



**A WARM INVITATION TO A
Clergy Cursillo “Taster Morning”
ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL – CHURCH STREET
WHITSTABLE THURSDAY 22nd May 2025**

**From Rev Simon Tillotson, Canterbury Cuorsillo Spiritual Director -
simon@teamvicar.org**

Dear Friends,

1st February 2025

On behalf of the Cursillo Secretariat for the Canterbury Diocese I would like to invite you to our Clergy Taster Day on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at All Saints Church Hall Whitstable CT5 1PG from 9.30am to 1pm.

The morning is designed for any clergy person in the Diocese who is in leadership role in their church or group of churches and would consider introducing Cursillo into their own church or churches.

The Cursillo community in the Anglican Diocese of Canterbury is made up of Christians from this Diocese, the Diocese of Rochester, and beyond. All the community members have experienced a ‘Cursillo weekend’.

We have the blessing of Bishop Rose who authorised me as the Diocesan Spiritual Director for a three year term in 2024. I work alongside the Lay Director Lin Connor who heads up Cursillo for the Diocese, as Cursillo is principally a lay led movement, and our committee, known as the Secretariat. I am grateful to the Bishop’s Office and to Orla for allowing this invitation to be made known to you.

Cursillo weekends have been happening in the Diocese of Canterbury since 1990 with the full support of the bishops and clergy. Many Christians, who have themselves experienced the weekend have felt empowered to take a more active roles in the life of their own church. Some have felt called to ordained or reader ministry, and nearly all have felt the need to strengthen and deepen their understanding of God’s will and plan for them.

I first came across Cursillo when I was vicar of Aylesford in the Diocese of Rochester. I noticed how energised and full of love the Cursillistas I encountered were and what a great impact they were having in their local church. As the Diocese seeks to reach its three Bold Outcomes we need energised laity to assist in this and Cursillo is I believe one of the tools in God’s toolbox that can help lead congregations into renewal and growth. Clergy oversight in each parish is vital to this work. Involvement in Cursillo also helps give new life to clergy too! I speak from experience!

Of course, Cursillo is not for everyone, but if you would like to find out more please may I suggest you first visit our website

www.canterburyanglicancursillo.co.uk

You may also wish to visit the national website

www.anglicancursillo.uk

Having explored these websites, if you are interested in attending the Taster Day it is completely free of charge – all you need to do is let me know by emailing me at simon@teamvicar.org.

I promise you we will explore Cursillo in depth at the morning and the morning will finish with a light lunch which should conclude by 1pm.

If you are wondering why this is aimed just at clergy this is because it is about how to introduce Cursillo into a church setting. Although Cursillo is principally a lay movement anyone attempting to bring Cursillo into a church setting needs to respect the leadership of each church. Our need therefore in the Diocese is to involve more clergy in Cursillo at this current time. That said, if clergy wish to bring lay leaders with them, for example a churchwarden or Reader, that would be fine.

I look forward to hearing from you. Alternatively if you are not able to come but would like a Zoom call with me or to meet me to chat, I would be only too happy.

May God bless you in your ministry. By the way please do not feel the need to reply if you do not intend to be involved or come to the morning. We are all busy people and I fully don't expect you to reply unless you are interested in coming along or want to discuss this with me separately if you are not able to attend.



Yours in Christ and as we say in Cursillo, "Ultreya"!

Revd Simon Tillotson

Team Vicar for All Saints Whitstable and St Peter's Swalecliffe in the Whitstable Team Ministry

Area Dean Reculver Diocese

Canterbury Diocese Spiritual Director for Canterbury Cursillo

Canterbury Archdeaconry Representative on Archbishop's Council (Diocese of Canterbury)



Lin Connor, Lay Director of Canterbury Cursillo and Rev Simon Tillotson, Spiritual Director of Canterbury Cursillo being Commissioned in 2024 by Bishop Rose