

## CHRISTCHURCH CURSILLO

Cursillo ( a Spanish word meaning ' a short course ' ) is a movement of the Anglican church under the oversight of each diocesan bishop. Its goal is to help the church in its mission to bring the world and the whole of life under the Lordship of Christ. Its method is to empower Christians through participation in a three-day course which provides the vision and offers an on-going process for achieving this goal. Cursillo equips Christians to live out our baptismal calling to serve Christ in the world.

2019 seemed to have been a thoroughly normal year as far as Christchurch Cursillo was concerned. Small groups continued to meet regularly and four regional meetings were held in Kaiapoi, Ashburton, Avonside and Redcliffs. Our annual 3-day live-in course was held at 'Blue Skies', Kaiapoi in September. It proved to be a very special time of spiritual growth both for those attending the course and also for the team who worked so hard to run it successfully.

With the nationwide lockdown plans for 2020 have of course had to be considerably adjusted. Small groups have had to find various ways to encourage each other and recently have appreciated actually being able to meet together. The 3-day course had been postponed from early September to early November to give the team time to prepare and hopefully people time to adjust to a post-lockdown life. It is planned to have an event before then to thank David and Glenda Prosser for their three fruitful years as National Lay Directors for Cursillo, and also to welcome Mike Morley-Bunker, who is in the process of taking over from me as the Lay Director for Christchurch Diocese.

Cursillo leaders have been well aware of the need for rejuvenation for a number of years and the issue has been discussed at length, but without much in the way of tangible results unfortunately. At meetings of the National Cursillo Council the problem has been discussed and various practical issues looked into such as length of the course, terminology used, the greater use of technology and the appropriateness of some of the activities for a younger age group. Hopefully many of these ideas can be translated into action and we will experience younger people participating in the future.

Stephanie Johnston  
Diocesan Lay Director