

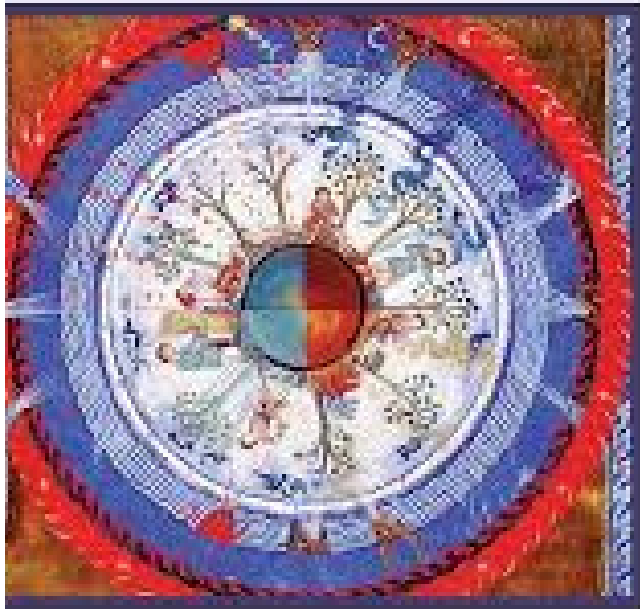


# Chester Cursillo

## Summer 2025

### The Celtic Wheel of the Year

CHRISTIAN & PAGAN PRAYERS  
& PRACTICES FOR EACH TURNING



COMPILED BY MEG HEAVELYN

May the turning wheel of the year  
help you find a sense of rest and peace,  
even amid the chaos and catastrophe  
of our modern world.

(Written on back cover.)

For me it has!

As I've got older, most of my moments close to Christ happen when I am outside. I find myself in thin places, showing me a glimpse of the Kingdom of heaven. This connection with the earth has steered me towards Celtic spirituality.

One particular book has helped me on my way, as I have journeyed through the year. The Celtic Wheel of the Year has deepened my connection to the seasons; I know more about seasonal moons than I ever did!

I read the first day of August is Lammas day or "loaf-mass", a medieval celebration of the wheat harvest. A Lammas loaf was the first loaf of bread made with grain from the new harvest, so being me I asked John to make bread, the most traditional Lammas practice.

As you make the bread you reflect on what 'seeds' you might have sown; did they come to fruition or are they still in the ripening stage. What needs to die so that new life can grow? When the bread is baked, you eat in love and thanksgiving as we did. It was delicious!!

Tony, our Spiritual Director, sent a reflection for the spring newsletter(it didn't happen). Here is an abridged version.

**I've just come back from a little stroll by the Peak Forest Canal, which runs a short way below our house here in Marple. The sun was out, and there is a bit of warmth in it at the beginning of March...**

Tony took inspiration from the hazel flowers he came across...

**For those of us who believe that the character of our heavenly Father runs right through the weft and warp of his creation, the tiny male flowers and the delicate, dangling lambs' tails bring a wry smile to our faces; and I can't but help imagining that God had a twinkle in his eyes when he created them! It certainly brings a delight to my face when I find them – such hidden beauty in plain sight, such intense colour, making an oasis in the desert, such yearning for the flowering of beauty in a difficult world, such hope that winter is not the last word in God's world.**

**Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, as we enter the wilderness with our Lord. And it feels at the moment as if the Western world is entering a scary man-made desert. In that context, I take urgent hope from the steady, unchanging rhythms of the universe; and strong comfort from the secret, delicate beauty of the male Hazel flower. I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.**

**Ultreya!!**



We continue to take that urgent hope and trace the rainbow through the rain...

## GOD'S CALLING IN MY LIFE

I thought that I would share God's calling in my life. When I was a child my parents took me to church and I enjoyed Sunday school but as I got older I just went to church out of habit. I believed in God and I was confirmed at sixteen but I did not take it seriously.

My journey began when someone very close to me passed away and I began to wonder if heaven existed and I realized that I did not know much about God and I had never read the bible.

I joined any Christian courses I could find at various other churches in the area and during that time I met some wonderful people who nurtured me and helped me understand when I asked questions. I went on to re-commit my life to God when I renewed my confirmation vows during a confirmation service at my church.

I attended my own church regularly where I began to get more involved. I was Churchwarden, PCC secretary and Deanery Synod Representative. Also

I was trained as a server and assisted with the distribution of Holy Communion. At this time I felt God was calling me but I did not know what God wanted me to do. In 2018 a friend introduced me to Cursillo, so

I went along to see what it was about. During the weekend I felt surrounded with love and prayer. After the weekend I knew I was on the right track to finding out what God was asking me to do.

So after a discussion with my vicar. I applied to do the Foundations for Ministry course and Pastoral Worker course and was licensed in October 2023. I am so glad I did as I find it a very rewarding job. I have since then done chaplaincy training and have offered chaplaincy to the staff at local nursing homes.

Recently, I joined the Guild of Servers of the Sanctuary which was something I have always wanted to do. I was presented with a medal at a service and supported by some of my Cursillo friends.

I believe that my journey really began after my Cursillo weekend in 2018.



Beryl Smith #57



## **Contacting the emergency services if you are Deaf or Hard of hearing**

**If you struggle to hear someone on the phone, then getting help in an emergency could be difficult, however you can now contact the emergency services via a text message, but you **MUST** register your phone beforehand.**

**What to do :-**

- 1. Register your phone - Text the word 'register' to 999**
- 2. You will get an automatic reply - please read it.**
- 3. Reply to the message saying 'yes'**
- 4. You will then get a text telling you your mobile is now registered.**

**In an emergency you can now text 999 - type which service you require and brief details of the emergency and where you are.**

**Example of a good text**

**'Ambulance. Man having a heart attack. Outside St Mary's Church, Acton, Nantwich CW5'**

**Register today, don't leave it until you need help!**

**Best wishes  
Carol Thayer**

I have started a podcast called Kingdom Joy. I've just finished writing the 6th episode on how the joy that comes from God can overcome anxiety.

I also have a prayer-journaling membership called Illuminations that provides workshops and journaling prompts. Here is the prompt for this week's podcast episode:

### Prayer Journal Prompt – "Placing My Anxiety in His Hands"

Take a quiet moment with God. Write down the worries that are weighing on your heart today—big or small. Don't censor yourself. Pour it out.

Next to each worry, write:  
"Jesus, I trust You with this."

Then spend time reflecting on these verses:

- Matthew 6:26 – "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap... yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

- Philippians 4:6-7 – "...the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Now, in your own words, write a short prayer of release, giving every anxiety into His loving care. End by thanking Him for the peace and joy He promises.

Vicki Schofield

