

What is Cursillo?

A movement of the Church that helps Christians to **develop their faith and witness** to the risen Christ.

Pronounced *kur-see-yo*, Cursillo is Spanish for *a short course*. It is one of many *Fourth Day* movements around the world which originated from the first *Cursillo de Cristiandad* ('a short course in being a Christian') in post-war Spain. It is approved by the Diocesan Bishop and has operated in Ely since 1999.

Cursillo helps us...

- ✦ Grow into a deeper relationship with God through the person of Jesus Christ.
- ✦ Discover our vocation and develop our individual gifts for Christian service and leadership.
- ✦ Become more effective witnesses to Christ in our lives.
- ✦ Bring about and strengthen Christian commitment within a community of faith.
- ✦ Build up the witness of the Church in the world, that both may be renewed and transformed.

The Cursillo Weekend

A Cursillo weekend is **three days long**, from early Thursday evening to late Sunday afternoon. It is run by a team of lay people and clergy.

The programme is busy and varied but includes regular time for worship, prayer and quiet reflection. The Eucharist is celebrated daily.

You will hear a series of short talks by lay and clergy team members covering elements of Christian life and faith, including: *ideals, grace, sacraments, obstacles to grace, the life of prayer, study, action and lay people in the Church*. These are discussed in small groups, and you can respond creatively if you wish.

Learning, praying, sharing, singing, and living together helps us to discover afresh what it means to say, "*We are the body of Christ*". A Cursillo weekend reminds us of Christ's endless love for us played out through Christian Community.

However, the Cursillo Weekend is not an end in itself. It is part of the preparation for what comes after!

After the Weekend

The aim of Cursillo is to live out our Christian witness. Members are encouraged to develop a rule of life that embraces prayer, study and action. So we hope you would build on the weekend to grow in faith and to develop your gifts as you serve the Lord in all aspects of your life - family, workplace, church and community.

As we go back into the world after the three-day weekend, to love and serve the Lord, we call this the *Fourth Day*. Cursillo is sustained by the Church's teachings, prayer, the sacraments, spiritual direction, and the mutual support of fellow-Christians. It provides support to strengthen us for service through:

- ✦ **Group reunions** – regular short meetings of 3-4 people for mutual encouragement, in a framework of prayer, study and action.
- ✦ **'Ultreyas'** – larger meetings held every few weeks offering informal worship, Christian witness and sharing in small groups.

A Cursillo friend will be glad to take you along to find out more.

Is Cursillo for You?

Cursillo is for people who are already committed in their Christian lives and are now seeking renewal and growth in their discipleship.

You must be 18 or over and communicant in/with the Anglican Church.

All applicants are sponsored by someone who has already completed a Cursillo Weekend. (This is about advice and practical help, not usually financial support.) If you don't know anyone who could sponsor you, please contact us so we can link you up with someone. You also need to tell your priest that you are applying, as a matter of courtesy.

You should be prepared for your active Cursillo participation and Christian witness to continue after the Weekend.

Applications are also warmly invited from clergy members.

Couples are encouraged to attend a weekend together, but this isn't essential.

Costs

Ely Cursillo weekends are normally held at the Bishop Woodford Retreat and Conference Centre in Ely, for which we have to meet full board and accommodation costs. We do not charge for our own running expenses.

Your sponsor will give you up-to-date information; or else ring us for details. But cost must not be a decisive factor, and there are funds which can help if the fee is a problem. In such a case, you should first of all talk to your sponsor.

Contact information

Booking Secretaries

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CURSILLO IN ELY DIOCESE

Jesus said: "I have come so that they may have life and have it abundantly." (*John 10.10*)