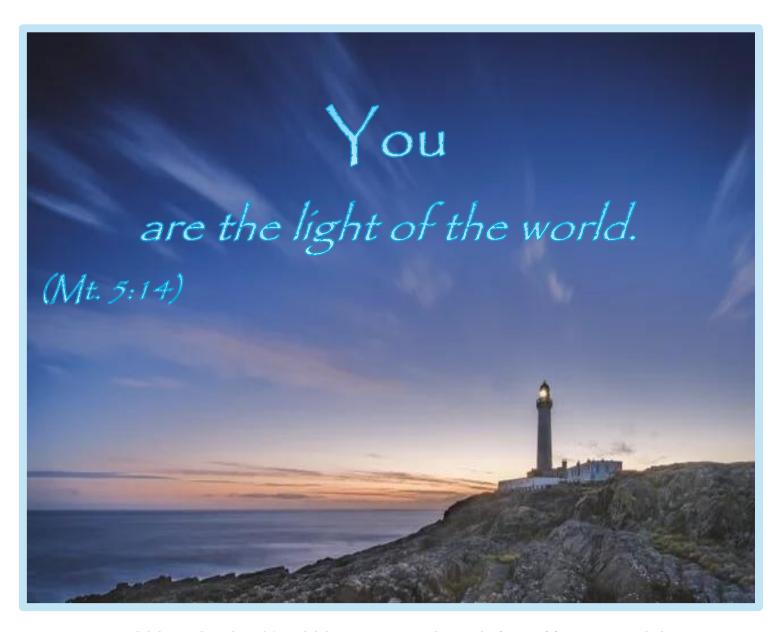
### Fourth Bridge September 2025



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# From Karen Ellis Lay Director

We are looking forward to Weekend 72 in October and welcoming our new participants. We will have Bishop Nicholas from Glasgow as our celebrant at the closing service. It would be lovely to see as many as possible for this service.

Life can be hectic at times and mine has certainly been! Caring for family is a big part of my life as well as finding time to do the things that I enjoy. Apparently, this era is called The Sandwich Years - having young grandchildren and an elderly parent. This made me think of the three-legged stool of prayer, study and action and me trying to find a balance between young, old and self. Plenty of juggling going on to ensure my stool doesn't fall over!

So, whatever challenging times you are going through, remember, these things are possible to cope with through following the Cursillo method and knowing God is there for us.

Ultreya

Karen

#### All are welcome

The closing service for weekend 72 will start at

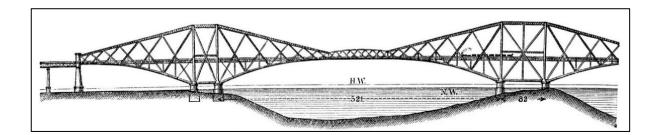
14:30 on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2025



Address: Carronvale Rd, Larbert FK5 3LH

Vikki Lay Rector for #72

# From Revd Heller Gonzalez Spiritual Director



#### The Bridge of Faith

The name of our magazine, Fourth Bridge, is a beautiful reminder of our journey together. Just as the great bridge connects communities that were once apart, our faith connects us to God and to one another. Life can sometimes feel like a daunting chasm to cross, full of challenges, uncertainties, and distractions. But with courage and a little help from friends, we can build bridges of friendship, grace, and trust.

Keep in mind that a single, loving act, a kind word, or a simple moment of prayer can be a strong support in someone's life. Don't underestimate the power of your witness in your environment. Your presence is a gift, and your faith is a light. The world is a much brighter place when bridges are built.

Whether you experienced a weekend years ago, are experiencing one for the first time, or are revisiting it, I want you to know that I am thinking of and praying for you. The Cursillo community is with you on this journey; you are not alone.

We walk the bridge of faith together, as members of one Body, the Church.

Heller.

"Forever Blue" – Ardnamurchan Point, the most westerly point of mainland Britain. Front Cover Photo by local photographer Steven Marshall <a href="https://www.smarshall-photography.com">www.smarshall-photography.com</a>

## From Jenny Wright Treasurer

A warm welcome to all new Cursillistas. I hope you have enjoyed and benefitted from your weekend.

We are in the position where we can offer the weekend to new participants, as a gift and so free of any charge. This is because of generous donations from other Cursillistas. Some give a one-off donation; others pay a monthly donation, anything from £3.00 to £15.00 each. Those who are taxpayers also allow us to claim gift-aid meaning that their donation is worth a further 25%. If you feel able to contribute to a future weekend, then that would be very welcome but there is no obligation to do this.

A big thank you to all those who do donate. Please contact me if you wish to use a gift aid form or Standing Orders form. <a href="mailto:Treasurer-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com">Treasurer-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com</a>

Retiring Treasurer - At end of the financial year (31st March 2026) I will prepare the accounts for audit, claim gift aid for that year and send the accounts to OSCR ready for the AGM in June. I will then retire. We are looking for someone to take on the accounts from 1st April 2026 and to possibly work alongside me before that for a smooth handover.

Jenny Wright



A Note from Mike Whitton - Keeping our records up to date.

For people to update their details, simply send an email to me at <u>Database-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com</u> detailing the change, will be fine. Alternatively, use the online form, using the QR code.

Or I could send a paper copy out if anyone prefers that. Just ask a friend who is used to emailing, to help you contact us, requesting a paper copy of the form to be sent out to you.

## From Andrew Elrick Secretary

The Provincial Ultreya & AGM was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025, at the Threshold Centre, in Perth. Returning to the traditional timing of the AGM in the middle of the year, we should hopefully avoid cancellations due to bad weather. There were thirteen Cursillistas from five areas in attendance.

The Secretariat met on Zoom on two occasions, from the AGM, once in July & again in August, where along with the routine business matters to be dealt with, time was spent ensuring that the Core Team was in place for Cursillo #72.

At the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025, I became Resources Secretary, taking over from Duncan McCosh, who took care of this responsibility for many years.

Currently, the job entails taking care of any printing requirements for the upcoming weekend, Cursillo # 72, and updating documentation as we move forward. The resource boxes, used for the weekends, which were previously stored with Duncan McCosh, have been condensed in number by Karen, and a final storage location will be determined after Cursillo #72.

#### News from around the country

#### Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire

The local Ultreyas for Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire were held in June and August, with around 14 to 16 Cursillistas present. This gave us the opportunity to introduce potential participants to the Cursillo movement.

St Mary's, Inverurie, now have several potential participants but who are unfortunately unable to commit to Cursillo #72 but will hopefully be better placed for a future weekend.

Andrew (On behalf of Duncan Cowie, Area Rep)

#### **Edinburgh and the Lothians**

I always look forward to an Ultreya, where we get an opportunity to visit other churches and meet up with Cursillistas who we haven't seen for a while.

This year, we had our January Epiphany Party at Inverard, Edinburgh, in March we went to Penicuik, and we were delighted when folks from the Borders, Edinburgh and North Berwick also travelled across the country to be with us.

At Haddington in March, Jim Lewis gave the Witness talk on Messy Vintage. Jim had chosen three hymns but one of the hymns he had selected was 'I Watch the Sunrise', by John Glynn. This is becoming a new favourite of mine since hearing it sung at the Ultreya. I would encourage



you to look up the words for this hymn as they are beautiful.

Then in August we held our annual Summer Ultreya by the Sea at North Berwick. The talk was given by Wendy Wilson and Bill Elliot gave the SA's response. Wendy's words were a reflection on her thoughts regarding the preparation for communion and we were all intently held on her words as she presented her talk in such a calm and quiet manner.

The autumn months will bring the 'Welcome home' Ultreyas, and although nothing has been confirmed yet, we will probably be meeting at St Mary's, Dalkeith to welcome back Vikki Ross as Lay Rector for 72. Further details will follow in due course.



## National Ultreya 2025

Durham Diocese hosted us this year and they did a grand job. Some of us attended choral evensong at the Cathedral on Friday night followed by a guided tour and then supper in the undercroft.

Saturday morning saw us at the ElvEt Methodist church where we had the usual Ultreya with floating group reunions followed by a witness talk regarding the travelling people by a Cursillista heavily involved with support work. He mentioned Rev Nicky Chater, chaplain to the travellers for the Durham diocese, who just happens to be one of the SA's for our next weekend; do talk to her about her work if you get the opportunity.

Notices included looking for volunteers to fill the posts of secretary and treasurer of BACC and a representative for Scotland and the North-East.

They had hoped to do a walk of witness from the church to the cathedral but the organisation involving road closures proved too difficult and so we paraded our banners around the Palace Green in front of the cathedral instead. We had a very joyous Eucharist service when at the end the BACC banner was handed to representatives of Chichester Diocese who are hosting the next National Ultreya on the weekend of 5th September 2026.



Seven of us from Scotland attended and were joined by an honorary Scot, Revd Alison Cozens (nee Fuller) who many may remember. It was a splendid celebration, meeting old friends and gaining new ones. Our Scottish banners were spotted by Alison Tam's sister and she came and introduced herself. Her name is Rosalyn to family and Ros to friends.

Jenny Wright Cursillo 29



## From Margaret McMeekin Editor of Fourth Bridge

Thank you to everyone who has sent me photos for the magazine. Some I will keep for another issue. A special thank you to Mike Whitton for submitting the front cover image, and to Marion Anderson's daughter Rachel Gent for allowing us to use her photos of the Bass Rock.

As the final stages of preparation are happening now for weekend 72, I will be sending out Palanca lists very soon. Keep holding us all in prayer. (Margaret)

### Cursillo 72

Here we are at the end of the second team meeting at St Mary's, Dalkeith led by Vikki Ross as Lay Rector.
Unfortunately, Jacqui and Jean aren't in the photo. Our thanks go out to Duncan Cowie who very quickly



gathered us together to take the first photo of team 72! Ultreya everyone.

#### Some notes from the Team

**Palanca** If convenient, please hand Palanca to a team member before they leave for the weekend. If this is not an option, please post Palanca to Jacqui Farquhar, Palanca Gofor, c/o Cursillo Weekend #72, Carronvale House, Carronvale Rd, Larbert FK5 3LH (To arrive by Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October).

#### Wake up

Carronvale is happy to welcome sponsors to join the group for breakfast but to assist with catering, please let Karen Ellis know if you intend to take up this offer.

#### Shona McGhie #71

St John of the Cross, a Spanish Priest in the 16th century, called spiritual disciplines a 'trellis' because they provide structure and support for spiritual growth. In the same way a wooden trellis supports a vine's growth and production of fruit; spiritual disciplines allow the soul to be tended by God so it can flourish. Spiritual disciplines are not the goal itself, rather they create space in us for God to connect with our soul.

If you're a naturally curious person, you'll enjoy learning things about God, people and the world around you. Those who know you well may call you a 'bookworm' a 'people watcher' then your spiritual discipline of STUDY is probably in good shape.

Perhaps you love to chat, be in company and are energised by spending time around others. If people close to you say you have the 'gift of the gab' or you are a 'chatterbox' then I'll take a guess that the spiritual discipline of PRAYER is exercised regularly.

Maybe people say you 'never sit still' or you're 'always on the go' then, even as you read this, your mind is likely being drawn to the next thing on your to-do list. If, this is the case I reckon your spiritual discipline of ACTION is probably quite healthy.

We ought not to be embarrassed about our natural strengths and preferences. However, when it comes to spiritual health we are only as resilient as our weakest spiritual discipline. That is why it is important to develop all three spiritual disciplines.

At Cursillo #71 the 3 spiritual disciplines were likened to the three legs of a stool. Each leg needed to help the stool function. If you'll allow me to take the analogy a little further...if one leg is missing, broken, weakened or shorter than the other two, the stool can't fulfil the purpose it was made for. It may remain standing but the minute a force comes against it, or any pressure is put on it the stool topples.

If we take the time to reflect on our own legs of STUDY, PRAYER and ACTION do any legs need a bit more attention or perhaps a visit to God's Repair Shop!

If it's STUDY, keep in mind that it's not just about reading the bible, important as it is. God can teach us through sermons, books, nature, other people, the birds, children, a song on the radio, work colleagues and even current affairs. God is teaching us in many ways and through the little happenings of everyday life. We just need to remain open to the possibility that God can communicate with us at any point, then we are in the right spiritual posture to learn.

We are not expected to study without any help. We have the Holy Spirit who brings to our remembrance all that Jesus teaches (Jn 14.26) and leads us into all truth (Jn 16.13). The Spirit also gives us the spiritual discernment to know when God is communicating to us (1 C 2.12-15).

If it's PRAYER that needs a bit more attention, be encouraged that God is the greatest listener we will ever know. We could literally talk for hours, and God won't grow weary or say, 'would you let me get a word in edgeways!' Or we could decide to be in God's company in total silence for days and God won't say 'Well, what's up with you, say something!'

The healthiest prayer is a conversation that involves speaking to and listening to God. Some people find prayer the hardest spiritual discipline because through it, God gently brings to our awareness our most tender spots, the fragility and vulnerability we try to hide from others and the uncomfortable truths about ourselves we would rather ignore or deny.

The truth is that God loves us, unconditionally, warts and all and we have all been adopted into God's family (Rom 8. 15-17). In that reassurance and confidence, we can be with God knowing that we are loved and accepted as we are.

If it's our spiritual discipline of ACTION that needs a bit more attention, then the Holy Spirit can help us with that too. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us the words to say when we are challenged about the actions we take for the Kingdom (Lk 12.12).

It is the Holy Spirit who gives us power to be a witness for Jesus (Acts 1.8) someone who can testify to what they have seen, heard and experienced of Jesus. The Holy Spirit also gives us boldness and courage to speak out the truth (Acts 4.31).

God worked through the Apostles in a mighty and miraculous way when the church was being birthed. The Holy Spirit placed thoughts, pictures, words and dreams into their mind. The Spirit laid people and places on their hearts to visit and through the Spirit they sensed in their gut the places or people to avoid. The Holy Spirit also led them to give and receive remarkable offerings and provisions and filled them with supernatural strength, wisdom, insight and foresight (Acts chapters 11 - 16).

May that inspire and encourage us rather than intimidate us. We have the same promise of the Holy Spirit; all God needs is our willingness to respond to prompts.

#### **Cursillo Contacts**

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If you experience any problems, please use the enquiries email address on our

website: https://www.cursilloinscotland.org/

Enquiries-CursilloinScotland@outlook.com

## Sing and Travel on



Augustine calls us to sing as we make our journey of faith, sing not for pleasure as we rest, but to cheer us in our labour as pilgrims are wont to sing, sing and travel on.

If you are making progress you are marching on, but progress in good progress,

in the true faith progress in the right living. Sing and travel on.

From 'A Little Book for New Theologians' by Kelly M Kapic.
This St Augustine quote about sing and travel on, I think this sums up Cursillo.

Many blessings love Vikki Ross, Lay Rector for Weekend # 72.