

## What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is a weekend event during which Christians explore their faith in all its dimensions in a prayerful and supportive environment. The name comes from Spanish – a 'short course' – and is pronounced 'kur-see-yo' for this reason.

Cursillo is also a way of life, something that might begin months or years before someone's attendance at the weekend and in which they may be involved for the rest of their life. It's led jointly by lay and ordained Christians.

## Cursillo helps us to...

- 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.



## Costs

Ely Cursillo weekends are normally held at the Pleshey Retreat Centre near Chelmsford, for which we have to meet full board and accommodation costs. We ask for a contribution from pilgrims. Your sponsor will give you up-to-date information; or contact 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.

For more information and for dates of upcoming events, visit the Ely Cursillo website: [www.elycursillo.co.uk](http://www.elycursillo.co.uk)  
Or contact [elycursillo@gmail.com](mailto:elycursillo@gmail.com).



Registered charity 1093788 / 2023



## ATTENDING A CURSILLO





## The Cursillo Weekend

A Cursillo weekend is either two or three days long, running from early Thursday or Friday 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. 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!

## 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 a communicant in/with the Anglican Church. All applicants are sponsored by someone who has already completed a Cursillo Weekend. This is so that you can find out more about Cursillo and decide whether or not it's for you, and so that you will have someone to pray for and support you before and after the weekend in your spiritual journey. 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 rector/vicar that you are applying as a matter of courtesy, and we encourage you to discuss it fully with them so that you can have their support and prayers too. You should be prepared for your active Cursillo participation and Christian witness to continue after the weekend. Applications are also warmly invited from clergy. It's entirely appropriate for couples to attend a weekend together.



## 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 - home, workplace, church and community.

You will also discover an active and encouraging community in Ely Cursillo, both in small groups and in larger events, and we hope you'll become involved in that. Your sponsor will be able to tell you more.

