



KIWI CURSILLO

*The Magazine for
New Zealand Anglican Cursillo*

Christmas 2017

Issue 43



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THE DEADLINE FOR THE EASTER ISSUE IS FRIDAY MARCH 9TH 2018

The price of Kiwi Cursillo is \$15 a year for three magazines posted to you, or contact your Diocesan Lay Director about receiving it through them. PDF copy is free.

Please put the deadline date in your diary! It is Important :)

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National Episcopal Cursillo Website (USA)

www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org

Read their 4th Day Magazine on-line;

Purchase NEC Libraries;

Check updates for NEC Library;

Check out resources available.

Other Websites:

Wellington Cursillo Website - www.cursillo.org.nz

<http://www.crosswalkmail.com>

<http://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>

<http://www.biblegateway.com>

Some thoughts from our National Episcopal Overseer BISHOP VICTORIA MATTHEWS

MEETING JESUS FOR THE FIRST TIME

When did you first meet Jesus?" That is a question that is asked at gatherings of the Global Christian Forum which meets in various parts of the world every few years. The purpose is to encourage Christians of very different backgrounds to come together and share what they have in common.

What do we have in common? Jesus, of course.

Jesus, the Son of God and son of Mary, was born in a stable, in an obscure part of the Roman Empire. His parents were a bit dodgy as Mary conceived and was pregnant before being married to Joseph, her betrothed. Probably fearing for her reputation, and possibly even her life, she rushed to spend time with her cousin Elisabeth who, while older, was also expecting.

The two men in the story, Joseph and Zachariah are sometimes overlooked but they also have roles in the drama of salvation. Zachariah was a priest serving in the Temple, when he received a visit from Gabriel the Archangel, who delivered a message telling him that he and Elizabeth would have a child called John. Indeed, that is what came to pass but not before Zachariah was chastened for his doubt (Luke 1.20). Joseph for his part could have insisted that Mary be dismissed quietly, but he also had an angelic visitation and was assured that the child to be born was of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1.20-21).

Amongst the first people on earth to meet Jesus were his parents; some shepherds and eventually some wise men. Each had their own response, but all knew this child was of God and destined to change the world. Since then millions upon millions have come to know and worship Jesus. But that neither diminishes the worth of Jesus the Christ, nor does it lessen the importance of the encounter of Jesus with each person. So, again I ask, "When did you first meet Jesus?" How were you blessed and how has your own life been shaped by this Child of Bethlehem who grew up to teach, preach and heal countless people, and then who was arrested, crucified and

buried? How has his resurrection from the dead transformed your earthly life?

When did you first meet Jesus, and have you helped others to also meet the Saviour of the world?

+ Victoria Christchurch

Editorial

I love looking at the exciting work done by Cursillistas in their communities and elsewhere. As I collate and edit all of these wonderful stories from Cursillistas everywhere I feel honoured to have this position.

Our pilgrimage together through Cursillo helps us in our challenges to be the best Christians we can. Our group reunions challenge us in our daily walk to keep God in the forefront of our thinking, to study and learn more from the bible and others, and to be helpful and caring to others in our paths. We learn so much from others!

As we enter the start of our Christian year with Advent and build up to celebrating Christmas with our families, I wonder how will you celebrate the season of

our Saviours birth?

In my family we get together for a midday meal which has been prepared by all of us in some way. Living in the Waikato, a lot of my family need to get back to the work of milking cows.

I like to attend the midnight service on Christmas Eve. It has always had a special place in my heart. To sing all the verses to 'O Come All Ye Faithful' very early on Christmas morning is so special, 'Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning', acknowledging Christ's birth always brings tears to my eyes.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories in this magazine and will send in some stories of your own in the future.

Janice

Merry Christmas and many blessings to you all

FROM THE NATIONAL LAY DIRECTORS...

Re-Imaging Cursillo – Pilgrimage and Journey

Q: *When is a course not a course?*

A: *When it's a course, of course!*



No, it's not a bad joke – but it is a bit of a riddle. Let me explain...

You've probably been told that *Cursillo* is the Spanish word for “a short course.” If, like me, you've attended various “training courses” over the years, your mind will probably jump, as mine did, to that type of “course”. And the fact that a Cursillo weekend has numerous talks and activities tends to reinforce that notion.

It therefore came as quite a surprise, while studying some “official” Cursillo documentation recently, that I discovered *cursillo* actually translates as “a course, such as one would run in a race”.

For me, that was a quantum change of perspective. Instead of being an intellectual self-improvement program, Cursillo is actually a whole-of-self experience – with hurdles, other participants, challenge, direction, and an ultimate objective towards which one moves with vigour and determination.

Not that I didn't have an inkling of all that before, but the “training course” metaphor for Cursillo just didn't sit well. It was too passive for what I have experienced. Now, however, with the image of a cross-country race in my mind, the idea of Cursillo being both a pilgrimage and a purposeful journey makes so much more sense!

Speaking of journeys, Glenda and I spent most of October travelling in **Brendan** (our motor-home – see *Kiwi Cursillo* Issue 41) on a “pastoral” tour of the 3 North Island Cursillo dioceses.

A full-on programme was organised for us in Waiapu diocese – both in the Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay areas. Highlights for us were preaching and sharing lunch with Cursillistas in Taradale, participating in group reunions, meals, and other gatherings, and sharing with key leaders. There were also some very enjoyable and educational personal guided tours.

Wellington diocese highlights were a Friday night mini-Ultreya, lunch with

past and present Secretariat members, a well-attended gathering of Wairarapa Cursillistas, and some quality time with key leaders.

In Waikato we gathered with Cursillistas in Morrinsville, including the *Kiwi Cursillo* editorial team.

Everywhere we went we were warmly welcomed and encouraged by the joy and enthusiasm of those we met. It was inspiring to see the positive way that the Cursillo Method is empowering and supporting you in your many and varied ministries.

We hope to make this an annual pilgrimage, aiming to also spend some time in Taranaki in 2018. We also intend to make a similar journey around the South Island – especially to South Canterbury and parts of Dunedin diocese.

As we have travelled around, we have shared the same message” with each group we have spent time with:

Cursillo is an outward-looking discipleship movement (not a cosy club); a movement of the whole church – lay and ordained working together in partnership.

The importance of the Cursillo Method, and, in particular, being strategic and intentional about who we are trying to reach (and consequently who we invite to a Cursillo Weekend).

The centrality of the Fourth Day: which involves Spiritual Direction, 4th Day Group Reunions, and Ultreyas.

The Cursillo Movement is alive and well! Its expressions vary from place to place around the country, but they are no less “authentic.” The challenges vary too, but there are common themes which we hope to pick up on in future articles.

We acknowledge and thank Rev’d Sue Hogan, our outgoing National Spiritual Adviser. We hope to be able to announce her successor soon. We also welcome Paul Weaver, DLD-elect for Wellington, to the national leadership team, and look forward to working with him in the New Year. Please continue to pray for us all, and for the strengthening and growth of the Cursillo Movement in New Zealand.

Advent and Christmas blessings to you all!

Ultreya! David & Glenda – Co-NLDs

What's Cursillo? – by David Prosser

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have...

(1 Peter 3:15)

Since retiring from full-time work people keep asking me “what are you doing now?” Generally, there’s a follow-up question: “What’s Cursillo?”

Someone has probably asked you the same question. I’d be interested to hear your response.

For what it’s worth, here are the key points in my current response to a church-based enquirer:

Cursillo is a Spanish word. It means “a short course” – like in a cross-country race. The heart of Cursillo is a 3-day live-in workshop weekend that presents a specific method for deepening and living out our faith. Cursillo also plugs us into a strong follow-up and support network. Most participants find themselves encouraged, enthused, and re-energised in their Christian walk.

To a parish priest, I’d also say that many participants gain the confidence to become far more active in their parish and in Christian witness than they would previously have thought possible. The business of Cursillo is to **grow disciples** of Christ, to help them **discover their vocation**, and to make them **effective in mission and ministry**.

Non-church enquirers get told that Cursillo is a movement within the wider Anglican Church. It helps people to re-energise their commitment to an authentic Christian life, and to be more effective in whatever God is calling them to do.

‘If I were to let my life be taken over by what is urgent, I might very well never get around to what is essential.’ *Henri Nouwen*

Waiapu Diocese

I was inspired when I recently read the following on an email from one of my favourite authors and speakers, she wrote:

*“When was the last time you gave someone a sincere, “Thank you”? We’re not talking about thanking the barista who hands you your coffee or thanking the cashier for your change (though it’s good to thank them, too). We’re talking about taking time to recognize the people who help keep your world going—your spouse, your family, a coworker, your child’s teacher or daycare provider, a friend. **You might think... The people in my life know how I feel. They don’t know unless you tell them. And even if they do know, thanking them is a great reminder.**” – Joyce Meyer, *20 Ways to Make Every Day Better**

This Christmas take the opportunity to verbalize your gratitude in a genuine and special way.



Christmas blessings

Ultreya

Hanlie Viljoen - Diocesan Lay Director, Waiapu Anglican Cursillo

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### REFLECTION UPON VISIT OF NATIONAL Co-LAY DIRECTORS’ TO WAIAPU DIOCESE – 18 - 24 October, 2017

Sometimes life seems to be lived on two levels, today’s practicalities and tomorrow’s anxieties!

Recently Cursillo National Lay Co-Directors David and Glenda Prosser visited our Mount Maunganui Parish welcomed by 19 Cursillistas who gathered for fellowship and a shared meal and very lively discussion! Out of that meeting, something which really struck a chord in me was their reference to Spiritual Direction in the context of our Cursillo Method which encompasses three complementary ways of tending relationships with others – Spiritual Direction, a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Reunion Group and Ultreyas.

We are all familiar with Group Reunions and Ultreyas, but what is Spiritual Direction? One on one guidance, advice, friendship go some way towards explaining it but it is not counselling, not mentoring - it is a special relationship focused on prayer and relationship with God. The real Director of course is the Holy Spirit who continually invites us to grow in holiness and wholeness. Inviting another person to share in our journey opens the door for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives in a new way.

This Ministry is almost as old as the Christian Church going back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century when even then people were seeking and giving spiritual direction! And it has existed in the life of the Church in various forms ever since.

The strategy promoted by Cursillo as we persevere in our 4<sup>th</sup> Day journey focusses on relationships with others and specifies complementary ways of tending these relationships through Spiritual Direction, 4<sup>th</sup> day Group Reunions and Ultreyas.

The brochure "*A Guide to the practice of Christian Spiritual Direction for Cursillistas in the Anglican Church of New Zealand*" (available in print or electronically from your DLD) is most helpful in exploring the practicalities of how to find a spiritual director, agreeing frequency of meetings one on one, and how to work towards discerning and recognizing God in our everyday activities.

The National Association for Spiritual Directors (ACSD-ANZ)'s website is worth looking at as it contains a NZ regional directory of people who undertake this ministry at <http://www.acsd.org.nz/>. Or you may already have someone in mind or who can suggest possible directors - ask around.

On a personal level this topic greatly inspired me as soon as I was made aware of it. I prayed and was led to a Spiritual Director who, after discussion consulted my Vicar for approval. Last week was the first of 1hour monthly meetings. I am so uplifted by this development in my spiritual journey and thank the Lord for His leading.



Christmas Blessings and Ultreya!  
Barbara Ollerton – Post Cursillo Coordinator

## Reflections from the 3-Day Lay Director of Combined 6

It was a joy, privilege and enormous challenge to lead C6 this year and I give thanks to God for all I have learned and all of the incredible support I received through this time. Riverbend Bible Centre is a superb venue, and it was a great pleasure to work with the staff there who so generously live out their Christian commitment.

It was a joy to work with such a committed and willing group of people who formed a delightful team for C6. Each and every team member went above and beyond any of my expectations in their work across the three days.

While we received nine registrations from women, three withdrew, so C6 proceeded with a diverse group of six amazing women drawn from three parishes, who each engaged with the Cursillo three days in their own unique way. Almost all feedback was delightfully positive and included comments like “There were some very special God moments” and “there is evident change in all of us ... full of love and respect for each other and a fourth day full of commitment and joy.”

Three pilgrims attended the DDU on Saturday 30 September at St Lukes’ Havelock North and it was helpful to hear feedback which affirmed that the three days were “powerful [and] inspiring”, and they valued the “fellowship, ..chapel times [and] being on a journey”. It was clear that change had occurred and one pilgrim commented on “being led by the Holy Spirit” since C6.

Ultreya,

Janine Melville - C6 Lay Director.

*Photo's on page 27*

### Waikato/Taranaki Dates for 2018

**3 February:** Day of Deeper Understanding which was postponed will be held in Morrinsville starting at 9.30am with morning tea.

**10 March:** Waikato Ultreya in Hamilton

**17 March:** Taranaki Ultreya at St Chads New Plymouth

**23 June:** Diocesan Ultreya at Piopio

**8 Sept:** Taranaki Ultreya

**15 Sept:** Waikato Ultreya

# Waikato/Taranaki Diocese

## Looking for Lost Cursillistas

The Waikato and Taranaki Combined Cursillo has experienced dwindling attendances at recent events or gatherings and the reason tends to point to gaps in contact lists. With the desire to improve communication, the Waikato/Taranaki Secretariat invited me to take on the role of Registrar, with a view to fill in the holes. Should I take on something about which I know nothing?! Prayers ensued! Not too many days later, chuffed with their confidence in me to be “the man for the job”, I took up my darning tools to go-a-mending. Equipped with partial lists from various quarters, development of a database got started. A few weeks later the database was extensive and thorough. Initial communications resulted in lots of emails bouncing back but that just spurred on the need to engage more detective work to get input sorted. Now, only four or five still provide a challenge. Key personnel with broad networking already in place helped immensely. And a couple of enthusiastic Cursillistas who had been physically visiting others have now provided names and addresses for the database. Some do not have email accounts but snail mail has permitted us to keep them apprised of upcoming events.

A recent Waikato/Taranaki Ultreya, held in the metropolis of Piopio, was quite well attended. Unfortunately the date clashed with various church events, affecting numbers. This Ultreya was preceded by a meeting of the Secretariat at which Annette Rae confirmed her resignation from the position as Diocesan Lay Director for Waikato and Taranaki. Annette had provided six years of sterling service, for which we are all extremely grateful, and acknowledged during the Piopio Ultreya. An appointment to the now vacant position has not yet been selected.

Looking for Lost Cursillistas ~ any time you receive a communiqué, scan the other names on the distribution and if you notice anything amiss, contact the Registrar (in your area) so that corrections can be made. That will ensure the maintenance of sound communication with our sisters and brothers in Cursillo, and to make the enjoyment of Ultreyas, and other events, even greater than they already are.

De Colores, Jasmine, Registrar - Waikato/Taranaki

## 'Lord, the light of your love is shining'

As we sat down to dinner the other night, our nine year old boy came to the table with a lighted candle and reverently placed it in the centre of the table. Now this is an aging candle, in fact it was one of several given to me last Christmas. This one was red and in a nice round glass jar and our boy regularly brought it out when we had guests - I guess it was his favourite. But now there was not a lot of candle left. Still it shone warmly as we shared the meal.

Christmas candles are special. They remind us that Jesus, a baby born in a stable and laid in an animals feeding box, came to be the light of the world. Christmas candle reminds us of the glory that shone in the night sky when the angels gave the message of his birth to lowly shepherds. A small candle burning brightly reminds us that no matter how dark things may seem one small glimmer of light overcomes the darkness.

Our small red candle has brightened many meals this year and it has done very well. Soon it will shine no more. However Christmas will bring us another one to light, of that I am sure, after all what do you give an older priest for Christmas when you don't know what to give?

The light of Christ has shone through the centuries. In many times past and in recent times others have tried to quench it. But even in the depths of communist oppression in Russia or China, somewhere the light shone on and now the numbers of Christians in these places truly building and churches are being restored.

Just as moths are drawn to the light, so are people drawn to the love of God as seen through the life of Jesus. So also are people drawn to the light of the Christ who shines out of us by the love we show to our friends and neighbours.

So when we light our new Christmas candle this year, no doubt a cheerful nine year old helping, we will remember: 'Lord, the light of your love is shining'. As we all continue in our fourth day as Cursillistas, may God trim our wicks so that we burn more brightly into the new year, so that those around us can see God's love overcoming the darkness and bringing fresh hope and joy day by day.



Wendy Harland - DSD Waikato/Taranaki

## Wellington Diocese

Wellington has now completed its weekends for the year with both men's and women's being well attended by pilgrims and running smoothly.

The leadership team met with the DLDs (Maree & Liam) and Proctors (Sheila & Peter) for both weekends and gained some valuable feedback in regard to the changes we had put in place. Wellington continues to be in a stage of growth and refinement.

I am happy to announce that Paul Weaver (M2) has been appointed the DLD for Wellington as my term comes to an end. I am confident I am leaving you in very capable hands! Paul has a real heart and passion for Cursillo and has many plans in store – watch this space!



Paul is what you'd safely call a 'Veteran' in Cursillo terms having been a pilgrim on Men's 2, 29 years ago. He's been on team a number of times (including Te Aro Pono) and is most often part of the music crew. Paul says, "I think Tanya has done a brilliant job and the chance to continue to grow this amazing ministry is a real privilege (if a little daunting). They're awfully big shoes to fill for such an otherwise petite lady".

Wellington has also been busy planning a Birthday Party for 2018 – Cursillo is 30 years old in New Zealand. More info will be coming out soon, however put the date of Saturday 20 October 2018 in your diary for a meal at Silverstream Retreat, Upper Hutt followed by a church service on Sunday morning at St Matthew's in Taita.

It has been a real privilege to have been the DLD for Wellington over the last three years. When I took on this role I was very apprehensive and worried about how I would lead, how I would get up in front of so many people and how I would fit with the leadership team.

It has been a journey and a half! What a fantastic time I have had. We all know there is nothing to worry about when we place it in God's hand and I firmly believed God had called me to this role, so he would equip me for it. Sometimes more equipping was needed than others!

Through Cursillo I have grown into a confident speaker, a manager, a communicator and a leader. It has enabled me to see the potential in myself and to be the person God wants me to be.

I am not sure what the next step in my journey is going to be – for now I am happy to spend more time with my family without forever thinking about the many Cursillo things on my to do list!



Thank you to Cursillo for having faith in me, growing me and putting up with me!

Tanya Mac - DLD, Wellington



## Christmas Musings

At the time of writing Advent is still a couple of weeks away. But already the shops are bursting with the ‘usual’ Christmas goodies – anything and everything guaranteed to catch your eye and tickle your taste buds! Christmas has been ‘coming’ for at least the last month in most areas and it can sometimes seem that the Church lags a little behind. One might wonder what the point of Advent is.

For me, Advent is a time of both preparation and anticipation – the two words might seem synonymous but in this context, I believe they are different. ‘Preparation’ speaks of getting things ready – making plans for the Christmas festivities both within the church and in the family. Preparing food, gifts, perhaps organising some time to get together as a family or take a break from work, and all sorts of other details. Are we prepared for the arrival of Jesus into our lives – are our lamps filled with oil and ready for the call of our Lord?



‘Anticipation’ speaks of an inner excitement. We know that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus: that our God chose to become incarnate and dwell among us – and now, we still have the opportunity to look forward to a new ‘birth’ each year. How will we make space for Christ to be rebirthed in our life? When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem they were told that there was no room for them. Will there be room for Jesus

in our lives?

Stepping back a bit further let's remember the joy and anticipation most parents feel when a baby is on the way. There are nine months of preparation and anticipation, nine months of dreaming and imagining, joy and hope. Do we still dream and hope?

The gift of a child. What most parents soon discover is that caring for and looking after a child is a huge responsibility and an awesome responsibility. There are joys and sorrows. But the love we have for that child means we put that child's needs ahead of our own.

The gift of Jesus is peace with God, forgiveness, acceptance, the promise of life eternal. It is the joy of living in grace and mercy and knowing we are the apple of God's eye. Just as a child grows so does our capability to love more, forgive more, be more compassionate, and to reach out to share God's love with others. Are we anticipating and expecting God to continue to do great things in our sight?

Advent is a bit like Easter – on the calendar they are relegated to set times. In reality we know that Advent can happen at any time, just as the resurrection keeps bursting out throughout the year as people's lives and situations are transformed. Let's pray that this Advent we

choose to prepare and anticipate with joy and hope that Jesus rekindles our faith and passion as he continues to work in and through us.



De Colores

Rev. Robyn McLay - DSD Wellington

*Christ has something in common with all creatures. With the stone he shares existence, with the plants he shares life, with the animals he shares sensation, and with the angels he shares intelligence. Thus, all things are transformed in Christ since in the fullness of his nature he embraces some part of every creature. —Bonaventure*

## Christchurch Diocese

### The Parable of the Disappearing Baby:

Years ago – this News flash appeared in the Otago Daily Times:

#### **Baby Jesus doll stolen from nativity display:**

*Christ was taken out of Christmas at the Mosgiel Salvation Army Thrift Shop yesterday when someone took off with a baby Jesus doll featured in the shop's nativity window display. The daylight robbery shocked the shop manager who discovered that Jesus had "walked" from his crib only when she closed the shop at 4 p.m. A big sign is now in Jesus' manger: "Baby Jesus has been stolen from this manger. God knows where he is! Do you know where he is?"*

Later I read this true story from a magazine for older folk...

There was a well organised and beautifully decorated small Rest Home in a country town. The manager ran it well and cared for all the people who lived in the home. She was a fair and generous employer, but she made sure that the residents came first.



The manager knew and understood the losses older folk experience when they leave their homes, lose a sense of independence and place themselves with limited possessions in the care of others. So as far as possible she worked very hard to make her Rest Home and the hospital wing as like an ordinary home as possible.

Of course, there were arguments, - not everyone got along well, -

certainly not all of the time. But we know families are like that!

One Christmas season, the manager purchased a crib for the hospital. Each year, after that, the staff set it up – Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus in the Manger, shepherds, some sheep, a cow, and three wise men. **And every year there was a fight.**

Some of the staff, let's call them **the non-church-goers** wanted to set it all up at the beginning of December: Mary and Joseph, the baby Jesus in the manger, the shepherds, some sheep, a cow and the three wise men. They wanted it to look nice, and arranged it very attractively on a table in the entrance, where everyone who passed could admire the crib and remember that Christmas was coming; the season of peace on earth and goodwill to all.

But the other staff, let's call **them** the Church-goers, because that is in fact what they were, objected strongly. Maybe they wanted to let the others know that they really had a handle on the truth. You can't put baby Jesus in the manger until after midnight on Christmas Eve! Don't you know the difference between Advent and Christmas, between the waiting time and the celebration of the baby's birth? How can the baby be born before Christmas Day? It isn't right! It's not the done thing!

One staff member felt so strongly about this, she took the matter into her own hands. Year after year, she stole the baby Jesus and hid him where no one could find him, no matter how hard they looked. But sure enough he popped out from his hiding place in time for Christmas Day.

The non-church-goers hated being tricked. They searched high and low for the disappearing baby. It became like a game they played, year after year!

And while it could have cast them into the role of the Wise men, patiently seeking the baby and overjoyed to discover him there, in the right place, at the right time, in the end they ended up more like Herod all set to slaughter the innocents. It wasn't a game anyone particularly enjoyed. And it didn't do anything for the residents.

We'll fix you said the non-church-goers to the Church-goers, muttering over their morning coffee. If it's not right to have the baby Jesus in the crib, then what are the wise men doing there? They don't appear till well after Christmas, so we'll jolly well hide them!

Yes, others said. And the shepherds shouldn't be there either, because the angel didn't appear to them until after the baby was born. So, we'll hide them also.

And if the shepherds aren't there then the sheep shouldn't be in the stable either. That left Mary and Joseph, an empty manger and a cow. Well there might have been a camel, and the star was stuck on the stable roof – which was just as well, because probably that would have been snatched too, and forbidden to shine until Christmas Eve.



Peace and goodwill had disappeared out the stable door, the crib was looking decidedly shabby, and the reason for having it there at all was entirely forgotten. And nobody bothered to find out what the residents thought.

One worker said it was all junk anyway, probably made with child labour, somewhere in Asia.

Finally, the manager lost patience with all of this. (Not the residents – they still sat quietly by.) She demanded to have all the pieces back.

Out came the sheep from the linen cupboards...

The shepherds appeared from behind the resident's files on a high shelf – one wise man appeared from the back of the pantry, another from a drawer in the dining room.

The third wise Man turned up, still leading his camel, from the middle of a pot plant...

Last to be found was the baby Jesus. It turned out that all these years, he

had been hiding in the meter box. Talk about power from on high!

The manager gathered them all up, took them away, wrapped them in tissue paper, and packed them in their box. As she placed the baby Jesus in his manger, tears fell from her eyes. What have we done to you, little one?

And Baby Jesus, and his manger, and Mary and Joseph, the wise men, and the shepherds, the sheep and the cow, and the crib, and the star, disappeared from that place, and were not seen for many years.



Let those who have ears to hear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Ven Lynnette Lightfoot - DSD, Christchurch



### **A message from Stephanie Johnston - DLD, Christchurch**

As my before Christmas list of things to do increases it's good to look back on the year and list God's blessings and as you can imagine Cursillo figures highly on both lists!



I continue to give thanks for the many blessings of Combined 20. After quite a stressful time getting it up and running we were blessed with 18 pilgrims, half of them being from Te Hui Amorangi o Te Waipounamu and travelling to Blue Skies, Kaiapoi from Invercargill, Dunedin, Nelson and even a few from Christchurch. With a Tongan Lay Director there seems to have been a joyous mix of cultures brought together to learn from and to praise God. It was great to catch up with a good number of them at the Day of Deeper Understanding. Plans are now well underway for C21 to be held at the end of April and what a blessing it is to have an almost complete team already.

Another blessing occurred when I was beginning to scratch my head over planning our Advent Service / Ultreya to be held 1st December.

A lady in my 4th Day Group offered her church as the venue and offered to do the Witness Talk herself. So, we are very much looking forward to our first Ultreya at St Andrew's, Redcliffs, praying that it will encourage all who attend and especially the Cursillistas in the parish.

Ultreya and Feliz Navidad

## How authentic are your Ultreyas?

*By Rev'd Canon Cynthia Hebden, NSD – from BACC pages,  
The magazine of The British Anglican Cursillo© Council*

The AGENDA for any Ultreya should be:

1. Group Reunion
2. Witness Talk
3. Response

Obviously other things should be added like a welcome, especially to new Cursillistas or visitors. HYMNS are optional but usually appreciated. Don't over-do them. Maybe two or three at the beginning, one before the Witness talk and one at the end.

**FLOATING GROUP REUNION** should be three-fold. Some people have got confused with the alternative Group Reunion card which Hugh produced. I find that really useful for the beginning of large meetings, PCC meetings etc. when it's useful just to pick out one of the three aspects of Cursillo – prayer, study or action (which, of course sometimes merge). But in Group Reunions we should try and each identify one thing from each group and share that with our friends. It is really important, of course, not to comment on what people say, tempting though it might be. You can have those chats over coffee later. In an Ultreya depending upon the size of the Group it might not be possible to get through to Action but as long as we've done the moment closest to Christ that's the most important.

The **WITNESS TALK** is really important and should be encouraging and inspiring. People should go away thinking 'I wonder if I could do that', or

‘would that work in our parish?’ The Witness Talk should not be ‘how we came to faith’. It should not be ‘how wonderful my Cursillo weekend was and what difference that made to my life’. The Witness Talk should be about what I am doing for Christ in my life at this time or what is Christ doing in my life at this time. It does not have to be given by a Cursillista; anyone who is an active Christian can give this talk. After the Witness Talk the Spiritual Adviser prepares to give the RESPONSE but before doing so asks the congregation if they would like to add anything to that talk from their own experiences.

The **RESPONSE** to the Witness talk should be given by a Spiritual Adviser but could be given by another authorised person, like a Reader, for example. The person giving the Response should do what Jesus did and take the listeners back to Scripture by finding texts or situations from the Bible which resonate with what the speaker has said. Quite often at Ultreyas someone will then make some intercessions; these are an optional extra, as we already have our prayers in the Group Reunion part, but are not to be discouraged. Obviously, it’s good to give out notices whilst you have the Cursillo community gathered. Anything else is not part of an Ultreya. If you really want to have a Holy Communion service, then do so but be sure that it is separate from the Ultreya. Personally, I think that the evening is long enough without anything else. The other really important part of an Ultreya is Fellowship, an opportunity to meet up with like-minded friends and to meet new ones. Often people will travel long distances for Ultreyas because they want to meet people they have been on weekends with etc. and this is really important not just for Cursillo but for the Church itself. When our new Bishop of Leicester was installed last year, he said that Christianity is about Prayer and Parties and I assured him that that’s just what Cursillo is about. Some dioceses have restricted the refreshments at Ultreyas to Coffee and Biscuits; I think that’s a shame, as most churches are good at making a bit of a party with sandwiches and cakes etc.

Lastly, the venue. Ultreyas do not have to be held in church buildings, which can sometimes be cold and uncomfortable and inflexible in their furnishings. If you’ve got a nice hall then do use that – or even take a room in the local pub – what a witness that would be!!

## Dunedin Diocese

Planning and training days for Combined Cursillo #21 took up the last few months. Lynda Turner-Heaton led the 3 day weekend at Pounaweia over Labour Weekend. It was a great camping ground venue with the Pilgrims sleeping in one accommodation block and the team in the other. Team numbers were down so two of the cooks delivered talks.

We were blessed to have eight Pilgrims – three under the age of 20. There were three table communities plus the back table community. All talks were well accepted and the testimonials at the Clausura pointed to deep experiences by the pilgrims. We were fortunate to have our new Bishop, Steven Benford on the third day. He isn't a Cursillista ( yet) but we all think he has great potential! It has been decided to use the Pounaweia site for 2018, with the three day being held at Labour Weekend. We are very pleased to announce that Pete Masters of Dunedin will lead it. Pete's enthusiasm is infectious so we have very real hopes for 2018!

We would like to thank Rev. Vivienne Galletly for her wonderful service over the last five years as Diocesan Spiritual Director. I am told she is finding 'retired' life anything but retiring and fresh opportunities abound. In her place as DSD we have been very fortunate to have Rev. Jo Fielding offer her services. Jo was installed by Bishop Steven at the recent Cursillo.

We have just had our last Ultreya for the year and it was reasonably well attended. The witness talk was given by Kristy Ferguson. It was good to see three of our new Cursillistas there. We are starting a new Fourth Day Group at our place to ensure our Dunedin pilgrims are looked after at this early stage.

We had a problem with storage of resources over recent years so it was decided a weather proof trailer would be the best option as everything would be kept together and transportable. We are pleased to announce that the cost of this trailer has been met by donations and it worked well at the last event. It has been fitted out with shelves to make

storage easy.

Everyone in the Dunedin Cursillo family wishes all our brothers and sisters in the Cursillo family throughout New Zealand a blessed Christmas season. May 2018 bring growth and inspiration.



Margaret and Craig McLanachan,  
Cursillo Co Lay Directors,  
Dunedin Diocese.

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## **An Introduction to: Rev. Jo Fielding, Dunedin's new DSD**

“Faith comes from listening to the right stories” (Michael Gungor)

Last month I took over from the Rev. Vivienne Galletly as the Dunedin DSD. In a recent conversation, I asked Vivienne what she will remember about her time in the role, and one of the things that she talked about was “the privilege of hearing all the stories about people’s lives” – and I absolutely agree. So often we struggle with our life as disciples of Jesus, and it can be all too easy to think that we are the only ones feeling this way. “Everyone else has a much closer relationship with God than me.” .... “Other people seem to find it easier to pray than I do...” .... “Why am I the only one who finds some people in our church so irritating?”

Cursillo means “little course” – and although the initial Cursillo course only lasts a couple of days, it is those stories that we hear from each other, or from the speakers, - and the stories that we find ourselves telling, during those few days that take us right back to the living heart of our faith. It is those stories that bear witness to the powerful ways in which God works through our lives, always inviting us to come closer, to be loved, and to be channels of God’s love for those pilgrims around us. These are the stories that help us understand our discipleship, and they help us see our life and faith (and the faith lives of our brothers and sisters in the Church) from another perspective.

Fourth day groups and Ultreyas become safe places for more of our

stories to be heard, told, and shared, and we do this work of storytelling within the framework of Scripture – that vast collection of so many different kinds of narrative, from Genesis to Judges, Jericho to Jesus – and of course, all the variety of stories that Jesus himself told his followers, about love, about the Kingdom of God’s mercy, about forgiveness.... We tell those stories because they can tell us something important about ourselves, as individuals loved by God, and also because we are affirming that we are part of the narrative, as members of the people of God.

Cursillo stories make us laugh, make us cry, surprise us, and connect us with each other. They help us find common ground as disciples of Jesus, as we seek to walk further along the Emmaus road.



I look forward to hearing many more Cursillo stories in my new role here in the Diocese of Dunedin, and I am so grateful for this privilege to serve in this way. De Colores!

Jo Fielding

### ***THOSE WHO WAIT UPON THE LORD***

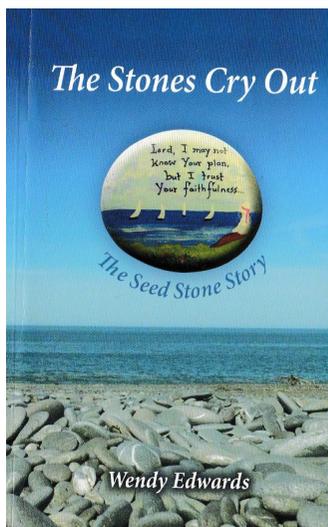
*After starting a new diet I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favourite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and as I approached, there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."*

*And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was! God is so Good!"*



## Book Review:

### **The Stones Cry Out** - by Wendy Edwards.



With many of us, gifts we have been born with can lie dormant for years. Sometimes it is out of the pressure of difficult situations that we recognise opportunities to deploy those gifts. When the author found that her role as caregiver constrained her ability to continue itinerant evangelical work, she sought God's guidance as to what she could do. She didn't have to wait long. Her daughter Laura was given a book on how to paint stones. Wendy soon recognised the opportunity that this presented. God had given her the ability to paint; now she knew why. She could use stone painting as a vehicle for sharing the Gospel! And so began the Seed Stone Ministry, which has been running continuously for seventeen years. This book traces the beginnings of the ministry in Christchurch, New Zealand, then its development nation-wide before expanding world-wide.

This book is for those who want to follow the mandate to 'Go ye into all the world', but have found themselves constrained from being able to follow that injunction. The reader cannot escape the sense of excitement as Wendy realistically, and with humour, relates and relays many of the stories that have been pivotal in propelling this ministry forward. The sheer variety of the ways that seed stones have been used to promote the Gospel of love will provide a raft of ideas - not only for those who wish to take part in this ministry, but also for others who are seeking creative ways to extend the kingdom of God through their individual talents.

Written by - Adrian Bell (Editor of The Stones Cry Out)

This book would make an inspiring Christmas gift!

Purchase for \$12 per book (includes postage) from Wendy Edwards  
[wledwards3@gmail.com](mailto:wledwards3@gmail.com) or phone: (03) 337-2006



WTC 15 held in August. Back Table - Ariel, Brendan, Wendy H, Wendy T and Maggie.

**IMPORTANT**

As your Cursillo Diocese is now receiving a PDF copy of the magazine and has been asked to distribute it electronically to all Cursillistas, you will have the following options when your subscription lapses:

Read it on your Diocesan website Cursillo section (where available) in PDF form.

Receive it in PDF form by email from your Cursillo Diocesan Communications Officer.

Request a hard copy to be printed by your Cursillo Diocesan Communications Officer (at a cost to be determined by your Cursillo Diocesan secretariat.)

Request a PDF copy from the editorial team to be sent directly to you (at no charge) – please provide an email address.

Request that a hard copy continues to be sent from the editorial team at a cost of \$15 per year (3 issues).

De Colores,  
Janice Thorne and Ariel McCracken  
Editorial team for Kiwi Cursillo



WTC 15 - Group photo at the venue, Houchen House in Hamilton.



Waiapu Anglican Cursillo  
C6 LD Janine Melville at the DDU, C6 SA Rev Tracey Peters at the DDU

