



CHESTER ANGLICAN CURSILLO® NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2018

When autumn leaves begin to fall

When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all
Colours bursting with the sun
Rays shine down on everyone.

There is a leafy autumn smell
I walk on softness where they fell
Floating gently to the ground
Touching down without a sound.

Animal are scurrying to and fro
Instinctively the creatures know
The leaves scatterered everywhere
Beautifies a place once bare.

Rising up to the bluest sky
A tree looks down, creaks a sigh
Nestled in her hollowed place
Life will wait through winter's race.

When the tress at last have shed
Sturdy branches though not dead
Beneath the earth roots hold tight
Tall and stately through the night.

When autumn leaves begin to fall
The Father orchestrates it all
Blooms in waiting seem to say
He is coming back someday.

Again dressed in a formal gown
Branches filled and hanging down
See the miracle of God once more
Birds leap from her branch to soar.

Here I stand in wonder of this
A soft wind blows to me a kiss
My spirit tells my mind to hush
Peace abounds in Christ for us.

The seasons change, come and go
But this is what I truly know
When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all.

By [Kathleen Higham](#)

I hope you all have had a lovely summer, wasn't the weather kind to us. Now as we are in the transition from Autumn to Winter, I think nature is as lovely as in the Spring. The Autumn colours are vibrant and even just travelling into work I witness the beauty of the season that God has given us.

This will be my last Lay Directors piece for the newsletter, as I officially step down at the November Ultreya. As I said in the spring newsletter it has been a privilege to serve you all in the role. I have not had to do it alone, with Prayer and God's guidance and a lot of practical help from my fellow officers it has been a good time.

I need to remind you again (you can never have too many reminders!) about the National Ultreya next year that Chester is hosting. Please keep the date in your diaries and we would love your help on the day. Date is Saturday 31st August 2019.

Please keep in your prayers #58 Feb 14th – 17th 2019. Pray for Carol and her team as they prepare.

Ultreya

Mary 



It's Christmas!!

I love Christmas. I love the lights, the busyness, the shopping mayhem, the carols, the food, the jokes in the crackers, the sparkle of glitter, and the wonderful story underneath it all. I know that for many people Christmas seems shallow, a hollow sham, but for me the shiny surface of Christmas covers a deep abiding truth: God so loved the world that He sent His only Son so that we might know that love for ourselves.

I've been studying Christmas films lately (important research!) and they all have pretty much the same message: at Christmas we need to be loving, kind, generous and forgiving. And if we live like that, we will see miracles of transformation and reconciliation. That seems like a great message to me but it's such a shame we only manage to hear it for a few days each year (or maybe the miracle is that we **do** manage to hear it every year!)

These Christmas films also show that for many people who wouldn't call themselves religious, Christmas is a spiritually rich time, a place where heaven and earth are very close together. And in that time and space people forget the illusions of the world for a moment and remember the eternal truths about love, fellowship and God. That's why we see so many people in our churches for carol services who never come near us the rest of the year. At Christmas time it is easier to connect with the eternal and receive God's love and miracles.

One of the carols I love to sing is “It came upon the midnight clear”. The fourth verse is:

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!*

May you celebrate Christmas this year with all the sparkly, glittery joy that comes from heaven. May you have glad and golden hours to share with others and may you hear the angels sing this Christmas!
Happy Christmas with love from Rev Vicki



Getting to know..... Sue Hutt,

continuing our series of getting to know the Secretariat

You are the BACC Rep for Chester Cursillo. What does that role involve?

B.A.C.C. stands for the British Anglican Cursillo Council who hold a licensing agreement from Cursillo in the U.S.A. BACC is the communication/network 'hub' linking all the affiliated dioceses in Britain, so of course they need a representative on each Diocesan Cursillo and at the moment, I'm Chester's. I let the Secretariat know about the latest ideas and 'good practice' in the Cursillo movement and help pass on Chester Cursillo's information to BACC. There are two meetings to attend each year, always on Saturdays. The venue moves around the country because BACC Reps have to travel from England, Scotland and Wales. In November the Full BACC Council Meeting will be held in Norwich to exchange information and ideas.

Is this the first role you've had on the secretariat?

It is. However I've been along to Secretariat Meetings before because the Servant Community are invited several times a year. Cursillo Servant Community [i.e. all of us] is represented by Lay Rectors. I have been the Lay Rector of Nantwich 4th day Community, but BACC Rep is the first secretariat role.

How did you find out about Cursillo?

We had young children at the time and Nick and I had got into the way of taking turns each year to go on a Retreat. I was chatting at Church about how it was my turn and two people who were fresh back from a Weekend said, "Oh do go on a Cursillo Weekend but we recommend that you BOTH go". Brave grandparents came to 'hold the fort' and off we both went. I soon realised it was not so much a 'retreat' as a 'going forward'. I hope you know what I mean. We returned in a gleeful whirl and the grandparents wondered what had happened to us!

What was the highlight/outstanding memory of your Cursillo weekend?
Sitting in a huge circle one evening sharing our Christian Journeys, which for many involved choosing to tell their life story; very moving and thought provoking.

What impact did the weekend have on you? What changes occurred in you after your weekend?

The gift of Group Reunion has made a profound difference to my Christian life. I have met with quite a few Cursillistas now over the years and have learned from them many different ways of being Christ's hands in our modern world. It really has been a 'going forward' in my development as a Christian and gradually I have gained some confidence in taking opportunities to talk about my Faith.

You retired not that long ago. What job did you do before retirement?

I returned to teaching in 2000 and was a Supply teacher, mostly for Reception or Years One and Two. I had taught full time for ten years before the birth of our three girls but stopped to look after them as Nick often worked away. When they went off to school I had a 'very part-time' job making local reports for the Crewe and Nantwich Guardian: a job I always claim stopped my brain from becoming fossilised, though the family may not always agree!

Do you miss it?

Luckily our granddaughter was born just as I retired so I can still have young children around. Actually she is currently living with us for a few weeks so I get to read bedtime stories.

What's your favourite way to spend a day off?

Oh, a longish walk in beautiful countryside is always a treat and, I reckon, good for body and soul.



Banner Blog

I have to start with a heavy heart, I was to find out that I wasn't going to be going to #56. The weekend had to be cancelled at the last minute. No time to dwell on that though as I was getting ready to go to Chelmsford National Ultreya. Mary took me to Beth's house and we stayed overnight ready to travel very early next morning. It was a long drive but got there safely and was taken to my holding place in the Cathedral. All my friends, (I refer to them as my friends as we meet up every year) and I lined up with our Cursillistas and paraded along the town. The banner party had to wait outside while everybody got ready inside, it was a long wait and very hot in the sun. Mary managed to move me under a tree into the shade as we were at the

back. We were at the back not because we were out of favour but because then we would be at the front on the way out after the official handover from my friend the BACC banner ready for next year.

I went to Foxhill in October to #57, what a lovely time and so exciting to see our new Cursillistas grow over the three days.

Next outing is the Dioscean Ultreya in Crewe, look forward to that and meeting you all again.



GB 2019

Have you heard Chester Diocese is hosting the GB Ultreya in 2019? No? Well you have now!

On Saturday 31st August 2019 Cursillistas from all over England, Scotland & Wales will be gathering at Chester Cathedral for our annual GB Ultreya.

Plans are well under way but we're going to need some help on the day.

We will need...

- 30 stewards to ensure the smooth running of the event, we will need
- First aiders prepared to be 'on duty' in case of an emergency or even just a minor injury (first aid kit to be provided!).
- A worship band for the occasion so if you sing or play in your own church we will want you, Linda Lewis has kindly agreed to co-ordinate this. The group will lead worship & play as people are arriving.
- 12 People who are used to administering the chalice at the Eucharist in their own church

If you can't help in any way we still want you! Come along & enjoy what promises to be a spirit filled celebration of all things Cursillo.

So please put this date in your diary and contact the Communication team via the website if you can help.

We'll ask you to let us know if you're coming to be part of the day nearer the time.



Palanca

Do you remember receiving your first Palanca on Friday afternoon of your weekend? How did you feel? Surprised? Emotional?

I remember thinking 'How do all these people know my name? And how do they know I'm here on this Cursillo weekend? (and this was in the day before you knew everyone's movements on Facebook!!). When I staff, I love to watch the reactions of the participants when they receive their palanca.

Palanca is prayer and we know you hold the weekends in prayer but please could you send a quick note to let participants and staff know you're praying (it doesn't have to be elaborate) it makes it so special or let Palanca Sue know you're praying so she can add our name to the prayer chain. Thank you

Chester 58 will be from 14-17th February at The Oblate Retreat House in Willaston Crewe, please starting thinking & praying about potential participants and please hold the staff team in your prayers.

Lay Director laydirector@chestercursillo.org	Vacant from November
Spiritual Director spiritualdirector@chestercursillo.org	Vicki Schofield
Hon Secretary secretary@chestercursillo.org	Anne Smith
Hon Treasurer secretary@chestercursillo.org	Tony Fisher
Weekend Co-ordinator weekend@chestercursillo.org	Beth Roberts
Fourth Day Officer fourthday@chestercursillo.org	Joan Clare
Palanca Secretary palanca@chestercursillo.org	Sue Lewis
BACC Rep baccrep@chestercursillo.org	Sue Hutt
Communications officers communications@chestercursillo.org	Carol Thayer & Anne Vetter