

CURSILLO®

IN THE DIOCESE

OF LEEDS



“Through Cursillo the love of God is experienced afresh, an experience which draws us into prayer and compassionate action. Because of this, Cursillo is a much-needed instrument for the renewal of the life of the Church today, and one for which I give thanks.”

Archbishop of Canterbury The Most Rev'd Justin Welby

“Many dioceses across England have Cursillo groups and I am pleased that Leeds is one of them. Cursillo is a helpful way to encourage people in their Christian journey, fostering a spirit of fellowship and pilgrimage. This all helps to fulfil the Diocese of Leeds' vision of encouraging confident Christians, growing churches and transforming communities.”

Archbishop of York The Most Rev'd Stephen Cottrell

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is 'A movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone.'

The Cursillo Movement began in Spain after the Second World War and made its way to England via America in 1981. The Spanish word “Cursillo” means a ‘short course’, but a Cursillo course is much more than that. It is an experience which, in the Diocese of Leeds, happens once or twice a year.

The Course timetable

We begin at tea time on Friday. There is time to settle in and to meet others who will be sharing the Course with you – some will be there as fellow participants; others are members of the team that will be serving you throughout the weekend.

All members of the team have previously been Pilgrims on a Cursillo course and will have been working and praying together for some time in preparation for your time at Wydale Hall. You will soon discover that the age range of the people there is wide and that we all come from a variety of church backgrounds which all help to enrich the weekend.

Following the Friday evening meal, the leader for the course will introduce the team and explain more about the course. Two scriptural meditations follow and a short evening service. There may be a period of silence which will last overnight.

Saturday begins at an early hour (so be prepared!) and you will be given a slight lie-in on Sunday morning. Saturday begins with a Eucharist and closes with a service in the Chapel. Sunday begins with non-Eucharistic worship in order that the course reaches its climax in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday afternoon.

Teaching, praying and sharing

During the course you will hear five meditations and fifteen short talks. (Yes, it sounds a lot but it's amazing how they fly by!) The meditations and five of the talks are given by the clergy and the other ten talks are given by lay members of the team. During the course the Pilgrims work together in small table groups and there is an opportunity for discussion after each talk and to respond to the talks in a variety of ways. (Don't worry – you will not be put on the spot.) Each table is assigned two leaders who will help facilitate discussion.

The team is there for you throughout the course and if you would value a chance to talk/pray/make confession, the clergy will make time available for you.

During the course we will worship and pray together; we will learn together; we will share meals together; we will have lots of fun together; and we may even share a few tears together. The programme is busy but there are opportunities for quiet periods as well. In other words, Cursillo is a multiple experience which we go through individually and together as a community.

Cursillo Courses are soaked in prayer – people will be praying for you from the moment your application is received.

We cannot promise that every single aspect of a Cursillo weekend will be just right for you, but many people have found their Cursillo Course to be a highly significant moment in their lives. Most pilgrims experience the drenching of God's love. For some, the course is a point of healing; for others it is a point at which important life decisions are made. We simply ask you to be open to God's agenda during the weekend so that you can receive from Him.

After the course

Cursillo offers to Christians, and to the Church, a support and encouragement structure based upon a regular service in churches around the Diocese. There will also be the opportunity to join a small group in your locality.

In summary

Cursillo offers:

An opportunity to grow in faith.

A way of experiencing Christian Community.

Help in our spiritual journey and Christian witness.

We hope very much that you will join us on a Cursillo Course soon.

Whether you do or not, may God bless you richly.

Leeds Anglican Cursillo is a Diocesan movement and operates with the blessing of our Diocesan Bishop.



Contacts:

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