

Cursillo Office Bearers

Secretariat

Lay Director: Sally Mair

Spiritual Director: Rev Canon Duncan McCosh

Secretary:

Treasurer & Gift Aid: David Dalglish 01705 32293

Convenors:

Communications:

Fourth Day: Duncan Cowie 01467 623576

BACC Rep: Caroline Waddon

Other Office Bearers

Registrar: Karen Ellis

Resources: vacant

4th Bridge Editor: Duncan McCosh

Palanca Secretary: Wendy Wilkie

Music Closing: David McGavin 01968 675614

Utreya Reps

Aberdeen & Orkney: Duncan Cowie 01467 623576

Argyll & the Isles: vacant

Borders: Ruth McGrath 01573 228346

Brechin: Janet Spence 01241 859580

Edin & Lothians: Mike Coats

Glasgow & Galloway: Fran Walker or Morag O'Neill

I don't know if you remember Eric Moussambani from Equatorial Guinea.

He gained great notoriety at the Sydney Olympics a few years ago and was a bit like Eddie the Eagle the British ski jumper.

Eric swam in the 100 metre free style and because the other two swimmers in the race were disqualified he won his heat but in the slowest ever recorded Olympic time of 1minute 52.72 seconds more than twice the time of the other heats.



He was an instant favourite with the crowd and they gave him a standing ovation as he struggled to complete the course.

It had been the first time Eric had swum in a 50 metre Olympic pool as he had taken up swimming 8 months earlier and had practiced in the local pool which was only 20 metres long.

His story is quite an inspiring one because it tells about triumph over struggles; it highlights keeping going and overcoming difficulties.

On the 1st June at our Provincial Ultreya and agm, although an enjoyable day, the apologies outweighed the attendees by nearly 2 to 1 which was disappointing to say the least and less than 10% of our membership were there.

I know we shouldn't get too bogged down by numbers but

Perhaps we in Cursillo can take a leaf out of Eric's book as we continue to overcome the difficulties which come along and keep moving towards our goal of getting to know Christ Jesus more and more each day and to be open to his guidance for our future.

Duncan

Provincial Ultreya and Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1st June 2019

Threshold Centre, Perth

The Spiritual Director, Duncan McCosh welcomed folks to the gathering in Perth. It could be said that the meeting was quality rather than quantity.

Sally Mair gave the action talk (printed below) which focussed on offering our time and effort to Cursillo as and when it is needed. After a number of interesting comments from Cursillistas, Duncan gave the biblical response noting that scripture is full of instances when it was people's availability rather than their ability that God called upon.

Everyone then enjoyed the bring and share lunch.

Action talk

Good morning everybody, I think that most of you know me, but for those who don't my name is Sally Mair and I made my Cursillo on Weekend number 3, which was in April 1989, so , you could say I've been around a while in Cursillo terms. In fact I've been involved in Cursillo for almost half of my life and I am passionate about it. I'm passionate not about the Cursillo weekends, about palanca and rainbows and cockerels, but about the Cursillo method.

The purpose of Cursillo is to equip already active Christians with the tools to bring Christ into their environments, into their every day lives, not to take somebody away from that life and plonk them down somewhere else, but, to use that old saying, to help them to 'Bloom where they are planted'.

I've been involved in various activities over the years for Cursillo. I had a period away when family events took over, I didn't attend Ultreyas or weekend activities, I turned in and focussed on my family, however through it all I remained part of my reunion group and I don't know how I would have kept going without their ongoing support and encouragement and their prayers.

Thankfully that period came to an end and I was able to reengage fully in my Cursillo and my church life. Like many of us, I've wondered what I can do to try and recapture and pass on to others, some of my enthusiasm for the Cursillo method and way of life of piety – or prayer life, study and action which is so important to me, again as the song says, I want to pass it on! First of all I realised that it was no good grumbling and muttering about things, I realised that the best way to make things happen is to be more involved in them and to encourage others, so, I thought I needed to know what was happening at Cursillo weekends as things have changed, a lot, since 1989! So I volunteered to go on team. I gave a rollo and I engaged with some of the new Cursillistas...and they were just like me, enthusiastic, filled with the joy and wonder that a Cursillo weekend can give. But then I thought well it's not just about weekends, is it, so I started to attend servant community, to find out what I could do in the 4th day to promote and support Cursillo, and I asked to attend a CLW, which I did, 18 months ago at Shepherd's Dene. About that time, Cursillo was looking for somebody to take over the role of BACC rep, the person who, along with the Lay Director and the Spiritual Director for Scotland attends the British Anglican Cursillo Council meetings, twice a year. They also hopefully attend the UK National Ultreya in September .

I've thoroughly enjoyed going to these meetings and getting to know other Cursillistas from across the UK. I love meeting people and talking about Cursillo, I'm quite good at talking, and I'm trying to be better at listening too.

The next thing that happened was that I and the rest of my reunion group volunteered to take on running the Edinburgh Ultreya, we followed a successful pattern where it had been found that a group running things shared the load and allowed more people to be involved and to share the leadership role. I've noticed that our Ultreyas are becoming smaller, partly as people get older, like me, and no longer like to travel, so I thought, what can I do about that... so, I adapted a saying, you may still be able to recognise it:

Miss your friend, phone your friend, bring them to an Ultreya!

GDPR, the data protection legislation has had an effect on Cursillo as it has on many other things and many names are no longer on our contact list so we cannot contact these people officially. In some cases this is because they have asked not to be included, in some cases they haven't got around to filling in the form, and in some cases, they haven't even realised they are no longer included. Cursillo in Scotland cannot contact these people officially...but you can as their friend! Try it.

We've been running smaller weekends recently and although as we all know, the 4th day, the Ultreyas and Reunion groups are what are most important in Cursillo, the weekend, that opportunity to step out of increasingly busy lives and spend time with other Christians and with God in a Christian community is for many people a wonderful gift and something which allows them to make sense of everything. It is a short course in Christian living, and an intensive one. Many of us haven't sat and listened to talks and discussed them and asked questions in a safe environment since we were at school. I wondered how I could help to get more people involved, so out came my Cursillo Resource Manual again, and I reread Sponsorship guidelines, perhaps there was somebody I could sponsor who not only would find Cursillo to be helpful to them, but who could themselves bring something to Cursillo. We are currently in a vacancy, but our interim pastor, on hearing I was involved in Cursillo said to me, 'I've heard nothing but good about Cursillo!' Aha I thought, you're about to hear some more, so I prayed about it, as I didn't have his own priest to speak to about him being a participant, I spoke to the SD, and finally I spoke to him, to my delight he said 'yes' and he is now signed up for weekend 67 in September., Remember the adage, speak to God about your friend (or in this case, about Cursillo) before you speak to your friend.

To me one of the strengths of Cursillo is that need I never feel alone. I have my group reunion, my Ultreyas, where I can meet and talk and share the progress in my task with others, but not just with any others, with others whom I trust and who share my vision and my mission. We are all, as the saying goes, blooming

where we are planted, sometimes, we and what we are doing, is blossoming and flourishing, sometimes we're having a job struggling against the weeds. Sometimes we need to be pruned! My group reunion does this for me! Cursillo encourages small groups to take on tasks and to flourish, it builds on our existing skills and it helps us to develop new ones. The number of people I know who, on being asked to lead an Ultreya, to give a talk, to be a Lay Rector, say, Oh I can't do that, but they can, and they do, with God's help. Cursillo empowers people, it helps us to find the skills that we have and to use them.

Cursillo in Scotland needs us all to say yes just now and to take things on, it needs us to encourage each other, to build each other up (that's what palanca is after all) and to build the Kingdom of Christ here in Scotland.... in my little bit of Blackhall, in Monifeith, in Dumbarton, in Inverness, in Selkirk and in Perth, in St Andrews, in Glasgow city, in Dunfermline...imagine a Scotland full of Christians who have said 'Yes, I can do that', imagine a Scotland where people pray, think about what they are going to do and then do it, with Christ's help. That sounds just like the Cursillo method to me.

Cursillo in Scotland needs us all to say 'Yes! How can I help?', it's time for us all to think about what is needed and to say 'Yes', not just to the big jobs but to the small ones too. Servant community is every single one of us who ever went on a Cursillo weekend working together to support the Cursillo method, Secretariat is a smaller group who for a limited period take on a more specific role. When we are talking at the AGM later, think if there is something that you can take on, with friends perhaps, for a limited period in order to help Cursillo to grow and flourish. I've brought sponsorship forms, is there somebody you have been thinking about encouraging to go on a weekend? Maybe it's time to grasp the nettle and go for it, after asking God first of course!

I've brought team application forms, maybe it's time to consider being part of a team once more and seeing just what it is we are offering to the church. Our Bishops and our Diocese are full of enthusiasm and initiatives for mission; I'd love to see Cursillo

taking a central part in that, after all, our aims are the same, bringing our world closer to Christ.

I've gone on a bit, I'm sorry about that, but the focus of my talk is saying 'Yes, I can do that'. When we were in India I saw a sign on a wall which came were words from Mother Theresa, it said, 'Without a heart aflame for God we cannot shine for Jesus' A little trite perhaps, but it has stayed with me for over 20 years! The group reunion card you were given on your weekend says...Christ is counting on you,you will often hear as the response to that 'And I on Him!' I would also like to remind you of another little sign, I think it dates from the first world war...a pointing finger saying 'Your country needs You' . Today, here in Scotland, Your Cursillo needs you...Now! Say yes! I did and I will, with God's and your help.
Ultreya!

Who I am

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row please." she answered.

"You really don't want to do that", the usher said. "The rector is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired.

"No." he said.

"I'm the rector's mother," she replied indignantly

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No." she said.

Annual General Meeting

17 attended and apologies were received from 30 people.

Minutes of the last AGM were circulated and approved.

Lay Director's Report.

On Saturday the 30th March I travelled to Edinburgh for the Servant Community and Secretariat meetings which would be my last as Lay Director apart from today's gathering. As the train wound its way from Carnoustie to



Edinburgh I watched the unfolding Spring, the countryside coming back to life, lambs bouncing about and the greening of the hills and fields. I gave thanks for the beauty of our country and a time of quiet and peace where there has been so much turmoil and uncertainty in recent months. I was reflecting on my time as Lay Rector and some of the journeys I have shared with you. The much maligned idea of journeying has, for me, been an ideal metaphor for my time as Lay Director and in life over the past few years.. Taking the Servant Community meetings around the country has offered an opportunity to see the diversity in how Cursillistas "Bloom where they are planted", to encourage where sometimes we are flagging and to share examples of our spiritual life-how using the Cursillo leaflet helps us to look holistically at things in our life which interact and lead us to seek intentional ways of leading and sharing our life in Christ.

The journey into updating communication at all levels has been challenging but thanks to a small group of dedicated (I stress the small group -the base of Cursillo) folk we now have a website fit for our purpose, a facebook presence, a regular newsletter and a data base that meets the requirements of GPDR with all the

safeguards in place. Some members of this small group have also played an important part at BACC bringing back to us news of the wider life in Cursillo but also being innovative in suggesting new ways of Offering Cursillo that meet the needs of folks daily lives now. They bring back to us the news of the commonality of the difficulties and the opportunities that these present. They have been very involved in working on team and leadership groups for Cursillo Leaders workshops.

Weekend 66 was a journey into trying out a different way of offering the weekend; necessitated by the time offered to us at the newly refurbished Kinnoull and also an opportunity to focus on the essential elements of a Cursillo weekend.. it was my privilege to be on team, to be part of Cursillo in Scotland- we are often seen as being innovative and our ways of doing things worth taking note of. I thank all in Cursillo, certainly today the Secretariat who have all been rocks to me, weekend team members; all have contributed to seemingly new ways of offering Cursillo but in actuality returning to the essentials. We need to pray, study and take intentional action - what we are called and signed up to do.

Along with the weekend of celebration last year these have been for me the highlights of the last year. The celebration was particularly moving for me - to meet folk who have been involved since the beginning sharing their stories -hopefully showing them that we are trying to sustain their vision and service and growing into the future whilst retaining our roots.

My greatest journey has been in myself, as I said at the last AGM. Working through challenges physical, mental and sometimes spiritual and finding balance in my life has at times been hard and I have not met my expectations of myself often feeling I have let people down. However I have been sustained and upheld by the love of Cursillo folk and the confidence Cursillo has given me to work through. I am getting better at letting go and letting God, to be thankful for all that life sends and to use every opportunity to grow. In recent times I have been trying to improve my photography, using it to be being creative to a purpose. On holiday in Vermont I visited again the local

Benedictine Priory- often a source of inspiration not only for its beautiful setting but its sense of spirituality and beautiful music. One of the Benedictine core maxims is “Looking with the eyes of the heart “ They had on the walls of the community hall a



beautiful quilt made up of many hearts which had pictures of all aspects of life at their centre. This appealed to me as a quilter, capturing the essence of important things in life in a simple but very meaningful way. I try to look with the eyes of the heart, hopefully demonstrating this in my prayer, study and action. It’s a good way to look at things and in a sense plays to “blooming where you are planted” . So thank you for journeying with me -
Ultreya!
Fiona

Fiona was given a hearty round of applause and was thanked for her time as Lay Director. (subsequent to the meeting a gift of flowers was sent to say Thank You)



Sally Mair has agreed to take on the role of Lay Director for a two year term. The meeting was unanimous in its agreement of this appointment.

Reports from Ultreyas

Brechin: Met regularly over the summer and autumn but less so over the winter, with some interesting talks given from within their small number. They were saddened by the death recently June Maynard who will be much missed. They are looking forward to continue meeting and doing God's work.

Borders: Meet monthly throughout the year varying from evenings to daytime meeting as the year progresses. Meeting go round the churches with local clergy invited to act as SAs. Continue to invite non Cursillistas to Ultreyas.

Edinburgh and Lothians: Ultreyas are organised by a SGR rather than an individual, meeting monthly going round the Ultreya area. Some good feedback regarding their emailed summary of the Ultreya talks. Pleased to welcome a new, ordained Cursillista to the area.

Glasgow and Galloway: Mention was made of the lovely funeral service for Canon Bertie Collie. Although the area has no Ultreya Rep meetings are held monthly at Dumbarton with a different Cursillista leading each month. Two of the Cursillista priests from their area have moved away and it is hoped they will support/try to get Cursillo going in their new environment.



Treasurers Report: David Dalglish reported that the accounts showed 'a point in time' so that a straight year on year comparison was not advised. We continue to do well financially but we would struggle if we were to go to two Weekends per year. It was noted that we had a deficit but that this was due to exceptional circumstances. The balance at 31st March '19 was £13,158.03 down from £15,226.28 at the same time in 2018. (full report available on request to secretary or treasurer)

Communications: *The website is up and running but needs to be kept up to date, so information of what's going on in your Ultreya needs to be communicated.*

GDPR, the gathering of information has gone as well as can be expected with nearly 200 people returning completed consent forms. Emailed information is being sent by 'mail chimps', so if you have signed up but not getting emails - check your spam folder.



Registrar: For this year Karen Ellis is acting as registrar so any Weekend application forms to be returned to her.

Morag is stepping down after many years and all agreed she had done a wonderful job in bringing on the 'communications' portfolio. (subsequent to the meeting Morag received a gift voucher as a thanks for all she had done).

BACC: Sally Mair

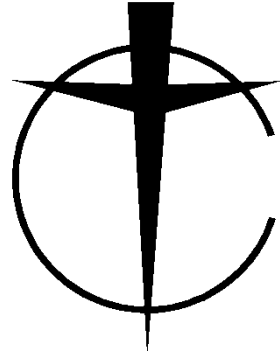
I've attended BACC meetings this year with two different hats on, which can be uncomfortable and hot in Summer! I have been there as Scotland's BACC rep and also as the Standing Committee representative for Northern UK...which is Scotland and Durham.

There has been a lot of work done on updating the Cursillo Resource Manual, or library, all of the books were rewritten last year to reflect Cursillo in the UK rather than America and these are now available on the BACC Website,

www.anglicancursillo.co.uk

You'll find links to lots of information about Cursillo there, links to all dioceses with Cursillo active as well as links to the magazine. You'll also find information about the BACC pilgrimage, this year hosted by Canterbury Diocese and entitled 'The Path to Pilgrimage -Becket and Beyond', which will be held in August this year. Contact via the website if you are interested.

The next major UK wide BACC event, which I'd like to encourage as many as possible to attend and join me as part of the group carrying the Scottish banner, is the UK Ultreya which this year is being held in Chester on Saturday 31st August. The format is similar to our meeting today, it starts at 10 with coffee before an Ultreya and finishes, after a Eucharist in the cathedral, before 4pm. You can find a link on the BACC website to sign up which helps them to plan. Please let me, or Duncan, know if you would like to know more, but feel free to turn up, we'd love to see you.



This year I, along with Duncan and Rosemary helped to lead a Cursillo Leader's Workshop (CLW) in Crewe. I really would encourage you to attend one if you can. They are full of information about Cursillo and it's great to meet people from across the UK. Lots of worship and music too. The next one takes place 5-7th July in Staffordshire and the one after that from 15-17th November in Chelmsford. Cursillo in Scotland can help with the cost of the course and of transport. I do have the dates for the next few as well if you are interested.

Trevor King steps down as BACC president in May 2020 and will be succeeded by Beth Roberts from Chester Diocese. Trevor came to our 30th Birthday celebrations last year. Revd Cynthia Hebden's term of office as Spiritual Director came to an end this month and she is succeeded, for the next 3 years, by Revd Stephen Bowring from Grimsby. Stephen will be one of the SAs on our next Cursillo weekend here in Scotland.

ULTREYA

Spiritual Director: Duncan reported that he had been part of the team presenting CLWs over the last year which had been a very fulfilling experience. He had supported the LD as and when required and was pleased that we had been able to put on the first 'condensed' Weekend in the UK and was pleasantly surprised by how well it had gone. It had been a challenge arranging SAs for Cursillo 67 but was very happy with the two who are taking on the role.

Appointments:

Lay Director - Sally Mair;
Palanca contact - Wendy Wilkie;
Registrar - Karen Ellis;
BACC Rep – Caroline Waddon;

Vacancies

Secretary - vacant

Spiritual Director - Duncan McCosh's 3 year term is up so a replacement is required asap.

Communications – vacant

A word from our new Lay Director - Sally Mair

Dear Cursillistas,

What a surprise and a delight it is to be writing a Lay Director's piece for the Fourth Bridge once again. My first task is to thank Fiona for her time as Lay Director, I know she had some personal complications during her time in the role, but her enthusiasm has never been in doubt. I'm sure the Cursillistas of Brechin Diocese are happy to have her back with them, focussed on their local Ultreya.

We also have to thank Morag O'Neill of Dumbarton for her tireless work as Communication convener, the work of negotiating the hurdles of GDPR and our database as well as setting up our own website www.cursilloinScotland.org has been enormous, so thank you Morag for all you did.

Over my first year in post, I hope to visit all of the Ultreyas at least once, so expect to hear from me and please do keep me in touch with when your Ultreyas are taking place. Our first Scottish event though is our own Cursillo Weekend #67 which takes place in September, at time of writing we are still looking for some team members. If you think this is the time for you to join the team at Kinnoull, then please get in touch ASAP.

There are already a couple of pieces in this magazine from me, so I don't want to take up too much space, I just want to remind you of that little saying on our Reunion cards:

Christ is counting on you, I can certainly reply with a whole heart at the moment as I take on this wonderful role...***And I on Him.....and I*** am also counting ***you***, my fellow Cursillistas, to help me!

Ultreya *Sally*

Ultreya Dates

Edinburgh and Lothians: 18th June at St L's, Lasswade. 7:30pm
17th July Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains. 7:30pm
10th August St Baldred's, North Berwick. 7:30pm

Moray: Ultreya continues to hold Drop-In Reunions about once a month, usually at the Palace Hotel, Inverness at 11.00. Dates for these are usually arranged at the previous meeting. Anyone wanting to get in touch could do so by emailing Gill McWhirter on gill.mcwh@uwclub.net or phoning her on 07729647713

Aberdeen: Hope to have a bbq Ultreya in the Cowie's garden or maybe in the garage, all welcome. Please contact Duncan C for further details.

Glasgow and Galloway: St Augustine's 1st Monday of the Month at 7:30pm

Borders: 2nd August St Peter's - Galashiels 7pm
6th September St John's Jedburgh 7pm
4th October Eleanor Moffat's home Coldstream 7pm
2nd November St Andrew's Kelso 10am.

CHARITY

Charity or love - what's in a name?
The King James Bible translates them the same.
Corinthians 13 tells the great theme
Of love everlasting, everyone's dream.

Loved by all brides on their wedding day
The verses they all want the preacher to pray.
The wonders of love that overrules all,
That holds on believing whatever befalls.

Love always trusting always prevails
Enduring, protecting, love never fails.
Faith hope and charity, virtues all three
But love is the greatest and ever will be.

By Megan Carter

Seen on a bookmark

'Love is like the 5 loaves & 2 fishes.

It doesn't start to multiply until you give it away.'

A religious tale!

Two nuns,

Sister Mary Agnes and Sister Mary Vincent, were travelling through Europe in their car, sight-seeing in Transylvania. As they are stopped at a traffic light, out of nowhere, a small vampire jumped onto the hood of the car and hissed at them through the windshield. "Quick, quick!" cried Sister Mary Agnes, "What should we do?"



"Turn the windshield wipers on. That will get rid of the abomination," said Sister Mary Vincent. So Sister Mary Agnes switched on the wipers, which knocked the mini-Dracula around. But, he hung on and continued hissing at the nuns.

"What shall I do now?" Sister Mary Agnes screamed.

"Try the windscreen washer. I filled it with holy water before we left the Vatican," replied Sister Mary Vincent. So Sister Mary Agnes turned on the windshield washer. The vampire screamed as the water burnt his skin, but he hung on and continued hissing at the nuns.

"Now what?" gasped Sister Mary Agnes.

Sister Mary Vincent thought quickly. "Show him your cross."

"Now you're talking," says Sister Mary Agnes. She then opened the window and shouted, "Hey you, get the hell off our car!"

