

Useful contacts

TITLE	NAME	PHONE NO	E-MAIL
Lay Director	Daphne Wilding	01638 720841	daphnewilding@btinternet.com
Spiritual Director	The Revd Michael Banyard		banyardmg1@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Helen Randall	01353 721752	hcrandall@tiscali.co.uk
Secretary	Pat Shaw	01638 711582	pshawuk@hotmail.com
Booking Secretary	Catharine Harris	01638 721765	Kvh218@hotmail.com
Palanca Secretary	Lindy Rainbow	01353 724002	lindyjane@tesco.net
Magazine Editor/ Publisher	Michael Womack	01223 897946	mjwomack@tiscali.co.uk
Archangel	Susan Eady	01223 242226	susan.eady@btinternet.com
Group Reunion Coordinator	Lesley Bowring		lesley_bowring@btinternet.com
BACC Representative	John Hooper	01638 742026	johnchooper@aol.com
Ultreya Co-ordinator	Lesley Bowring	01223 423374	Stephen.bowring@ely.anglican.org

ELY DIOCESAN CURSILLO



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2007

(Post Ely #14)

Game, set and match!

Many thanks to this issue's contributors – champions all!

Ank Rigelsford

Daphne Wilding

Elisa Pike

Helen Banyard

Michael Womack

Mike Banyard

Nina Northfield

Lesley Bowring

About our front cover...

Reflections

I drew this picture to show what I think reflects from the bible.
Prayer and faith are at the bottom and top because I think these are two of
the main spiritual foundations. I see all these words as sunrays.

Elisa Pike (age 12)

Editor's note.

I'm sorry that due to my technical limitations the Elisa's artwork is not as crisp as the original – I suggest you contact her (through Lindy) to see it in all its splendour.

Diary Dates

Saturday 28 July St James Day walk

10am at Burying Way, Little Thetford. Walk to St James church, Stretham.

12 md (ish) Picnic in grounds of St James
(parish rooms if wet).

1pm (ish) Presentation by Rose Marie Manning & Sue Treece from Leicester Anglican Cursillo:

“Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.”

You are welcome to join at any point.

Please bring your picnic.

August Ultreya – TBA

Wednesday 12th September. St Lukes, Cambridge Ultea With AGM

Saturday 29 September Day of Reflection – Chippenham Village Hall 10:00-16:30

Thursday 18th October. Ultreya Wicken Village hall.

Friday 19th November. Ultreya Chippenham village hall. Welcome Back after Ely 15 which leads neatly to....

Weekend dates 2007 / 2008

Ely #15 Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th October 2007

Peterborough #1 Thursday 27th to Sunday 30th March 2008

Ely #16 Thursday 2th to Sunday 5th October 2008

Ely #17 Thursday 28th to Sunday 31st May 2008 (Half term week)

The venue for all of these weekends will be Bishop Woodford House in Ely.

flower arrangements, colourful art materials, tasty palanca cake, the unexpected '4th' day Palanca bag – and a first – when red and white wine were added to the welcoming drinks on the first evening!

A very big thank you to all of you involved in any way in the special weekend that was Ely #14. As God guided us in leadership I pray that you continue to grow in response to the emphasis on prayer, worship, study and action in your Christian life and that He will continue to guide you on your spiritual journey.

“Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.”

Ultreya – Keep going

God Bless.

Helen Banyard (Lay Rector Ely Cursillo #14)

“Tender to me the promise of His word: In God my saviour shall my heart rejoice.”



From the Editor

MICHAEL WOMACK

I want to be a dog! Now I realize that this is a marked change from the widely held belief that I want to be a tree! However I do have a good reason.

I've noticed that my dogs get a great deal of enjoyment from their walks; most of the time we go on the same route with little variation. Nonetheless each and every walk is a great adventure for them. All the smells are new and exciting; every rustling in the hedgerows is to be greeted with pricked up ears and twitching nose. Every single outing is an adventure to be relished and a source of excitement – you only have to see their tails before we even leave the house to realize this.

Children have a similar approach to life; another trip to the local park is greeted with the great excitement (though admittedly they don't wag their tails). For young children in particular life is a great adventure, to them a trip to the shops is as exciting as a trip to the park. I wonder if Jesus had in mind this wide eyed amazement and enjoyment of life when he exhorted the disciples to be more child-like?

It is all too easy to become jaded, to stop being excited by events, such as church services, or house-group or even (whisper it) Cursillo. I hope that you will approach this issue of your newsletter with a dog-like expectancy, and that in its pages will be items that will stimulate you in your faith.

I can't stress how much it is your newsletter; that it is to say it is the newsletter for everyone connected with the Cursillo movement in the diocese, whether you're an 'old dog' or a young child within Cursillo, please consider sending in a contribution so that we can all benefit from your experience and appreciate the wonder of it.

De Colores!

**From the Rev'd Mike Banyard.
Spiritual Director Ely Cursillo.**

Tis the season of weddings, and there are many in our five parishes this year, and next, for many have to book up a venue for the reception, and their favourite place may have been taken already. It happened this year in one of our villages, so we have one wedding on a Friday and the next on the Saturday so that the families for both couples can celebrate at the same, superb, country house.



And weddings are, usually, very joyful, though there may also be minefields to encounter and cross on the way. And the time of preparation also brings joy, of telling others of plans and delving deeper into what the promises and commitment actually mean in every day life.

But what it always comes down to, is two people, looking deeply into each other's eyes and making those solemn vows about the depth of their love for each other (the implications of which they may only dimly begin to realise) and the life long adventure into which they have just launched themselves. Almost everything else in the service assumes its own space, for here is the central part, two people, pledging their love for each other, before God. "God is love and those who live in love live in God", writes John. When we align our wills with the divine, in love of each other (and here it is not confined just to those who make promises in marriage, but whatever our vocation, to be married or single, it is for us all) then the whole world is transformed. Many of course come to the altar, having known each other for many years, and this seems to be just the formal part of their commitment, thought the actual day itself and the enormity of the vows one to the other begins to sink in. Others come in the full flush of

wonderful group with whom to travel, each with their differing characters and gifts – it was a marvellous privilege to share this opportunity of reflection, refreshment, to listen and to ask questions, to share discussion, worship and the excellent 'Bishop Woodford House' meals together. We had prayed for the pilgrims and we were given an incredible group, at various stages of their spiritual journey and with a variety of gifts.

"When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony"

These gifts became evident, with an incredible standard and variety shared in the group presentations, with highly talented musicians in each table group. This led to responses which ranged from side-aching laughter to a powerful sense of awe and wonder. My 'third arm', the Lay Rector's multi-coloured folder, which among other things contains the suggested timings for each stage of the weekend, was dispensed with on numerous occasions as the Holy Spirit led us on a different course in 'God's timing'. We still covered every aspect of the weekend and learnt a deeper meaning of 'trusting in the Lord'.

"I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear."

The changes were remarkable both to individuals and groups as God drew us together and we examined our response to His calling to us. The stress and problems of everyday life were gradually left behind and replaced with smiles and laughter. Prayers and singing were some of the outward signs of change, as were the sharing of the banquet, the very special atmosphere of the healing service and the Clausura. As ever with a Cursillo weekend it is the small touches of care –bed palanca, beautiful

Ely Cursillo #14

“Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice.”

Although it is a month, as I write this article, since Ely #14 happened, so much of that amazing weekend is very much in my heart and mind. As I continue to unpackage and mediate upon the experiences we were given, it remains very close to me – a truly awesome God-given gift for us all.

I mentioned at the Clausura our deepest thanks to all who were involved in the weekend, participants, staff, angels, sponsors and the many “behind the scenes” who contributed both practically and in prayer to a very special weekend. From the beginning of the earliest preparations I was aware of being held in prayer, love and learning to trust God in all aspects. That blessing and support was apparent from the initial discussions with Daphne and Mike, concerning the administrative organisation and spiritual direction required for the smooth running of each Cursillo weekend – The ‘A’ team –the staff – were prayed in and the training days were an encouraging indicator of the enthusiasm and laughter we were to witness on the Cursillo. It was wonderful to work with the dedicated and spirit-filled enablers who truly walked alongside the pilgrims and encouraged each other on our journey together.

“We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road,
we are here to help each other walk the mile and share the load.”

Cursillo is a great all round learning experience which changes everyone involved; no-one leaves as the same person who tentatively arrived on the Thursday evening. And Ely #14 were a

youthful excitement, and that brings its own challenges too. Yet others come after bruising and painful previous experiences, and their wariness needs careful nurture.

Bit like a Cursillo weekend really! Rediscovering deeper and unknown depths to our faith is exhilarating, and I always come away from a weekend with a renewed sense of the great heights and depths of God’s love for us, and of the amazing adventure God calls us to join. Re-making and rediscovering that love and those promises in the quiet (well there are sometimes a few!) moments of weekends away, is often a turning point in our deepening relationship with the Risen Lord. And it grows in Group reunion, when we encourage one another in faith and love.

For some it was overwhelming, and renders them speechless, for others there is the quiet reassurance of God’s goodness and of His will being done.

When we meet others, we are indeed on holy ground, and we can move ever deeper into an awareness of God’s presence, of the assurances of Jesus’ promises and empowered with His Holy Spirit in our lives.

So, please pray for all who are to be married this year, and pray too and encourage others to join us on the next weekend in October!

De Colores.

Greetings to you all.

Greetings to you all as I look back over another wonderful few months for Ely Cursillo.

Last September saw the Ultreya GB hosted by the Diocese of Durham. Nina and Mike Northfield, Ed Bampton, and I traveled to Durham for the day. As I have said before in previous articles the Ultreya GB is a superb opportunity to learn more about Cursillo, those who take part and the roles they play. The first part of the day was held in a local theatre where there were several small group reunions which presented a wonderful opportunity to meet other Cursillistas from around the UK and the world. Also at this time was a very inspiring Lay Witness talk. We then went to the Cathedral with a procession of banners.

After lunch approximately 400 Cursillistas reconvened with banners back to the Cathedral where we held the closing Eucharist service, it seemed that the singing nearly raised the roof. This day was as ever an interesting and spiritually fulfilling day.

In 2009 the Ultreya GB will be coming to the Diocese of Ely. Details are to be confirmed and will be published as soon as more is known. John Hooper and Julie Robinson-Judd are co-ordinating the event with BACC our prayers go out to them. As you can probably guess we will need an army of angels to help at this very busy time.

Ely #14 took place over the weekend of the 26th to the 29th of May 2007. This weekend really stood out for its music. There seemed to be an unusually high number of musicians both amongst the pilgrims and on the staff for this weekend.

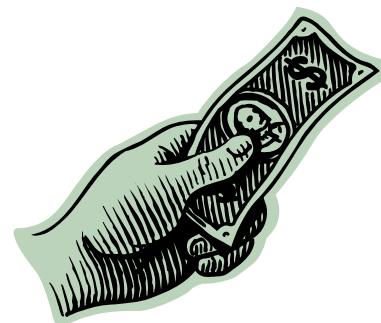
The music must have provided a wonderful backdrop for the feelings of joy, fellowship, meeting and trusting. I hope that these tunes provoke good memories of this weekend for all involved.

We cannot leave a weekend without thanking the staff who made it possible and so wonderful. Thanks to Helen Banyard for her leadership skills over the fantastic weekend making it thoroughly enjoyable for all. We must also thank Helens' team who also did a wonderful job of

REGULAR GIFTS TO CURSILLO

Did you know ...that a small but dedicated group of people helps to support Cursillo's continuing work by making a small standing order payment monthly or annually. This currently brings in a regular income of £60 upwards – higher some months – and is really important in keeping us on a firm financial footing.

Did you know... that if just 10 more Cursillistas each gave £2 per month on standing order we'd raise another £240 per year – enough to subsidise almost a full bursary for 2 pilgrims to attend a weekend.



If you can help please either post me your bank standing order form so I can add our Cursillo bank details, or e-mail me and I'll send you a form from our end for you to complete.

Many thanks! Helen Randall, Treasurer (The Pump House, Upware, Ely, CB7 5YQ or hc.randall@tiscali.co.uk).

Time for a sing-along, courtesy of those talent folks on Ely#14, altogether now...

"Any Cursillo will do"
From "Helen and her Amazing Technicolour Tabard"
(Tune: I close my eyes)

When I arrived
On this Cursillo (oo-oo)
I was pretty uncertain (Uh-oh)
What I thought I knew

They grabbed by bags
And interrogated (oh no!)
And at that moment (I thought)
Any bus will do!

With pink socks
And black frocks
Food galore,
And more and more!
Nuts and crisps and cake and flowers
Shame about the showers!

They talked and talked
And kept on talking (rol-lo)
With gophers stalking (how are you?)
Any job will do!

Kate rang the bell
And kept on ringing (oh yea!)
Until we started singing (oo-oo)
Any book will do!

Large amounts
Of head counts
Anticipate
Teresa's late
Tabards, rainbows, butterflies banners
- (spoken) *What's that all about!*

I stroke my beard
And raise my eyebrows (Father Mike!)
Its all so moving (boo hoo!)
Any tissues will do!

But we want to say
As our palanka (Cur-sillo)
We really want to thank ya! (Yes we do!)
Ely #14 will do!

working alongside the pilgrims with Love, Knowledge and Trust in preparation for their fourth days.

Bishop John Inge was the celebrant at the Clausura. Thanks again Bishop John. It is always lovely to see as many of you as possible at the Clausura as we are welcoming the pilgrims back into the wider church.

On this weekend the table groups were presented to us in a new way. The first talked through their experience as a group on a Cursillo weekend, the second did their table group in a song about their experiences and the third did a liturgical dance (mime) to illustrate their feelings which brought many of us near to tears.

Ely Cursillo continues to thrive and the weekends have been well attended with a variety of different activities and takes on older activities.

Helen Randall has joined John Hooper and I in attending the BACC meetings. They have all been enjoyable and informative days. The day is based on Piety, Study and Action. Your prayers are valued for these meetings as they discuss issues which affect our Diocese.

Please hold Helen Randall in your prayers as she prepares to take over the role of Lay Director for the Diocese of Ely Cursillo. I have found the role very fulfilling. I have met so many wonderful Cursillistas during my time as Lay Director. Please pray that all obstacles will be moved from Helens path and that she has a wonderful time, as I have.

Forthcoming events.

Please Pray

Please Pray for Katharine Harris and her team for Ely #15. Ely #15 will be from the 11th to the 14th of October 2007. Please pray for those who you are thinking of sponsoring for this weekend. The venue for this weekend will be Bishop Woodford House, Ely. Booking forms are

available from Katharine Harris, Lesley Bowring, Helen Randall and Daphne Wilding.

National Ultreya GB 2007

This years National Ultreya GB will be held in Canterbury on Saturday the 1st of September. I highly recommend attending this day as it's a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends and other Cursillistas from around the country. There is a full programme for the day, if you wish to book for The Gala Prom in the evening details are available from me. If you have time to go for the whole weekend there is a riverside picnic in Canterbury with fun and games on Sunday the 2nd of September.

Day of Reflection

On the 29th of September 2007 there will be A Day of Reflection. Held at Chippenham Village Hall this day will be an opportunity for all Cursillistas to meet in response to a demand to think, talk, pray and worship with other Cursillistas.

Helen Randall will be sending out a flyer in due course.

Peterborough #1

Nina Northfield, Helen Randall and I have been going to Kettering as part of the steering group for Peterborough #1. The date for Peterborough #1 is Thursday the 27th March to Sunday the 30th March 2008, the venue will be Bishop Woodford House, Ely. Please hold Nina and her team in prayer as Nina will be Lay Rector for this weekend as we gift to Peterborough.

Helen Randall

Helen Randall has started to shadow me over the course of the last few weeks as she prepares to take on the role of Lay Director in October. Let us all hold Helen in prayer as she takes on this role our lord has called her to do.

Also Chris needs your prayers, not least for the health of his dear wife Margaret.

Dominic Barrington will be their Spiritual Director and has written this prayer which we have used at the meetings recently and individually to under gird our work, we also used it at the last Ultreya of Ely Cursillo.

Generous God,
who called your disciples
to build your church and to preach
the good news of your Kingdom,
Bless us as we prepare for
the start of Peterborough Cursillo,
that we may be faithful disciples,
and build up your church in this diocese,
to the honour and glory of your name.

Amen

As you pray, please also prayerfully consider whether you might be able to staff on Peterborough #1; the team building days will be on **26th January 2008** and **1st March 2008** with a commitment to attend the 'Welcome Back Ultreya' on **10th April 2008** venues to be confirmed.

Peterborough Cursillo – News from Nina

To many people's delight and trepidation Ely diocese has been asked to gift Cursillo to Peterborough diocese.

Since July of last year I have been part of the Peterborough Anglican Steering Group and have been making the journey to Kettering on a regular basis, often with the loving, prayerful and practical support of Daphne and, more recently, both Daphne *and* Helen Randall...(The Ely Three?!?)

Peterborough #1 will take place at **Bishop Woodford House 27th – 30th March 2008** with me as Lay Rector and Chris Wren, Lay Director designate of Peterborough Cursillo, as Observing Lay Rector/ Lay Rector's Gofor.

Chris is a very experienced Cursillista and has held many key roles in Lincoln Cursillo, including Lay Director and has kindly agreed to take on this role in Peterborough for the initial period.

This information comes with an earnest request that you, my brothers and sisters in Christ and in this particular family of Faith called Ely Cursillo, hold me in prayer for this undertaking. I could not manage without your support.

Newsletter

New entries are always very welcome, however short or long. This magazine relies on the support of the Cursillistas who contribute to it and is a valuable and entertaining resource for Cursillistas old and new.

CURSILLO GROUP REUNION.

Are you looking for a Group Reunion?

Are you in a Group Reunion?

Do you meet Weekly---Fortnightly---Monthly?

Three to Four is a good number, Five is the maximum because of the time it will take, more than Five you need to go into two groups.

Remember to follow your Group Reunion Card. This is a Faith Sharing Group and NOT a discussion group.

Group Reunion is open to Cursillista's and others looking for a Faith Sharing Group. Cursillo started in small groups so they may go on to make their Cursillo.

Please would you let both Helen Randall e-mail hc.randall@tiscali.co.uk and Daphne Wilding daphnewilding@btinternet.com know if you are in a group or looking. This would help us with finding a group reunion for the pilgrims from our weekends. Our new cursillista's and others moving into the diocese and also you if you have not been in a group reunion before. If you would contact us before the end of September 07. Thanks in anticipation.

Wishing you joy peace and love.

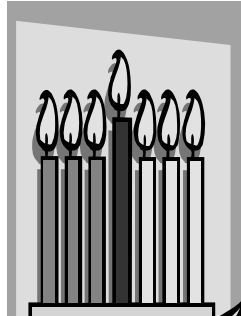
Ultreya

Daphne

**COME TO 'A DAY TO REFLECT'
29th Sept 2007**

Chippenham village hall

This day provides an opportunity to think, talk, pray and worship with other Cursillistas - with more time than is possible at an evening Ultreya. We hope it will re-inspire us to be **active for Christ**. You're welcome! Do join us, even if you can only manage a half-day.



PROGRAMME

- 9.30 **Coffee** and settle in for a prompt start!
10.00 **Morning session:** piety, study and rule of life
12.30 Eucharist in the church (people unable to start at 10am can join us here or over lunch)
1.15 **Lunch** – bring and share
2.00 **Afternoon session:** action
4.00 Tea and cake - depart by 4.30.

Both sessions include worship, a rollo, discussion and reflection space, with a centrally-scheduled Eucharist.

BOOKING REQUIRED

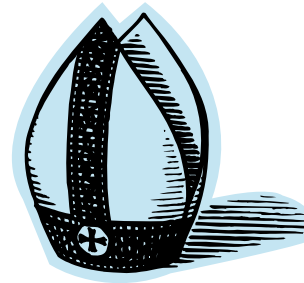
By 15th Sept 07. Fee £3 (non-refundable, for whole or half-day), payable by the 15th. Bookings to: Shirley Watts, 2 Sherlock Close, Cambridge, CB3 0HW (01223-357499 or e-mail shirley.watts@tiscali.co.uk). Please state your contact details, number and names of people attending, and whether you are attending all day/morning only/afternoon only. Cheques to Ely Cursillo.

Please stay all day if at all possible!

"But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God."

Sent in by Helen Randall



Bishop John Inge is delighted...

...and so are we to announce that The Reverend. Stephen Bowring will be the next Cursillo Spiritual Director for The Diocese of Ely. He will take over from The Reverend Mike Banyard in March 2008. Ultreya. Daphne.

are any in Chula Vista . At least there aren't any who come to our church."

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K."

"His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important."

"You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time."

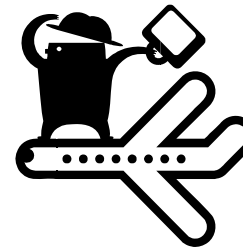
"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids."

A long journey

There is an old Chinese proverb which says 'A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step'. And that has certainly been so for my daughter, Helen. She took that first single step just over seven years ago, when she registered with an adoption agency and so began the long and often arduous process of becoming the adoptive parent of one of the thousands of little girls which are abandoned each year in China, due to the single



child policy. But now, finally, she is coming to the end of that long journey, and soon she will be setting off on the last lap, when she flies out to fetch her new baby daughter, Lilly Jing. To my great delight she has asked me to go with her. There will be 13 other parents in our group, all from the same adoption agency. We fly first to to Beijing, where we

split up into smaller groups, as the children come from different parts of China. We will travel on to Yangjin, in the southern province of Guangdong, to the orphanage where my new granddaughter comes from.

We will get her on July 5th, a very special day! After many formalities, which will take about a week, we fly back to Beijing for more formalities (visas, passports etc), and also, we hope, for some sight-seeing before our flight home (accompanied by 14 new



babies!) on the 19th.

If you read this in time (or even if you don't!) please pray for Helen and Lily Jing, who both will have to adjust to a whole new way of living. And no doubt when I see you next you will hear all about our trip, as I probably will not be able to talk about anything else for a while!

With love and prayers to you all,
Ank Rigelsford

This was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista , CA . He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to "explain God." I wonder if any of us could have done as well ?

He was given such an assignment in California , and someone
published it!!!

I guess miracles do happen !

EXPLANATION OF GOD:

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers."

"God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have."

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there

pray for your individual needs such as friends, family members or yourselves. Prayer can be about absolutely anything, job interview, hospital visit or travel. We regularly pray for those of us who have gone forward for ordination or exams.

Each said it was knowing you were being prayed for made the difference and often gave the feeling of being calmer and not so afraid.

As I stand down in October please continue contacting me with your prayer requests. Just because I am no longer Lay Director you are still my friends, brothers and sisters in Christ. I ask your prayers for Helen Randall as she prepares to take on the role of Lay Director and all that entails, gifting to the Diocese of Peterborough in 2008 and the Ultreya GB 2009.

Ultreya

Daphne

The Cursillo Servant Song from Ely #14

Sisters, brothers, you have served me
You have been as Christ to me
Opened up the chance to receive
Th'abundant grace God offers me.

We've been pilgrims on a journey
Randomly we came along
Weak and empty, so unworthy
Now you've helped to make me strong.

You have been the Christ light to me
Through my doubt, frustration, fear
Lavish generosity
You filled my heart; I've shed a tear!

Through God's Spirit, you connected
Heart and mind, and life and soul
Minded me that God's good grace
Is an abundant, overflowing bowl.

We have sung to God in heaven
Heaven's song came down to us
God has been our harmony
In building this community.

So I leave a better servant
Salt and light, with more of you
Pray Cursillo ever thrive
A burning flame in all our lives.

Thinking back over my time of being a pilgrim and my journey within Cursillo, everything has started with a prayer. My strongest sense throughout my time with Cursillo is that of PRAYER.

It struck me that as a pilgrim making my Cursillo, my sponsor and the team prayed for me. All of the pilgrims who were booked onto this weekend were on the 'Please Pray for List', just as they have been on every subsequent weekend. I was truly amazed that local, national and international Palanca was received from people I didn't know who have now become friends.

Your sponsor prays for you. After your booking has been taken the Lay Rector of your weekend, Lay Rectors Gofor, Head Gofor, Spiritual Director and Booking Secretary pray for you. As the team is formed for the Cursillo weekend they also are given your names. You are being prayed for long before you make your Cursillo.

The 'Please Pray for List' goes out to all Cursillistas in this diocese and others within Cursillo. So, as you travel to, during and from your Cursillo weekend you are held in prayer.

You are held in brotherly and sisterly Christian love and prayers. Your sponsor and others will pray for you as you start your Fourth day. Your small group reunion starts and ends in prayer. Please remember the small Cursillo Group Reunion is very special because it is a faith sharing group and NOT a

discussion group. We give our brothers and sisters in Christ a safe place to say the things which are on their hearts and we listen. We may be some of the only people who listen to them in love. The small group reunion holds many blessings for all involved.

As we come together for our Ultreya, our Lord Jesus blesses us again as we share in other small groups. This is not our normal small group gathering but an opportunity to meet in a small group with others; again, this is a faith sharing group and NOT a discussion group. You may feel you have the answer to a problem or concern, please let the individual Cursillista share as you listen. Listening to a faith journey or Prayer is an important part of our daily lives.

From 1999 Cursillo has been a large part of my life. I have prayed for many pilgrims as they have prepared for and made their Cursillo weekends. I have continued to hold all in prayer as Cursillistas. Many of you have gone on to be staff on one or more weekends; some have gone on to be angels in many different ways. Each of you is prayed for.

You have been prayed for in many different places. Churches, my home and now in my retreat which was my son Phillips' play den. I have prayed as I've walked, on holidays to various places. I prayed whilst on my pilgrimage along St Cuthberts Way with my husband Michael and a group of friends, some Cursillistas.

Over the years many of you have telephoned and asked me to