



# Derby Anglican Cursillo®



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## **Newsletter – December 2016**

Dear Cursillistas,

May the Secretariat of Derby Cursillo wish you all the Peace of Christ at this Christmastide and a Happy New Year.

*And the angel said unto them, "Fear not! For, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." - St. Luke 10-12*

Ultreya - Sally, Robert, Betty, Jane, Barbara, John, Rosemary, Kath, Val and Andrew

### **Robert's letter**

Dear Cursillista's

Here we are again almost at the end of one year and preparing to start 2017, it does not seem that a year has passed since I sat down to write something for the Christmas Newsletter 2015 and its time to perform that task again.

We have been watching on TV a programme called The People Remember. It was screened daily during the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday, but we recorded it and watched the week after.

Every day a "celeb" joined the presenters and were given details of their relatives war time exploits, however one of the stories did move me. It concerned a Frenchman who fought with the French resistance but at the Normandy landings was a stretcher bearer for British troops. He explained at the end how he had tried ever since to conceal his deep hatred from his family and that he felt he had succeeded as his eldest son had married a German girl.

I am sure you will all be busy organising decorations not just at home but at your local churches and all the other services this season of advent brings. May I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year and hope to see as many of you as possible at our next Ultreya in January.

*Robert*

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR**

Dear Friends,

Someone close to me recently started an Alpha Course. I was really pleased, as I knew she had been going to church for a few months, although she is neither baptised nor confirmed. But she had real questions about the Christian faith, and Alpha is a course designed to answer those questions. She told me that there were about ten of them on the course, and it was interesting and informative, and all was going well. Then, last week, she told me that she had been on the Alpha 'away day' on the Holy Spirit.





"I hated it" she said "I felt like walking out."

The 'away day' was not just for the group of ten she had got to know ... there were about eighty people there, and the whole thing became a highly charged emotional atmosphere which left her cold. People spoke in tongues (something which she found weird and off putting) and there were loud calls to "Let the Spirit move you!" She sat with arms folded, determined not to be part of what she felt to be something unpleasant, coercive and manipulative. So, this 'away day' which was supposed to be so wonderful, has actually done harm to someone who was sincerely searching ... and I think that there is a lesson for us all in that.

Of course, we do believe in the gift of the Holy Spirit. But I do not think that we can dictate when or how God will give the gift. Some people can name the day and the hour when they received the Holy Spirit ... I have heard people say that it was a wonderful experience; they felt a great warmth flood over them, and yes, some spoke in tongues - that strange angelic language which is given to some people.

But it is not like that for everyone. It was not for me. I can remember that when I was training to be a Reader, I became quite bothered about the fact that I had not had an experience of that kind. I was on a weekend retreat at Morley Retreat House at the time, and I spoke to the nun who was leading the retreat, a lovely woman whose gentle spirituality and faith was obvious. I told her my worry.

"I have never had that experience of being baptised in the Holy Spirit that so many people have told me about" I said. She looked thoughtful for a moment. "Neither have I" she said. I was so relieved. If this lovely Christian woman, who was clearly full of the Holy Spirit, could not name the day and hour, then I realised it was nothing to worry about.

God treats us all differently, as individuals. What is right for one person is not necessarily right for someone else. God can, and often does, fill a person with his Holy Spirit all at once ... like filling a bucket of water by turning the tap full on. But other people he fills more slowly and gently, like filling a bucket by putting it under a dripping tap; it takes a long time to fill the bucket, but it gets there, drop by drop. So, when we take our Pilgrims through the experience of a Cursillo weekend, I think we need to remember that we are not all the same, and God in his wisdom does not treat us all the same. We have to be sensitive to a person's needs ... and remember that some people are very put off by anything which seems to them to be manipulative. If we are too pushy, then we can push people away. We have to give people the freedom to be who they are, and encounter God in their own way ... and not put any undue pressure on them. Let us trust God to know how to reach each person. We need to pray that God will give us wisdom in our dealings with others, so that we know what to say and when to say it ... and also when to remain silent. We have to listen carefully to each individual, so that we can be a help and support to them on their Christian journey, and not a stumbling block.

The woman I was telling you about earlier is continuing her Alpha course, and I pray that, in spite of her unfortunate experience at the 'away day' she will learn and grow in faith and knowledge, and will come to trust in God and in Jesus Christ as he Lord and Saviour. Now, I wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas,

With love,

*Sally*





# Derby Cursillo

## 3-day Weekend - 19th - 22nd April 2018

At 'The Hayes Conference Centre'  
Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 1AU  
For more information please contact:

Mrs Jane Mylemans  
Tel: 01332 552704  
*precursillo@derbycursillo.co.uk*

If you know of any potential pilgrims, please contact Jane.

**Sunday** Starting at 3.00pm. Clausura at Hayes Conference Centre,  
**22nd April 2018** Refreshments will be provided Swanwick Alfreton, Derbys DE55 1AU

### Notices:

We have organized the following Ultreyas:

Saturday 21st January 2017	Ultreya 12.30pm shared lunch	St Mary's Long Eaton NG10 3JW
Saturday 18th March 2017	Ultreya 12.30pm shared lunch Including AGM	St Michael's and All Angels, South Normanton DE55 2BT
Thursday 1st June 2017	Ultreya 7.15pm tea and biscuits	St Werbergh's, Old Blackwell, Nr Alfreton, DE55 5HN
Wed 16th August 2017	Ultreya 7. 15pm tea and biscuits	St Stephen's Church Borrowash, Derby DE72 3LG
Saturday 21st October 2017	Ultreya 12.30pm shared lunch	St Peter's, Stonebroom Derbyshire DE55 6JY
Saturday 27th January 2018	Ultreya 12.30pm shared lunch	All Saints' Tamworth Road, Sawley, Derbyshire, NG10 3AT
Saturday 17th March 2018	Ultreya 12.30pm shared lunch, including AGM	St Michael's and All Angels, South Normanton DE55 2BT
19th to 22nd April 2018	Derby Weekend #19	The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Alfreton, Derbyshire DE55 1AU
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Clausura - 3.00pm	As above

### Website

We have our own website at [www.derbycursillo.co.uk](http://www.derbycursillo.co.uk) This will be used to advertise our Cursillo and we can post information for members. If you have access to the web, please have a look at it.

### Your contact details

If you have received this newsletter by post and you would like to receive it my e-mail to save cost, then please contact Andrew Templer at [communications@derbycursillo.co.uk](mailto:communications@derbycursillo.co.uk).



BACC



## Contact List



Our Secretariat now consists of:

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### A letter from BACC

We all remember the Cursillo Weekend and think of that as the beginning of our Cursillo Experience. We should consider Pre-Cursillo as the beginning of our experience.

When we are asked to attend a weekend that is the beginning so let us consider all the people who could enjoy the experience too.

All possible Pilgrims should be nurtured. As well as the Cursillo leaflet and having a talk they should be invited to attend your Prayer Groups and our Ultreya. They will find the welcome of the Cursillesta, as a special friendship to look forward to they prepare for their own weekend. Of course however much is explained no one can ever offer the 'Experience' we personally have and sometimes find hard to explain, as we continue into the Fourth Day.

The Fourth Day or Post Cursillo is where our work continues, remembering the talks and prayers that urge us forward to use skills in our future lives.

Do consider attending a Leaders Workshop, it is not actually to make you a leader but as you have attended a Cursillo Weekend this is offering you the opportunity to become a leader in your everyday life. At the Leaders Workshop you meet other Cursillesta from other Diocese and the talks and experiences on this weekend are to help you follow through and help bring Jesus more into your life for others.

There are booklets available set out by The British Anglican Council that may help I would recommend 'What is Cursillo', 'Leaders Workshop' and there are many others in the handbook which all the secretariat will have and be able to offer for you to read. Or you can find out more on the BACC website.

Remember, our weekend 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 needs preparation, so let us look for pilgrims who are suitable to be encouraged to take their faith on their journey with Cursillo.

God's blessing.

Betty Thompson

