



# Fourth Bridge

## September 2024



**Saturday 7th September 2024.**

The Cursillistas of the Dioceses of Leeds,  
*Sheffield* and York held the *GB Ultreya*  
in Sheffield Cathedral Yorkshire



**From Karen Ellis  
Lay Director**



What a great day we had in Sheffield at the GB Ultreya.

It was lovely to see so many Cursillistas in the cathedral and a delight to see Ian and Ruth Arthur, who now live near Chester.

In the talk and reflection, we were reminded that we sow seeds of the Holy Spirit all through our lives. When we need help to cope with life's situations, we can find solace in God. As we embrace faith, we can improve our relationship with God. We develop skills, and with encouragement from others, we open up other opportunities.

The Cursillo method encompasses prayer study and action, helping to enable us in our faith journey.

God harvests our spiritual seeds during our life and faith keeps us on track with Christ.

We may waver in our prayer life, but Jesus reminds us that it's a simple task, in the words of the Lord's prayer. We were reminded that prayer should be a joy not a chore and that prayer is essential to the Cursillo way.

It really was an uplifting day, and I would encourage you to attend next year's event in Durham on 6th September 2025.

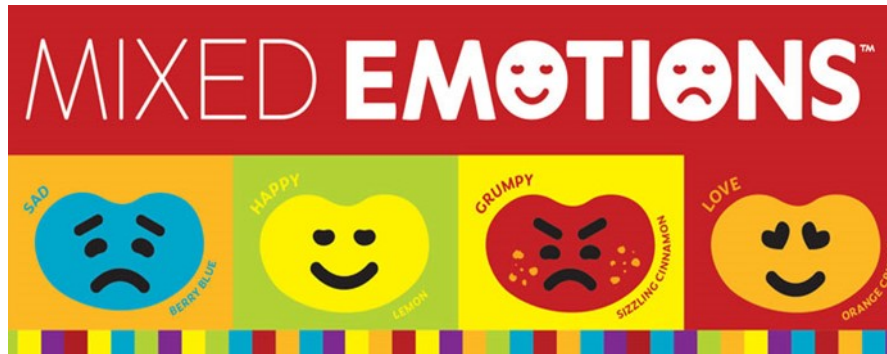
Ultreya

Karen





**Revd Heller Gonzalez**  
**Spiritual Director writes...**



**Mixed Emotions**

Preparation for a journey can be a double-edged sword. As I am writing I have been made aware of preparations going well underway for the upcoming Cursillo weekend at Carronvale, Larbert.

It brought to mind the excitement I used to feel as a child when my mother used to start, methodically, packing the cases a week before we went on summer holiday, the planting of bulbs preparing for an anticipated show of spring flowers, or the writing of invitations to a special party or wedding...

But there is another ingredient mixed into this excitement. That is, anxiety.

There is the anxiety that all will go well with the travel, that the place we go will be decent, that rabbits or foxes will not dig up the bulbs planted, that people will turn up to our party, that there will be enough food and drink. Yes, a double-edged sword, mixed emotions! A bit like going into a Cursillo weekend, a small course on the fundamental aspects of Christianity designed to help us, but we are anxious and not without a little fear.

It is not uncommon to see people arrive with questions and concerns, worried about what will happen and wondering why they are there. Mixed emotions. Anticipation coupled with anxiety, but the atmosphere is one of warmth, love and respect. There are talks, songs, laughter, small group discussions, breaks, moments of prayer, and a few surprises along the way (pleasant ones!). Before we know it, it is over.

Cursillo can be described but must be lived to be appreciated. Each of us perceives it through the different lenses of our life and faith experiences. We all see things differently. Even when we look at the same objects, we don't necessarily see them in the same way.

I was hesitant about going to Carronvale to Cursillo 68, but the three days retreat gave me the tools I needed to develop my discipleship, a renewed sense of faith and a different outlook on life.

If you have been thinking about discovering and developing your potential, being connected more fully with your faith community, or becoming more involved as an active member of your congregation, Cursillo may well be the answer you are looking for...

Why not give it a try?

I wish all our participants in Cursillo 71 a joyful and blessed Cursillo weekend.

*Heller.*

# Cursillo 71

The closing service for weekend 71 will start at

**14:30 on Sunday, 27 October 2024**

**Please note the earlier time than has been in the past.**



Address: Carronvale Rd, Larbert FK5 3LH All are welcome to join us.

Sally-Anne Lay Rector for #71

## A Note from Mike Whitton

### Keeping our records up to date.

For people to update their details, an email to me at [Database-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com](mailto:Database-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com), detailing the change, will be fine. Alternatively, use the online form, using the QR code, or visit the new website, there is going to be a link on there too.

If anyone wants a paper version of the form, I intend for it to be available for download from the website.

Or I could send a paper copy out if anyone prefers that. Just ask a friend who is used to emailing, to help you contact us, requesting a paper copy of the form to be sent out to you.



## Andrew Elrick Secretary writes ...

The Servant Community gathering was held in Dumbarton on 17<sup>th</sup> August, when 19 people attended, from as far afield as Inverurie, Dalkeith, Carnoustie & those closer at hand in Dumbarton and surrounding area.

The people who had travelled to be there were mainly Cursillistas, but also a few prospective participants for the upcoming Cursillo #71 from Dumbarton were there also.

There were praise items followed by a group reunion, after which Karen give a talk about 'What it is to be a servant', and how we fit in and work as a servant community. Karen highlighted 3 main points:

Vision, Passion & Purpose.

Heller, then give the spiritual response taking his inspiration from Mark 10: 42-45 in which he reminds us that 'even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.'

We then broke into three groups to discuss various aspects of the 3 points which we had heard about. The groups put their feedback down on posters and fed that back to the rest of the Servant Community.

All the ideas which where raised will be taken on board by the Secretariat at their future meetings. The Secretariat normally meet around once a month on zoom, and face to face at events such as AGM or Servant Community.



Following some more praise items the meeting was closed in prayer and we enjoyed a lovely lunch provided by the ladies at St. Augustine's church.

The next Servant Community is currently planned for **March 2025 in Edinburgh**. The date is still to be confirmed.

The AGM is scheduled for the **23rd of November 2024**, at the Threshold Centre, in Perth.



## **Provincial Ultreya and AGM**

**Threshold Centre Perth, Saturday 23rd November 2023**

At St John's Church, 34 Princes Street, Perth, PH2 8LJ

Arrive 10am for 10.30am start. **Bring your own lunch**

We will end the day with the Eucharist

## **News from around the country**

The local Ultreyas for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are held every six weeks or so, and are generally well attended, with around 14 to 16 present. This has given the opportunity to introduce potential participants to the Cursillo movement. At present St. Mary's, Inverurie, have four participants signed up for Cursillo #71, and St. Devenick's, Beildside, a further one.

Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Cursillo #71 – welcome home – **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024**



Edinburgh and the Borders held a successful joint Ultreya in Galashiels in May with Marion Anderson giving the Action talk on 'Encouragement', and then in North Berwick in August, we heard more inspiring words from Valerie Nimmo on 'Welcoming'.

St Mary's Dalkeith will be holding a welcome home on **Saturday 9th November at 7pm**. All are welcome to join us for a 'bring and share' light supper evening.

A date for your new 2025 calendar, our annual Epiphany Party to be held , at Inverard House, Arboretum Road, Edinburgh. **Saturday 18th January Arrive 10.30am for 11am start**. Finishing around 2pm. We will enjoy a 'Bring and Share' lunch together.



**Jenny Wright  
Treasurer writes ...**

A warm welcome to all new Cursillistas. I hope you have enjoyed and benefitted from your weekend.

We are in the position where we are able to offer the weekend to new participants, as a gift and so free of any charge. This is because of generous donations from other Cursillistas.

Some give a one-off donation; others pay a monthly donation, anything from £3.00 to £15.00 each. Those who are taxpayers also allow us to claim gift-aid meaning that their donation is worth a further 25%.

If you feel able to contribute to a future weekend, then that would be very welcome but no obligation to do this.

A big thank you to all those who do donate.

I have included a Gift Aid form and a Standing Order form if you wish to use them.

Jenny Wright

**Standing Order Mandate**

**To** .....  
(Name of your Bank)

(Address of Branch)

.....

Please pay to Bank of Scotland, St Andrews Square, Edinburgh, EH2 2YR

(Bank sort code 80-11-00) for the credit of Cursillo in Scotland (A/c No 00233131)

the sum of £ . . . . ( ) on the . . . .day of . . . . . 202 .

and monthly/ annually thereafter until further notice.

Account in name of: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please cancel all previous Standing Orders in favour of Cursillo in Scotland.**

**Signature(s)** . . . . . **Date** . . . . .

**(Please forward the form to your bank or fill in via online banking)**

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## GIFT AID DECLARATION

I, .....  
(FULL NAME, PLEASE PRINT)

of .....  
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declare that I am a UK taxpayer and would like Episcopal Cursillo® in Scotland to treat this donation and all donations I make hereafter as Gift Aid donations.

I understand that I must have paid an amount of income tax and/or capital gain tax at least to the tax that the charity reclaims on my donations (currently 25p for each £1 you give).

Signature .....

Date ...../...../.....

Please return the completed form to the Treasurer: Jennifer A Wright,  
10, Hailes Green, Mill Wynd, Haddington EH41 4FF  
or e-mail Treasurer-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com





**From Margaret  
Editor of Fourth Bridge**

As I write this introduction, I know that I am repeating myself once again, as I mention that there always seems to be a theme in each magazine edited, and this one is no exception.

This issue of the Fourth Bridge brings articles regarding the *administration of Cursillo*, but all seem to have positive tones. The positions for responsibilities, that lay empty for a while, have now all been filled, with Wendy Wilkie coming forward to take on the role of Fourth Day as well as being the Palanca contact person, which she enjoys doing.

Jenny has enclosed the forms for donations and gift aid, and with more people donating the funds are steady. Will we have enough funds for Cursillo 72? Wouldn't it be marvelous if everyone reading this, sent Jenny a little one-off donation for this to happen. Imagine being able to fund another person to experience the Cursillo way.

The final news item, on the last page, in this magazine is the launch of the new website. We hope you will find the website useful and informative, and we are also hoping that you will contribute to the site, by making suggestions for any items to be included. Perhaps we have missed something that you would consider should be on the website. We look forward to your responses via the website, that way we know you are online and have made a connection with the new site. Help us keep it alive and we will endeavour to keep it up to date too.

So, as we go forward together, may we say the prayer from The Servant Community guidelines:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally by your mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imagination, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated to you and then use us, we pray, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen



## **Rev Canon ALEXANDER BLACK (1928 – 2024)**

Following a short illness, Alex died peacefully, aged 95, on 7th March 2024. He leaves his wife of 66 years, Anne, their 3 sons, 2 grandsons and a step-grandson. Alex was born in Glasgow in 1928 so was about 11 when war broke out and he was evacuated to the countryside on several occasions, including to 2 Episcopal Rectories (in Inverurie and Kilmarnock). He especially remembered them because each had 2 maids in service! Something he never achieved when he became a Rector!

He attended Glasgow University, and after National Service with the Royal Navy, he returned to continue his studies at Edinburgh Theological College.

Alex started training under the guidance of the Dean of Argyle, George Douglas at the Cathedral of the Isles in Millport - which he would revisit often. His first curacy was a placement in Dumfries where he met Anne – he told us of the time they had a crash when cycling side by side near Sweetheart Abbey. Alex leaned across to sneak a quick kiss and they both fell onto the verge where they lay giggling. They eventually married in Dumfries in 1958 after which they moved to Glasgow where Alex served as a curate at the Cathedral until 1961. Then, St Marks, East Kilbride became his first charge.

In 1969 he moved to St Columba by the Castle, Edinburgh. Richard Holloway, a dear friend also from Glasgow, was in the next parish and was always available for support. Additionally, Alex spent his summer holidays as Chaplain on the National Trust for Scotland Cruises. Accompanied by Anne they would sail on the SS Uganda around Scandinavia.

Alex trained as a Marriage Guidance Counsellor and as a psychoanalyst to support his belief that his call included helping those struggling to cope. He then moved to St John's Princes Street, where he was part of the clergy team for four years.

In 1980 aged 51, whilst holidaying in Corfu, Alex suffered a heart attack. He was in hospital for 2 weeks with Anne nursing him in difficult conditions. He slowly made a good recovery

and in 1982 was appointed Rector of Holy Trinity Haddington and St Anne's Dunbar - quite different to his inner-city parishes!

Alex retired in 1993, and he and Anne settled in North Berwick. But Alex continued to help with ministerial duties in Dundee where they needed support and in Europe. He helped the Rector cover both St Baldred's and St Adrian's when required. Even into his 80's Alex was still being asked to officiate at funerals and marriages and he was always willing to assist if he could.

He later attended St Marks, Portobello with Rev Ruth Innes and Holy Trinity, Haddington with Rev Liz O'Ryan. He knew both Rectors through Cursillo. Alex & Anne had joined this renewal movement in the early 1990s with Mike Coates from Edinburgh a key supporter. By this time Richard Holloway, who was now Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus had welcomed Cursillo into Scotland. Alex became a regular member of Weekend teams. Sometimes on the clergy team but he was equally happy as a regular 'gopher'. He was much loved by all he met with his wonderful deep, rich voice, his caring worship and his childish sense of fun. Alex was later appointed Spiritual Director for Cursillo in Scotland.

Cursillo also introduced many holidays for them at Bishop's House, Iona. The company, the walks, services at the House and the Abbey all invoked a love for this holy island.

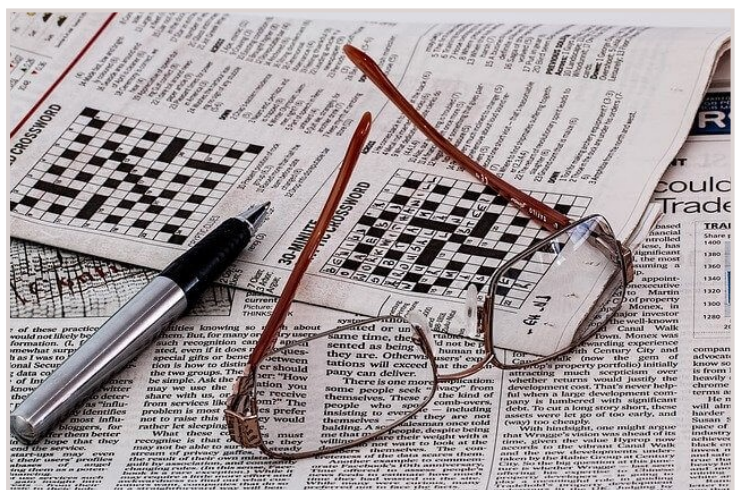
Throughout his life, Alex was a man of the church and its people. His faith was of vital importance to him. He built a wonderful Group Reunion in North Berwick who were regularly inspired by his thoughtful observations and advice. We miss him very much but reflect on the positive influence he had on us as pastor and friend.

Alex was a man of vast intellect and knowledge who, even on his last day was solving The Times Crossword. It was wonderful that at 95 his mind was still sharp as a tack. He lived a long, happy and rewarding life. A lifetime of dedicated service.

The esteem in which he was held perhaps shown with a turnout of 200 at his Service of Thanksgiving along with many messages from those unable to travel.

May our dear friend now rest in peace.

GG



*Our new  
website is  
now open*



We must praise Montse and Heller for all their hard work and their perseverance with updating the website. So many frustrating days spent on the phone and emailing, to access passwords to close the previous site. However, it is planned that on Wednesday 18th September the handover from old to new takes place. So, within a few days (hopefully) you can access our new website.

Position holders have also been given new email addresses for Cursillo use. Not everyone has them up and running but I have listed them all as we hope to have this all in place very soon. If you have a problem contacting anyone, use the enquiry address and Karen will respond and direct you to the right person.

LayDirector-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Karen Ellis)

SD-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Heller Gonzales)

Treasurer-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Jenny Wright)

Secretary-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Andrew Elrick)

Webpage-cursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Montse Aparicio)

FourthBridge-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Margaret McMeekin)

DataBase-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Mike Whitton)

Palanca-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Wendy Wilkie)

BACCrep-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com (Ruth McGrath)

If you experience any problems, please use the enquiries email address.  
Enquiries-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com