

Fourth Bridge April 2022



**Here's to new
Beginnings...**

**There is nothing better
to share than God's
Love**

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



**From Sally
Lay Director**

Dear Friends,

First of all I hope that you have all had a Happy and blessed Easter. Easter 2022 has been a little more like the Easters of the past thank goodness. Here we are now though, well into Spring and the season of new life.

Throughout the pandemic Cursillistas have continued to meet and take part in Ultreyas and reunion groups, largely using Zoom or similar platforms, now though, there is at last, light at the end of the tunnel.

We in Edinburgh and also those in the Borders are beginning to plan some face to face Ultreyas, I am also aware that those in the Dumbarton area have been meeting.

Those who know about such things think that a blended form of Ultreya may be possible, where those who feel safe can meet together and those less sure can continue to join in via Zoom. That is not my area of expertise, so I pass that to others to work out.

Do keep in touch with your local Ultreya rep to find out what is going on in your own Diocese or area.

Over the past six months, several people have attended Cursillo Leaders Workshops run for Cursillistas across the UK by BACC. I would encourage anyone who would like to know more about how Cursillo works, and to meet and share ideas with those from England and Wales, to consider attending. CLWs are open to lay and ordained people so let me or another member of the Secretariat know if you are interested.



Since the last Fourth Bridge, we have heard of the deaths of two Cursillistas, Revd Canon Ruth Innes (Edinburgh) on 15th March and Lorna Sim (Aberdeen) on 20th January.

We also send our condolences to Ghislaine Kennedy (Glasgow) whose daughter Brenda died on 29th March.



Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them.

A date for your diary:
Cursillo AGM and Provincial
Ultreya,
The Threshold Centre, Perth
Saturday 29th October.

The future: On that date I shall stand down as Lay Director. We are now encouraging nominations for my replacement. If there is somebody who you think believes in the Cursillo Method and wants to help it to grow and develop in Scotland then please do speak to them and ask if they would be willing to be nominated.

We are at a very exciting time just now. Mission and renewal are at the heart of the work of the Scottish Episcopal Church and at the heart of the Cursillo Method. This is the perfect time for new leaders to emerge and build on the foundation which is in place. I have been very encouraged by the enthusiasm in the Ultreyas and now that at last we can meet together, it is the perfect time for groups to work together to encourage each other through prayer, study and action and to build the future together.

Cursillo is about helping one another to make sure that Jesus is at the centre of our lives and of our communities, how exciting! What a wonderful opportunity to work with others who want to do the same thing!

Thank you all for your support over the last four years, being in a post where everybody is encouraging is such a joy, I can highly recommend it and the opportunities are there ahead of us now.

Please send any nominations to David Dalglish as Spiritual Director by the 22nd May in order for them to be discussed at the Secretariat meeting on 30th May. ULTREYA Sally

Secretariat and Vacancies (apply to Sally or any member of secretariat)

The Secretariat meets between 4 and 6 times per year, it is the organising group for Cursillo and consists of the Lay and Spiritual Directors, BACC rep, Treasurer, Secretary and Fourth Day Convenor, it has also made sense to include the Magazine Editor and the oncoming Lay Rector in this group over the last while.

I am delighted to let you know that Jenny Wright (Glasgow and Galloway) has now taken over as Treasurer from Revd David Dalglish who is our Spiritual Director. Our thanks to David for fulfilling the role in such an effective way over the last several years.

When I stand down from my role as Lay Director, I shall also cease to be our BACC rep. Ideally this role is filled by somebody other than the Lay Director so if you think you would enjoy attending the four BACC council meetings each year then this might be the role for you. It is not an arduous role, expenses are paid and you would attend with the Lay Director and Spiritual Director, being the voice of Scottish Cursillistas.

Duncan McCosh is still wearing two hats, one as our Secretary and one as our Resources person. He would particularly like to hand over the role of Secretary. If you are organised, want to know more about the workings of Cursillo and could take notes at the Secretariat and Servant Community meetings, than this may be the job for you. Please do contact Duncan, who will be delighted to share the information of what is involved with you. (Sally)



**From Revd David Dalglish
Provincial Spiritual Director**

FAREWELL AND HELLO

My time as Treasurer has now come to an end and so we welcome Jenny Wright who without any arm twisting on my part volunteered for the role, and so I can leave the post knowing that it is in safe and competent hands. I can now focus all my efforts for Cursillo in my role as Spiritual Director with an easy mind.

It would be remiss of me to leave the Treasurer's post without paying tribute to those who support the work of Cursillo on a regular financial basis and without whom we could not ensure that joining Cursillo is open to all irrespective of their financial circumstances. You made my job so much easier with your faithful commitment and reaffirmed what it means to be a true disciple of Christ.

If you do not already support the work of Cursillo in this way and would like to do so on a regular basis then why not set up a Standing Order, (adding Gift Aid if applicable) either using the attached forms or if you use Digital Banking this can be done online. Our bank account details are as follows:

**Cursillo in Scotland: Sort Code: 80-11-00:
Account Number 00233131**

As we emerge from the pandemic, there are signs that new shoots are growing within church as we have adapted to new ways of doing church and we can help that growth by fulfilling our purpose to "Support the church in its mission of growing disciples."

God bless you all. David

Website:

We are aware that our website is in need of a makeover. A small group are currently looking at options led by Caroline Delaney, Morag O'Neill and Margaret McMeekin. If you have ideas and or knowledge or skills in this area then do get in touch with a member of the group. They would be delighted to hear from you.

2022 ... The Year of Pilgrimage

Haddington - Saturday 26 February

As experienced by Cat Outram

I consider myself lucky to be joining the Camino being led by Nick Bowry this coming May. But I confess to being a bit ambivalent as to what exactly a Pilgrimage should/could be in this day and age! I mean, visiting the shrine of

Saint James with all that implies about sacred bones and saint's intercessions doesn't quite cut it for me – so what is it we are doing? Initially, for me I guess, it's a bit to do with a pilgrimage that has a strong Cursillo connection, a lot to do with one that is ancient and well-bedded in the landscape and culture of that part of the world and a little bit to do with reasonable weather (I hope!). But how to 'do it' as a pilgrimage rather than just a 100km six-day walk? So, I went to the recent Day of Pilgrimage at Haddington with guest speakers Donald Smith from The Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh and Peter Doll, an Anglican priest from the Diocese of East Anglia. I will concentrate on Donald's contribution here as he took us on an actual pilgrimage along the river which illustrated very well one answer to the above question – and I think that'll do for now!

Donald talked of the intentionality of a pilgrimage walk, an experience that is about the journey not the destination and he set out a series of markers by which to do one:

- 1) to make a series of 'staging posts', places to stop and take time.
- 2) to use these to: observe, to be reflective, to pay attention.
- 3) to consider the possible 'internal' as well as outer landscapes.
- 4) to consider intentions: you could choose to be commemorative, thankful or remorseful; to look for ways to link your own feelings and experiences, or perhaps stand in solidarity with some big social issue or event.

Our Pilgrimage Our staging posts were: 1) The bowling green by the building where Peter Potters Gallery used to be with its fine café. A place where Donald said he used to bring his kids on days out. He asked us to spend a bit of time considering our own childhoods, early memories, beginnings.

2) The Pleasance, a strip of grass with a long border of lavender running parallel with the river. Here we were asked to consider the long view back over our lives; to think back to what we have done, mistakes as well as achievements. To consider what we might have done differently, conversations we wished we'd had.

3) Then moving over to the lawn next to the river we considered the 12th-century bridge across it. (see front cover) Were there areas in our lives where we confront difference or alternative customs – places of possible conflict? Do we have a faith with strong enough foundations to build bridges? Do we live our lives in ways that enable bridges to be built?

4) At the rear of St Mary's Presbyterian church where its ancient red stone can be seen to be weathered and worn, Donald talked of the frailty of our bodies, of our society, of our lives. He told us of a time when Mary of Guise was almost killed by cannon-fire from the tower of this church, during a period when Scotland was war-torn in ways very similar to what is happening in Ukraine right now – or Syria, or Yemen.

5) At the gateway from the cemetery surrounding the church we were asked to consider the people who matter to us, that we cherish, who have cherished us.

6) We then moved along the river pathway round the back of the church where we were told to look for early signs of spring – new hope, new life.



7) On the green space beyond the narrow path Donald asked us to look up, to take notice of the wide-open sky, to consider the light, the bigness and to relish it, take it in.

8) and finally, he asked us to look at the ground beneath our feet, at the river bank, the earth, the plants, the rushing river, the wildlife. To feel our rootedness to this earth and our connection to the flow of life. To see the building of St Mary's rising behind the trees and to remember Mary, mother of God – to consider that connection with her and her son and our place in God's world, rooted on his earth, placed in this time, surrounded by life and its potential and most especially by his/her love.

I and others found this all rather wonderfully inspiring. Of course, there's nothing new here. I realise this is how pilgrimage was done on Iona on those long-past Tuesdays. Doing it on the Camino with little idea of what to expect along the way will be a bit of a challenge but I intend to try a little of this – to take the time to stop every now and again and reflect on what I find. I hope and trust it will be fruitful.

Is it I, Lord?

Now is the time... to prayerfully consider whether you are being called to join the team for this Cursillo.

What better time than now, to take the opportunity not just to serve but to be refreshed yourself, by being a part of the

group introducing others to the wonderful, transforming Cursillo method. All are welcome, those with lots of experience and those who have only recently made their own Cursillo. If you haven't been on team for a while... if you have never had the opportunity to serve on team... if it's never been the right time for you before... if you can, please do, all are welcome!

Are you free on these dates Wednesday 29th June (evening Zoom meeting) and Saturday 13th August (daytime)?

If you **can** make the weekend **and** team meeting dates, then fill in an application today. Cat and the leadership team are looking forward to hearing from you.

The team forms are attached with the magazine, and the deadline for applications is **Wednesday 25th May 2022**, but no need to delay do it today!

(Please remember to pray for potential participants, closing date for participants is Monday 8th August).

Cursillo 69 at Kinnoull



from 8-11 September 2022

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Ultreya Talk 25th March 2022
To God be the Glory
Alison Bruce

Just before the pandemic struck, I had volunteered and been accepted as an end-of-life companion in a local hospital.

Not knowing I had done this, my friend from Wales sent me a link for Macmillan Cancer indicating they were recruiting for telephone buddies to support people living with cancer in all its various stages. The idea being you would be linked with a person on their cancer journey and support them via the telephone on a weekly basis for a period of around 12 weeks, in addition to this you would have the training and support of the organisation to back you up.

As the pandemic had now hit hard, and I couldn't volunteer in the local hospital, I decided to apply to Macmillan Cancer and was accepted. I completed the training and was duly introduced to my first client. This all went well and was more interesting and rewarding than I had initially thought telephone buddying might be.

After supporting several people, I was introduced to a slightly younger lady, for reasons of confidentiality I shall call her Lynn, from the get-go there was an instant rapport between us.

Lynn had received the devastating news that she was terminally ill and only had a short time to live.

Lynn was very open from the first call and shared her inner thoughts and fears freely and honestly, we explored these fears and found strategies to help her cope. As well as baring her soul and sharing her interests and hobbies, she loved her garden pots, watching tv as well as reading and nature, Lynn shared how her day-to-day life was panning out as she coped with her illness, the highs and the lows, the good days as well as the bad.

Lynn especially shared her immense sense of humour and determination, there was no self-pity, no why me!

I came off every call from Lynn feeling uplifted and often joyous as we were able to laugh at a lot of things, yes there were the tears and various other emotions but the one which always shone through was her sense of humour.

Lynn was a very independent lady who lived on her own, she didn't have many friends, and her family lived a distance away. Her elderly mum who she was very close to was still alive and they were in constant contact via the phone. Yet Lynn hadn't been able to share her diagnosis with her mum, mainly as she was trying to protect her from it.

Lynn's final wish was to be able to visit her elderly mum one last time. Lynn was deteriorating quickly, and the family found ways to rally round and support her, Lynn's brother arranged a visit to her mum, and she was taken by car to see her. Lynn was so excited about this, and we discussed it at great length.

On our final call before she left for the visit, we agreed I would call on an agreed date as she would be back home then. I told her I would look forward to hearing about her visit on her return.

When the due date arrived, I made the call but there was no response so I called on several occasions thereafter, my first thought was maybe she had extended her visit, but there was also a niggle that things might have taken a turn for the worse. After several attempts I decided to contact my coordinator for advice.

My coordinator quickly got back to me to advise Lynn had indeed taken a turn for the worse and was now receiving palliative and hospice care at home at her mums, supported by her sister. Although this news was not unexpected, it did leave me feeling a bit bereft not having been able to have closure with Lynn, I was comforted however in knowing she had achieved her final wish and was with her mum and her family.

The following day I received an urgent message from my coordinator advising me Lynn's sister had been in touch to ask if I would be willing to call Lynn on her mobile phone as she would like to say farewell to me. This was a most unusual request, and my coordinator was concerned how it would impact on me and would I be willing. I said that I would be honoured and privileged to make the call. Lynn was in the very final stages of her life and there was no time to waste.

I came off the phone, gathered myself together said a quick prayer then called Lynn.

She was very weak and breathless and at times it was hard to make her out, but we were able to say our final goodbyes, she was able to say thank you as that was important to her, and there ended a beautiful friendship between two people who never met face to face.

Lynn passed away later that evening, peacefully surrounded by her family.

For me I found great humility and privilege in having been able to support this lady, but I gained so much more than I gave, I gained her trust, her love, sharing in her sense of humour to mention just a few things. It was an honour to be asked to share in her final hours.

I share this story not for any sense of personal glory whatsoever, but to highlight how much a telephone call can generate comfort and support, this doesn't need to be done through a formal organisation, although many would welcome this, but make those calls where you might think there might be a need, church family members, neighbours anyone you know who might benefit.



You just never know the impact it might have both for you and the person on the receiving end.

The scriptural response was given by Rev Liz O’Ryan. Liz thanked Alison, for her words... and for the time and care she gave to her friend, and the relationship which they had, even though they'd never met her face to face.

Liz continued to say:

As you were talking your words reminded me of an image which comes up on Facebook every now and then: a post which is accompanied with the words: “We are all just walking each other home.” I think that you demonstrated that so well in your talk. We are indeed walking each other home best as we can.

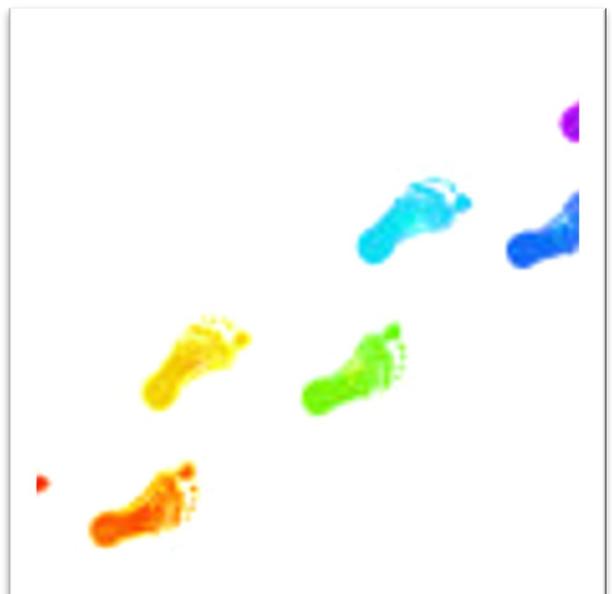
We meet so many people during our lives... some we get to know better than others... some are family... some are lifelong friends... some are there at significant points... and there are many others that flit into our lives briefly as fleeting but memorable companions along the way. I wonder who our companions have been... and I wonder who is walking beside us at this time? I am sure many of us thank God for their presence and companionship.

But however long we have known someone... I do agree with Alison that one of the greatest privileges any of us can be given, is to walk with someone during their last few months, weeks or days of life. Perhaps many of you listening to me now have had experience of this.

And why is that? Why is it that at the saddest time of life... the time of saying goodbye... that we recognise the honour and privilege of being there at this time? I wonder whether it is because those facing the final journey... seem, perhaps more than at any other time, to ‘get it’... to ‘get’ what life has been about... to ‘get’ what it all means... Like Alison’s friend who wanted nothing more than to see her mother... it is a time when what is important comes to the fore. Everything else fades into insignificance and we witness, if we are so blessed, the letting go of worldly things...and an new embracing of the things of eternity... the things of God: Relationship, joy, Love, and more Love.

Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies it bears much fruit.” We are all called to let go of worldly attachments... to die to our ego and desires. We are called to a myriad of little daily deaths... which open the way to discover and enjoy the daily joys and blessings of God’s goodness and faithfulness. It is these daily letting go’s which are the practice and the preparation for our final and biggest letting go at the end of our earthly life.

We are resurrection people. We are people of joy and faith. We know that we are walking each other home to the light and life of the nearer presence of God. What greater gift is there – that we are privileged to share in each other’s journey and to witness the faithfulness and presence of our God in every step of the way.





From Margaret Editor of Fourth Bridge

On the front cover, I took Brenda's words of New Beginnings (see below) as an introduction to what was inside the magazine. You will have read about changes in office bearers, new opportunities on offer, pilgrimage in 2022, and how phone calls can create a space for God's love to shine through even in the darkest of times.

Liz has just described us as resurrection people, so when the unexpected happens and our world comes crashing down around us, we find God's love and on we go just like before at the very beginning of Cursillo. I have highlighted the words from this extract on the history of Cursillo to help notice the similarities between 1939 and the writings in today's magazine:

Cursillo did not begin with the **three-day weekend**. It started in Spain after the Spanish Civil **War** ended in 1939. To help **restore the spiritual life** of their war-ravaged country young men of Spain **began to plan** a great national **pilgrimage** to the shrine of St. James at Compostela. The **purpose of the pilgrimage was to rededicate** young people **to the work of Christian mission**.

<https://www.londoncursillo.org.uk/history-of-cursillo>

Marion Anderson sent me the Blessings prayer on the back page and along with Brenda's thoughts written below, we close the magazine with thanks giving and reflection, knowing that our strength in God's love will see us through.

Inverurie/ Aberdeen from Brenda

Coming up to Easter the words New Beginnings kept coming into my mind. I was feeling that we were losing the close Cursillo fellowship that we used to share in our house then I read about a woman from Ukraine who got up one morning with the idea of going into her garden then baking a cake, by lunch time she was packing their car to flee from the shelling, she found her young son hiding under the table covering his ears and she said, "to think yesterday I was worrying that he could not tie his own shoe laces and today that is so unimportant."

When I see families fleeing, I think of that, and all families and I pray that they will find new beginnings.

This made me think our Cursillo meetings will come again with new beginnings and how blessed we are that we will get to meet again soon. An overhead we had in church that I thought was so lovely, was a coat hanger with different clothes on it along with lots of hearts and the writing was:

Whatever you wear today wear God's love.

There is nothing better than this to share.



Blessings

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet and spare change in a dish somewhere, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you can hold someone's hand and hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer God's healing touch.

If you prayed yesterday and today you are in the minority, because you believe God does hear and answer prayers.

If you can read this, you are more blessed than over 2 billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Consider James 2 v 15 - 17.

Remember to keep us up to date

Please, if you have Cursillistas in your congregation or local area who do not use email, please keep them in touch with what is going on. Email is the most efficient form of communication although Fourth Bridge is still posted to those who have requested it. If you would like a paper copy, please get in touch with Margaret. magazine@cursilloinScotland.org