we can care for others better." So as part of our group reunions why not plan some time for relaxation and refreshment over the summer months? Maybe an activity as a group to strengthen the friendship between us, or better still, a plan which combines both elements of service and outreach with rest and recreation. It doesn't need to be anything far away or complex. Here in Sussex we are blessed with miles of coastline, open countryside, wonderful gardens - plenty of places where we can all allow our spirits to be lifted by the wonders of creation that are all around us. Maybe if we can get others to join us in taking just a little time out from the treadmill of earning and consuming this summer we will be recharging their batteries and our own, and we will be doing a great work for the Kingdom.

Or if your spirits are lifted by the marvels of the medieval church then put 3<sup>rd</sup> September in your diary. This is the day of the Cursillo National Ultreya, this year being hosted by the diocese of Lincoln and ending with a Eucharist in Lincoln Cathedral, one of the finest medieval cathedrals in Europe. Details can be found on the website [www.lincolncursillo.org.uk](http://www.lincolncursillo.org.uk) - it would be lovely to see lots of Chichester cursillistas there, and it isn't quite as far as north as the national gatherings have tended to be in recent years!

I hope you enjoy whatever you are doing this summer.

Andrew Meredith  
Lay Director, Chichester Cursillo



Chichester CURSILLO weekends			Dates for your diary		
#22	27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October	2011	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2011	Ultreya GB	Lincoln <a href="http://www.lincolncursillo.org.uk">www.lincolncursillo.org.uk</a>
#23	19 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	2012	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2011 12.00 pm – 4.00pm	Ultreya	Church of the Ascension, Haywards Heath
#24	13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> September	2012	18 <sup>th</sup> February 2012	Day of Deeper Understanding	tba

## Secretariat news

We welcome Paule Harper to the secretariat as our Secretary for 2011 - 2014.

We have brought together the two roles 4<sup>th</sup> Day Rep and Communications Rep as they are both 'Post weekend' roles. Yvonne Austin will set up and lead a servant community to fulfill the various roles.

### What is a servant community?

It is giving many people in the wider community a role in Cursillo. We realise that Cursillistas may already be very busy in their own churches and we are not challenging that. Instead, we ask that each person spares just a little time to do a small job, rather than one person spending a lot of time in doing many.

Our lay director, Andrew Meredith gave us this analogy in his talk at the recent AGM/Ultreya: think of a football match: 22 people running around for 90 minutes and needing a rest with 22,000 people watching the match and needing exercise. The Servant Community is a way of spreading the workload around so that everyone is "on the pitch" as it were. Everyone has a role to play in the Cursillo community, from serving on the Secretariat through to offering acts of palanca.

The servant community is headed up by a leader who is on the Secretariat. The tasks will be identified and each member of the servant community will be given a small role. Each person will be responsible for their tasks. There will be two-way communication with the Secretariat via the leader who will feed down to the servant community from Secretariat and feed back up to Secretariat from the servant community.

In the case of the 'Post Weekend' servant community we are looking to break down the tasks associated with managing: Group Reunions, Ultreya, the Newsletter, the Communications Network and Communications.

If you would like to be part of this servant community please get in touch with Yvonne via the website.



Your Secretariat			
Lay Director	Andrew Meredith	Weekend Rep	Trudi Kearsley
Spiritual Director	Revd Neil Tipple	4 <sup>th</sup> Day/Communications	Yvonne Austin
Secretary	Paule Harper	Palanca Rep	Maggie Jakeman
Treasurer	Keith Lelliott	BACCs Rep	Sue O'Neill
Booking Secretary	Jan Jeffreys		

**The CURSILLO LEADERS WORKSHOP** is for all Cursillistas, lay or ordained, who want to know more about Cursillo. It is an opportunity for sharing in worship & fellowship, hearing talks on the following and discussing their content with people from other diocesan / provincial movements:

**The Purpose of Cursillo** including: Cursillo and the fundamentals of Christian Living, The Church and the place of the movement

**Forming a Movement** including: The Fourth Day First, The Groups – Reunion and Ultreya, Spiritual Direction

**Making the Movement Work** including: The Servant Community, The Pre-Cursillo, The Authentic Three-Day Week-end, The Cursillo Leader

**Looking Ahead** - Taking the information and ideas back to the diocese and sharing them with the leaders there.

Contact Andrew Meredith or Sue O'Neill (our BACC rep) for more details about CLW's.

### **Cursillo sales**

At the Ultreyas there will be a sales table with cards, Cursillo badges, car stickers etc. We are happy for others to bring cards, books and other suitable items for sale, giving a percentage to Cursillo, however we do ask that if you bring things you take them away if they are unsold.

Orders can be taken for Chichester Cursillo sweatshirts and polo shirts. We have a few samples for people to try on for size or you may bring your own garments to be embroidered with one of the Chichester logos.

If you have any queries please contact Judy Pullin or Ruth Hitchcox on 01903 765157 or email [margaret\\_ruth@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret_ruth@hotmail.co.uk)

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

Title: **Once An Arafat Man**  
Author: Tass Saada (with Dean Merrill)  
Hardback Publisher: Tyndale House Publishing. Inc.  
ISBN-13.978-3-7655-1408-1

I never cease to be amazed by the people Jesus calls to follow him. We all appreciate the words S.Paul used to the church in Corinth about the true meaning of love. When I read those words I have great difficulty in remembering that Paul was once Saul of Tarsus, if not a murderer, certainly an accessory to murder.

In "Once an Arafat Man" we have the story of a modern day killer. Saade who drove Arafat around was a member of the PLO and, worse still, a member of Fatah an organisation dedicated to the annihilation of the Jews. Saada, as a sniper openly admits to shooting and killing of a number of Jews. However he flies to the USA where he becomes a Christian. He eventually rings his brother to say he coming home. His brother, in no uncertain terms, says he will kill Saade for becoming a Christian. Read what happens at the airport when Saade sees his brother coming towards him obviously carrying a Gun!

One simple sentence in this book showed me that Saada had truly understood Jesus when he wrote 'I must find a Jew just to say to him "I love you"'

To this day Saade is working in the Gaza Strip trying to unite Palestinian and Jew.

Neville Purdy



## LIVING WELL

At the end of my Cursillo weekend in September 2007, I came home with a folder full of pieces of paper - palanca, Examination of Conscience, a potted history of Cursillo, Spanish words explained and a green card entitled Rule of Life.

I am ashamed to say that the green card remains blank. Every now and then when I go through the folder it comes to my attention: nonetheless I put it aside for that apocryphal day when I'll have more time to give it my full attention.

The idea has been on my niggly list for some time and so I was obviously ready to read and take note of the edited extracts from "Living Well" by the Canon Missioner of Ely Cathedral, Alan Hargrave, which appeared over four weeks in the Church Times in May. The book is sub-titled "Finding a 'Rule of Life' to revitalize and sustain us," and is published by SPCK.

The extracts were sufficiently interesting that I actually bought the book and immediately found myself engrossed in it. In the Preface we read that its purpose is to help us think through a life-giving pattern of living relevant to today.

The author acknowledges and frequently refers to various monastic rules including that of St Benedict – how many other publications have stood the test of time as this one has?

Other organisations with "rules of life" referred to are The Community of St Etheldreda at Ely Cathedral, the Northumbrian Community, the Iona Community, Moot Rhythm of Life, Taize and to my delighted surprise – Cursillo, with particular reference to Ely Cursillo

The author encountered Cursillo whilst looking for a discipleship course suitable for his parishioners in his then parish in a council estate. He says that his biggest surprise was that he came away "richly blessed, having been touched by God in a remarkable way."

However, "perhaps what I valued more than anything else was that Cursillo was a place where I could really be open and honest."

The chapters of the book are loosely based on Benedictine vows – Listening, Stability, Work and Transformation and finishing at the end with Beginning.

For starters there is a Rule of Life questionnaire about what we actually do now. This can be downloaded from [www.elycathedral.org/worship/spirituality](http://www.elycathedral.org/worship/spirituality). At the end of each section there are exercises, mainly in the form of questions to prod us into activity and lists of a variety of resources, in paper and on the web.

I read the book in two sittings over two days following our recent Ultreya and feel it certainly is time to fill out the green card. It also made me look at Group Reunion in, for me, a new light that is we report on the progress of our spiritual journey to each other with reference to our own personal rule.

Maggie Jakeman

<p>If you would like to submit an article for the next newsletter, please send your article to: Yvonne Austin <a href="mailto:publications@chichestercursillo.co.uk">publications@chichestercursillo.co.uk</a></p>
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## MY CURSILLO – Chichester Cursillo #21

I was intrigued to find out what Cursillo was having seen some of our congregation wearing tee shirts with "Chichester Cursillo" It was a term I had never encountered before and I wanted to know more, I googled Cursillo and found that it was a worldwide movement with the aims of restoring spiritual life.

Having found out about the weekend, which is the start of becoming a Cursillista. I decided that I would like to go.

The Cursillo was held at Wychcroft near Bletchingley, the house is Victorian, set in an expanse of lovely countryside. The beds are comfortable and the food is excellent. We were so well looked after by the Cursillo staff team of 13 lovely people.

The three day weekend starts on a Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. There were Eucharists in the morning with a meditation and both prayer and silent retreat times. We were given the opportunity for reconciliation and the laying on of hands.

The course (Cursillo) included a series of talks about the basic aspects of Christianity and the Christian way of life. The talks are on a number of subjects and are given by both clergy and lay-persons, based on their views and experiences in relation to the subject under discussion. These talks are called rollos, a literal translation is 'long boring talk', nothing could be further from the truth, they were short, meaningful and provoked both laughter and tears. We were in groups and were asked to provide feedback, some of which required a certain amount of ingenuity and caused some amusement.

We sang, laughed, had unexpected times and joyful surprises!!! It was a most lifting experience. I have never felt the way I did on Sunday, It was like flying and I am still coming down to earth! Having shared and gained so much we left to start the fourth day -  
- The rest of our lives.

It was an amazing experience which I feel has changed me. I must say thank you to everyone for their support and love during this time.

Paule Harper



Please pray for Andrew Meredith and his team as they prepare for Chichester #22.

There are still spaces for participants so if you know of any people who would benefit from a weekend and you wish to sponsor please get in touch with Jan Jeffreys, our Booking Secretary.

## Imara-Uganda Education Fund (I-UEF)

### Hands of Hope Ministry

Hello and greetings to you all. We thank you again for your support since the launch of our link. We thank you again for your support since the launch of our link. Now, after 2½ years we have achieved another two milestones and about to achieve our third: 1. A new name. 2. Achieving Charity Commission status. 3. Our web site nearly up and running.

At our AGM in March the new name for our organisation was agreed – Imara-Uganda Education Fund. You may well ask why did we do it? The answer is simple. There is a charity based in America also called Hands of Hope. For our Internet site and also for a Registered Charity with the Charity Commissioners the organisation name must be unique.

Imara is a word from the Lur dialect spoken in the area of Lira, Northern Uganda. It broadly translates to “we bring love”.

At our EGM in May, a final revision of our Constitution was approved and confirmation of Imara-Uganda Education Fund as a Registered Charity - Number 1142239 followed a couple of days later. We must thank Belinda Maclean for the work she did to achieve all of this in such a relatively short time. It was terrific news to receive Charity Commission status. From the date of Registration with the Charities Commission, all of the Gift Aid facilities can now be implemented and this will significantly add to our funds.

Our revised Constitution ensures we continue to support the beneficiaries in Hands of Hope but also allow the development of new beneficiaries through scholarships. As with Hands of Hope beneficiaries, scholarships will only be available to seriously disadvantaged children but they will involve a degree of selection to develop natural ability.

The title of the web site for I-UEF is [www.imara-ugandaeducationfund.co.uk](http://www.imara-ugandaeducationfund.co.uk). It should be “live” by mid July.

Please contact us if you have queries or if you just want to talk about any aspect of our work.

Norman Horsley Chairman.

Email [normanhorsley@talktalk.net](mailto:normanhorsley@talktalk.net)

Belinda Maclean Deputy Chairman and Education Advisor

Email [belinda.maclean@btinternet.com](mailto:belinda.maclean@btinternet.com)



← Jasper (in yellow) an Orphan Returnee Beneficiary

Jasper lives with his grand parents.

→ Our luxury food may be smoked salmon  
- their's is Flying Ants  
- they taste better than they look - believe



← Prayers are a way of life for all the families

→ Huge posters warn “Grandma is all we have left”.  
Life expectancy in Uganda is only about 40.



## PICNIC at LATCHETTS – June 11<sup>th</sup> 2011

Chichester Cursillo held their annual picnic at Latchetts, a garden which is owned by 2 Cursillistas, Lawrence and Rebeka Hardy. The garden is opened several times a year as part of the National Gardens Scheme raising money for charity.



Latchetts was terrific as always and the hospitality of Lawrence and Rebeka Hardy was wonderful. For example, Chelsea or Hampton Court Flower Shows could not match the magnificence of the Cornus tree that welcomed us on arrival. Rebeka says it is the best year for the tree that she has seen.

It was an amazing surprise to have the chance to meet Rev Robinson, Vicar of Pader Church in Northern Uganda at Latchetts. Belinda (in 2009) and Norman (in 2010) both met Rev Robinson during their time in Northern Uganda and both preached at his church at Sunday services. It is the Ladies Group of Pader Church that make the bead necklaces that were brought back and sold at Ultreyas.



Rev Robinson entering the Millennium Garden where the use of water and sculpture describes scripture in an inspirational way. We often talk of reaching out and here Lawrence and Rebeka have created a most impressive expression of our Lord and scripture in a most understandable form.

If you have not been to Latchetts you should go and take friends.

