

Chichester CURSILLO®

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Affiliated with British Anglican Cursillo Council

Spring Newsletter 2010

WHO OR WHAT MAKES EASTER LATE OR EARLY?

Have you ever asked why it is such a moveable feast?

Well, it all dates back to the Emperor Constantine who called the first great Council of the Church at Nicaea in 325AD in order to formulate a creed to counteract the Christological heresies which abounded at that time. One of the items on the agenda was the setting of the date of Easter so that the Church celebrated it at the same time. (This went awry when the East and West Churches split in 1054 – but that's another story.) So the date of Easter was fixed for the first Sunday after the first full moon after 21st March.

This means that the first possible date for Easter is March 22nd – this has not happened since 1818 – and the latest date is April 24th, which happened in 1943 and reoccurs in 2011. The next early date is 2013, when Easter Day is March 31st.

To whet your appetite even further, I have a table which gives all the dates until 2032, when, incidentally, Easter Sunday will be 28th March! I also have another one which goes back to 1066, when Easter Sunday was April 16th.

So next time someone asks you about the date of Easter, you at least have some knowledge of its history.

But of course the most important fact is that Jesus rose again on the first Easter Day and this is the most

significant event in the history of the world.

For Cursillistas, Easter has a great meaning, because it reminds us of the weekend we made at the beginning of this new phase in our Christian Life. It is a time of repentance and new beginnings – a time to renew our baptismal promises and feel the new power of the resurrection at work in us as we proclaim that 'we are the Easter People and Alleluia is our song!'

May this Easter be a great time for you all, but let us also not forget our need to prepare for Pentecost, for the Church of God really needs a New Pentecost. It is fifty years since Pope John XXIII prayed for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the whole Church. We see signs and wonders in our own time, so let us do our bit to encourage them and to be part of it.

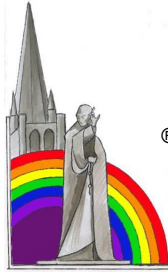
Fr Norman.



**Celebrate 10 years of
Chichester Cursillo on
Saturday 12th June**

**10.30am AGM in S.Pancras
Church, Eastgate Square,
Chichester PO19 7LJ.**

**2.30pm Eucharist in
Chichester Cathedral**



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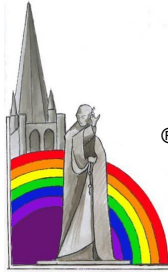
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Dear Friends,
I start with an apology for the absence of an Autumn newsletter; unfortunately it could not be completed.

As I prepare this Spring edition I realize that this will be my last newsletter before handing over as Lay Director to Andrew Meredith at the AGM on 12th June. So, an opportunity to say a very big thank you to all those who have supported me during this term of office. I am deeply grateful to Fr. Norman and the Secretariat members, those who have staffed on weekends (especially Julian Slotema and Sarah Taylor) or have run an Ultreya, and thank you to all those who have prayed and helped in any way. Above all I thank our wonderful God who has continued to bless us individually and as an organization. Again we are grateful to Him for the many ways in which He has worked through our recent weekends (#19 and 20) and for the new cursillistas added to our number.

As one weekend comes to an end preparation for another begins. Please pray for Yvonne Austin, Lay Rector for Chichester #21, as she gathers her team. The weekend staff are chosen by the Lay Rector in consultation with the Lay Director. We are always pleased to know of cursillistas who could staff so if this is something you would like to do, or there is someone in your group reunion you could recommend, do contact me. Each weekend has a staff of 14 and requires the right "mix" of men and women, experienced and new, all with the skills for the task they undertake whether as cha cha (including a

musician) or table leader. Staffing is a great privilege and joy but it does require effort and commitment. All must be prepared to give a rollo, attend two training days and arrive at Wychcroft on the Thursday morning to help prepare for the participants. At the end of each day there is a staff meeting to review the day and prepare for the next, so the days are long. But there is a sense of community, of mutual support and encouragement, and the joy of being a part of God's work. Staff are not chosen without considerable thought and prayer so do pray for those making that decision. There may be others who would like to be more involved and to serve as members of the Secretariat. Each person serves for three years and it is so arranged that every year two or three people change – this year we need a Booking Secretary, BACC Rep. and Publications Officer. So if you think that is something you or someone you know might be interested in, do pray and speak to me or to any member of the Secretariat. At the 2009 AGM the question of having a person responsible for publicity was raised and this has been discussed by the Secretariat. For the present we should like to encourage all cursillistas to be alert for opportunities to publicise Cursillo. Do talk to people in your church, especially to your clergy, and share with them what being part of Cursillo means to you and to your faith. You may like to write an article for your Parish magazine. We hope to produce an article that you could use. You may want to use the existing leaflets about Chichester Cursillo – contact me if you would like some. Please think about inviting people to attend an



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Ultreya or join a group reunion. Do pray and talk to anyone you know who might be blessed by attending a Cursillo weekend.

Prayer is the powerhouse so please keep the power going and pray for all our cursillistas, our clergy and church leaders.

I do hope you will be able to join in celebrating 10 years of Cursillo in Chichester on 12th June. We will hold the AGM/Ultreya in the morning when I hope Jenny Lowery (formerly BACC President) will be with us. Then we shall celebrate and worship together in the Cathedral. We have invited some of those who were involved in bringing Cursillo to this diocese. Do bring your friends and family too.

May God bless and guide you in all that you do. A happy and blessed Easter to you all.

Ultreya, Ruth



At our Ultreyas, from October, there will be a sales table to benefit Chichester Cursillo and Hands of Hope Ministries – a sort of "Bring and Buy", but you take home what is unsold. Items could include books, cards, palanca items etc. Enquiries to Judy Pullin or Ruth Hitchcox

What a Difference a Year Makes!

This time last year we were talking about creating a link with a project called "Hands of Hope Ministry" set up by Rev Hellen Ogwal.

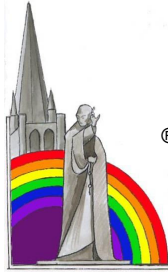
The charity is established in Lira, Uganda to bring education to children who are not able to receive a formal education. This could be because all the family was lost because of the war or the child is returning after being abducted by the rebel army. Others are orphans and have no family, or even a girl child. A girl child in the local culture is of low priority in terms of education.

Our target was to help 5 children by the end of 2009. With such generous support we have been able to do so much more.

With the combined help from our community and the community in Ardingly we were, in 2009 able to help 15 children to be at school. For 2010 the number has increased and we will now help 27 children.

There is also a new dimension I would like to tell you about.

In Ugandan society where Hellen leads the Hands of Hope Ministry, people routinely have no money in the bank and no regular income unless they are lucky enough to have a job. Any wealth is in the form of livestock or garden produce that is sold or bartered for food and essential things for living or casual labour by parents or children. Life expectancy is around



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40 so, as you can imagine, there are lots of children with only one or no parents. Parentless children are absorbed in with the families of relatives or in the care of the eldest child.

The new dimension I mention is that we have structured our help so that we have a Reserve Fund structure where we guarantee money each term for at least 5 years for the children we help. More than half the children are now in Secondary education with significantly higher fees. Secondary education is by Entry Examination so here we are helping the brighter children who will go on to Trade skills, Teaching or even University. Because of family circumstances the higher education levels can only be achieved with our help.

We pray we can increase the number of those we can help. Please contact us if you would like more information.

Norman and Jackie Horsley
01903 690311

Judy Pullin has taken on the job of **SWEATSHIRT 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.

email margaret_ruth@hotmail.co.uk or
phone 01903 765157



Ultreya GB 2009 - Ely

Our Next Weekends

#21	October 7-10	2010	2010	Dates		
12 June	Ultreya/AGM	Chichester	30 Oct	Ultreya		St Richard's, Maybridge
4 Sept	Ultreya GB	Ripon	27 Nov	Day of Deeper Understanding		St Peter's, High Salvington

YOUR SECRETARIAT

Lay Director	Ruth Hitchcox	01903 765157	Spiritual Director	Revd. Norman Taylor	01903 693499
Secretary	Janice Lelliott	01903 504384	Treasurer	Keith Lelliott	01903 504384
Booking Secretary	Carol Wood	01903 248894	Palanca Rep	Maggie Jakeman	01323 895552
Fourth Day Rep	Judy Lowe	01273 464488	BACC Rep	Linda Tempest	01903 268633
Weekend Rep	Trudi Kearsley	01243 263597	Publications Rep	Catherine Gleadow	01903 723709

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