

The Fourth Bridge



September 2021
Celebrating
Cursillo #68 at
Carronvale House

EPISCOPAL CURSILLO® IN SCOTLAND Reg. US Pat. Office Affiliated to B.A.C.C.



**From Sally
Lay Director**

Dear friends,

Here we are in August and what a different August it is - yet again! This year, here in Edinburgh, we have what I see rather as the shadow of the International Festival. Events are taking place but fewer of them, with smaller audiences than is usual for Festival and Fringe events and many of them are happening under canvas or out of doors. Things are happening though, there is more on than last year, and the streets are busier than they have been for a very long time.

Our Cursillo #68, long postponed, is happening too. I am so very grateful to those who have volunteered for team, who have faith that we will be able to proceed and have worked so hard to ensure things happen safely. We have had to be guided by different parameters to normal. We have spoken with our venue, Carronvale, about their risk assessments and resulting adjustments to their normal routines. We are following the Scottish Episcopal Church's guidelines and we have also looked at what we do and how we do it and made adjustments to the timetable etc as we have felt necessary. At the same time we are doing all that we can to ensure that the joyful and loving spirit of the Cursillo is not lost in the fine detail.

We don't yet know how we will manage Wake-Up and the Closing service, it may be that we will have to restrict attendance at these. I shall try to get information out as soon as possible to let you all know the plans. Please keep an eye on your emails for more details.

What I do ask of each and every one of us, is continuing prayer. Please pray for the participants and team by name if possible. Names of participants will be circulated as soon as they are confirmed. If you are able to send some written palanca especially to participants, and also to team members, telling of your prayer, then that would be very welcome. The gofors will be happy to receive it and to distribute it on Saturday afternoon which is the main palanca time.

There is information elsewhere in this Fourth Bridge about where to send palanca. The easiest way as always, if you are able, is to send it via a team member.

We hope that Bishop John, of Edinburgh will be our celebrant at the closing service. Please pray that he and the other Bishops are able to appreciate the potential role of Cursillo in the Scottish Episcopal Church and will use us as part of our church's mission.

I intend to be at the Closing service, but as many of you may know, I have a grandchild due to be born in mid-September and over the timing of that event, I have no control! Duncan McCosh and David DalGLISH will be there though and David will be commissioned by Bishop John as the new Spiritual Director for Cursillo in Scotland.

Provincial Ultreya and AGM

We have planned (don't laugh at the idea of planning) to hold our AGM and if possible a Provincial ULTREYA in person in the Threshold Centre in Perth on Saturday 2nd October. More information nearer the time, but that is not far away so please make a note in your diary.

Please consider if you or somebody you know could take on a role in the organisation of Cursillo by joining the Secretariat. In particular we are looking for a Secretary and a Treasurer and would like to appoint them at the AGM. Duncan and David are happy to work with those who take on the roles to ensure a smooth transition and to make sure their replacements are confident in their roles. We are happy to have volunteers or nominations, if you know somebody who has the skills but who may be shy about suggesting themselves for the role then please do chat with them and put their name forward if they are in agreement. Neither role is complicated

Finally, friends, I wish you well as we move into Autumn. I pray that you and yours will be able to stay safe and healthy and I look forward to the day when we can all meet face to face and hear the walls ringing once again with song. In the meantime, [Here](#) we are Lord, we have heard you calling and we are ready and willing to do your will.

Christ is Counting on us, and we on Him!

ULTREYA

Sally.





**Revd Duncan McCosh
(Spiritual Director) writes ...**

It is good that we are going ahead with Cursillo # 68 at Carronvale House, the headquarters for the Boys' Brigade.



I first came across the venue when I was rector at St Peter's, Galashiels. St Peter's had the only Boys' Brigade Company in the SEC. The Boys' Brigade has been in existence well over 200 years and in Scotland is exclusively within the Church of Scotland so to be the only Piski chaplain was quite an honour and I very much enjoyed going along on a Friday night to join in with the Anchors, Juniors and Company Section in their activities.

We would have two Parade Services each year where the boys along with parents and grandparents attended church and at the end of the service the boys would form up and parade past the church gates. After this as the adults returned from the gates to the church hall for refreshments the boys could be seen running round by the next building, and scrambling up and over a wall to get to the hall and refreshments first.

I used to think it be would great to bottle their enthusiasm and sprinkle it as and when required.

I see some parallels between the Boys' Brigade and Cursillo; firstly it has been a great honour and privilege to serve Cursillo as its Spiritual Director these last few years and it has been lovely to witness the energy and enthusiasm that Cursillo can bring to peoples' Christian journey.

I am delighted that Revd David Dalglish is taking on the mantle of Spiritual Director and I am sure you will hold him in your prayers and I will continue to enjoy the fellowship of the Christian Community that is found in Cursillo.

Duncan



Revd David Dalglish (SD elect) writes...

I knew all about Duncan's and St Peter's connection with the Boys Brigade and their unique claim to fame as being the only "Piskie," congregation to host a BB Company and so it is probably appropriate that I am succeeding Duncan as Spiritual Director as the BB's formed my Christian journey, starting in Life Boys, graduating to the Senior Company, and finally becoming an officer in charge of the Junior Section. Indeed, one Sunday whilst covering for Duncan at St Peter's, I had the opportunity to preside over their Commissioning Service.

For those of you who don't know me, I am the retired Rector of St John's in Jedburgh and Priest in Charge of St Cuthbert's Hawick, and I have been Treasurer of Cursillo for the past three years.

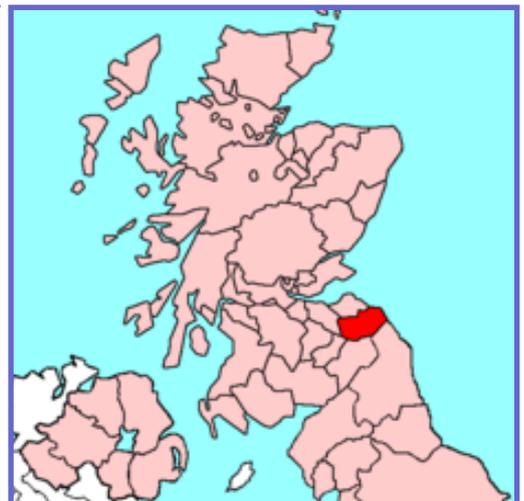
My professional background, before being ordained was in Pharmacy, which I pursued both in Community Pharmacy and in Health Service management. I have also worked in Animal Health and founded and ran companies engaged in Animal Health, Medical Equipment Supplies and laterally Community Pharmacies. I am still involved in supporting start up companies, and so you can say that I couple God with Mammon, but I hope that my decisions at all levels are determined by my Christian faith.

I currently live in Berwickshire with my wife Barbara and worship at St Mary's and All Souls in Coldstream which has several active members of Cursillo in the congregation.

I look forward to being a servant to our servant community here in Scotland and when we can meet physically, to get to know as many of you as possible.

With God's help we will take Cursillo forward, and so strengthen the church, and our place in it.

David



Palanca

Notes from the Team

If convenient, please hand Palanca to a team member before they leave for the weekend. I am suggesting **Wednesday 8th September**.



If this is not an option, please post Palanca to **Karen Ellis**
c/o Cursillo weekend #68,

Carronvale House, Carronvale Road, Larbert, Stirlingshire FK5 3LH

(To arrive by **Thursday 9th September**)

Please note: On a Friday –Sunday Cursillo weekend, there is really only time for one Palanca delivery.



Wake up

As previously, and with particular awareness of the Pandemic, wake up is restricted to sponsors.

Carronvale is happy that sponsors join the group for breakfast but to assist with catering, please let Ruth McGrath know if you intend to take advantage of this offer.

Closing

Closing Service 3.30pm on Sunday 12th September

Carronvale is smaller than Kinnoull, and although we hope that there will be room for all of those who come for the closing service, please be prepared that there may be no spaces left.

Even if we can't all be at the service though, we can join the tea afterwards which is being provided by Carronvale. This is a 'different' Cursillo, and I am still giving heartfelt thanks that we are able to go ahead.

Ultreya.....and keep praying

Sally

Cursillo #68 10-12 September 2021 – Team

Lay Rector	Ruth McGrath	Group Reunion
Observing LR	Cat Outram	Ultreya
Spiritual Advisor	Paul Watson	Spiritual Advisor Nick Bowry
Head Gofor	Karen Ellis	Leaders
Music Gofor	David McGavin	Ideal
Sacristan	Helen Robinson	Christian Community in Action
Rollo Room Gofor	Sally-Anne McWilliam	Study & Evangelisation of the Environment
Palanca Gofor	Margaret McMeekin	Action
Palanca Gofor /TL	Gill Pilling	Piety (palanca gofor as required)
Table Leader	Skeena Bowen-Colthurst	Laity
Table Leader	Marion Anderson	Study
Town Gofor/stand-in-table etc	Jenny Wright	
Supernumerary/Observer	Al Lee	Cumbria Cursillo

Cursillo #68 10-12 September 2021 – Participants

Chris Jones (m) - sponsor David Dalglish Berwickshire Episcopal Group, Edinburgh diocese

Pauline Jones (f) - sponsor Alison Tams Berwickshire Episcopal Group, Edinburgh diocese

David Noyce (m) - sponsor Skeena Bowen-Colthurst / co-sponsor Alison Tams
St Mary's, Holy Island, Newcastle diocese

Heller Gonzalez (m) - sponsor Fran Walker St Augustine, Dumbarton, Glasgow diocese

Montse Aparicio (f) - sponsor Ghislaine Kennedy St Augustine, Dumbarton, Glasgow diocese

Beena Chamakkattu Poulose (f), - sponsor Ruth Simpson
St Leonard's, Bonnyrigg, Edinburgh diocese

Mathew Kurian (m) - sponsor Ruth Simpson St Leonard's, Bonnyrigg, Edinburgh diocese



From Margaret Editor of Fourth Bridge

Hello everyone, Thank you to everyone who responded to the plea for items. I hope you enjoy reading the news from Glasgow, Aberdeen, Brechin, and the Borders. The topics written in the articles, highlight the question, 'to Zoom or not to Zoom?' in the future. As we approach winter, may we consider the positives of using technology for communicating. Move forward from isolation to become a more inclusive society, perhaps by equipping and teaching others how to use Zoom. Should we become more aware of carbon emissions, when we consider venues for meetings over the winter months? Technology is proving to become a useful tool for the church to grow. Is it possible that Christ's people lead the *culture and spiritual transformation*, that Duncan describes in his article on page 11? Read on and consider the growth.



PROVINCIAL ULTREYA AND AGM

Threshold Centre Perth Saturday 2nd October

Please pop this date in your diary

- **Arrive 10.00 for 10.30am start**
- **Bring your own packed lunch and two wrapped snacks to share. (e.g. fruit pots, carrot sticks, crackers, or cake)**
- **Closing Eucharist 3pm** **Hope to see you there.**

Hi from Aberdeen/ Aberdeenshire.

Well finally, it is looking that we will be able to meet face to face again this winter, what a blessing that will be and just how much we will all appreciate the human contact. On the positive side of Zoom we have enjoyed joining in with other areas at times, which has let us see faces that we had only heard the names of before zoom meetings, and it does help to join the different areas.

Our Rector John was talking about Cursillo and was saying one of the talks often speaks about '*meet a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Jesus*'. Now that restrictions are nearly over what better time to put this into action.

Prayers please for Lorna Sim who is in hospital at this time.

Brenda



Brechin

Brechin Cursillistas have not met since before the first lockdown. Some of us have been in regular touch through our local church Zoom services, coffee mornings and now thankfully back in church where we have been live-streaming with Facebook.

Not everyone has access to the internet and so it is hoped that we may meet in person soon. We may have to change our venue but that gives possibilities in itself, to find a place that meets our needs.

It was a privilege to be asked to play a part in the recent memorial service for Carole Spink. It was very humbling to reflect on the power Cursillo has to transform lives and to empower folk to become what our Lord would have us be. The service was beautiful, prepared for the most part by Carole and a fitting, honest tribute to her.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Fiona Buchan



Slowly awaking

Cursillo in Glasgow and Galloway seems to have been in hibernation for the past while. But is it slowly awaking from sleep, feeling a bit like Rip van Winkle.

For the technically able, it has been a joy to be able to join other dioceses' Ultreyas via zoom and we thank for them for their hospitality. The few stalwart Cursillistas in Glasgow churches have remained in contact with each other throughout the lockdown period. Here at St Augustine's, Dumbarton, Zoom didn't really work for us, too many were technically excluded, so we have been delighted to be able to meet in person for the past few months – suitably masked and distanced. An invitation was extended to anyone who wished to join an in-person meeting, and it was a joy to have folk from St Mary's Cathedral and St James the Less.

During the lockdown period, Glasgow and Galloway has been able to welcome its new Bishop, Kevin, a Cursillista, and at Cursillo #68 two priests from the diocese will be present. The Rev Paul Watson (St James the Less, Bishopbriggs) is a spiritual advisor, whilst The Rev Heller Gonzalez (the newly appointed Rector of St Augustine's, Dumbarton) and his wife Monste are participants. We plan to welcome them, and any other G and G participants and Cursillistas on Friday 17th September, 7pm at St Augustine's.

Fran Walker, Glasgow and Galloway Diocese (St Augustine's, Dumbarton)

REFLECTIONS FROM ST MARY & ALL SOULS

PRAYING IN PYJAMAS



A word that has come into common use during the months of lockdown is “Zoom” (with a capital Z). To give Zoom its technical definition, **Zoom** is “a cloud-based video communications app that allows you to set up virtual video and audio conferencing, webinars, live chats...” On television we have become used to seeing people speaking from their own homes; the bigger the group, the smaller each picture becomes.

Starting with very little technical knowledge, using Zoom many thousands of us have been able to visit families – see the new baby, the new dog; meet friends in a virtual pub – bring your own drink; share a gossiping lunch – cook something tasty; take part in a quiz – bring paper, pen and a brain.

When lockdown meant there could be no services in churches, clergy and congregations found other ways of worshipping, with many services being made available on YouTube. The Berwickshire Episcopal Churches Group (St Ebba’s in Eyemouth, Christchurch in Duns and St Mary & All Souls here in Coldstream) saw their Rector, Rev. Chris Jones, become somewhat of a Zoom guru.

We started with a live Communion service on Zoom every Sunday morning with Chris presiding in his study. One Sunday we were joined by the Bishop of Edinburgh (and had a good view of his kitchen!) People from all three congregations have been regular attenders and it has been a good opportunity for us to get to know each other - without having to travel. Of course there were some teething troubles. After one attempt we realized that because of the time lag, congregational singing was not an option! The Zoom host now has the responsibility of muting everyone so that we can all “sing to our heart’s content” without creating a discordant cacophony. If it is your turn to read you have to remember to unmute yourself in good time. The order of service is now on Power Point so we can all follow easily.

As well as Sunday services we have been able to Zoom into Morning and Evening prayers every weekday. The 10am short service has developed into a time of chat, fellowship, worship and bible study with over a dozen folk involved. This has been especially appreciated by those isolating on their own. But even though we are now out and about more, Morning Gathering is still well attended. At the 6pm Evening Prayer we have been travelling the world looking at how different countries are coping with Covid and other situations.

Part way through lockdown, before churches were opened to congregations, Chris set up cameras, projectors and screens in all three churches. He braved the cold of unheated buildings (apart from an unseen heater beside him) and, for a number of weeks, led the Sunday services from each of the three churches in turn, with the congregation joining on Zoom.



Now the churches are open, so we have people in the building and people on Zoom sharing the service.

In church we still wear masks and still can't sing, but it is good to see and speak to people directly, (and realise that they still have legs!) Returning to church it was as if I had never been away; there is an air of excitement in that we can now start to look forward.

Back on Zoom I am **at** church, even if not **in** church. I can sing (provided I am muted). I don't have to travel in bad weather. There is another bonus when worshipping on Zoom: if I oversleep, as has happened at least once, I can just put on a sloppy jumper, run a comb through my hair and pray in pyjamas.

Alison Tams

All sites of pilgrimage have this in common: they are believed to be places where miracles once happened, still happen, and may happen again.'

[Pilgrimage for COP26 – A+E \(artandecology.earth\)](http://artandecology.earth).

This walk is from Dunbar to Glasgow October 17-31st

It takes in North Berwick, Aberlady, Portobello, Queensferry, Bo'ness, Falkirk, Grangemouth, and Kirkintilloch, The pilgrim-

age involves not only walking, but lots of side-events so should be fun! Some of our churches are creating banners and joining in on parts of the walk nearest to them. Click on the link for further details.



GOD AND THE NATURAL WORLD

I would like to share one of my experiences at Fochabers Refuel rally run by the Filling Station, this was the first time I have attended and would recommend it to anyone looking for a week of fellowship good talks and praise the grounds for camping are amazing.

The talk was on GOD AND THE NATURAL WORLD By Andy Bannister from Solas Dundee. Andy reflected on how God loves the world and as God's people we should be good Stewards.

The part that hit home to me was a quote from Gus Speth a leading climate scientist who knows more about the environment than most, *"I used to think that the top environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that thirty years of good science could address these problems. I was wrong.*

The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed, and apathy, and to deal with these we need a culture and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that"

The talk was finished by focusing on a hymn by the Rev Maltbie Davenport Badcock. The film composer Howard Shore even borrowed part of the tune in the movie track for Lord Of the Rings. (if any one would like the notes from the talk I can pass them on).

Even written 100 years ago the words so pertain to us today, please use the hymn as a prayer for our world today.

God bless you all Duncan Cowie

This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas--
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King: let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let earth be glad!

