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CONTRIBUTIONS

Happenings, poems, letters, photos are invited from Cursillistas. Articles should generally be a maximum 300 words,1 page. If typing use simple formatting. If e-mailing attach in Word document or send as part of message.



Please forward articles to the editor: TBA (Until advised please send to below address)

HAVE YOU MADE A CONTRIBUTION FOR 2015?

Your \$20 contribution goes towards Cursillo expenses for current year.

If you have not - please send your name address and \$20 to address below. (Please make cheques payable to 'Newcastle Anglican Cursillo)

If you wish to pay your contribution or ANY payment by Direct Debit

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<u>you must</u> email Noeline Darcy <u>n.darcy@bigpond.com</u> (Treasurer) with the details - thanks. Mail to:

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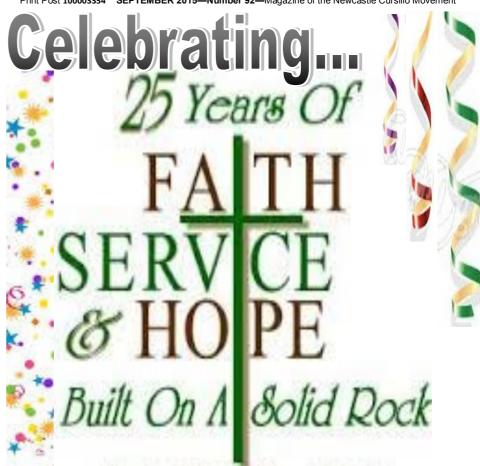
WEBSITE INFORMATION

Anglican Cursillo in Diocese of Newcastle (Including all Application Forms)

http://www.cursillonewcastle.org.au/ - Resources—Diary— News - Encourager—Secretariat—On our website we also have Links to other Dioceses and to our National Cursillo website (featuring national events, contacts etc.)



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Spring/Summer 2015

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Wyong. Vacant

who call on you. Psalm 86:5

Diocesan Spiritual Director Stephen Niland - Men's 7, 1992 -

Table of St Luke

Living in Babylon - being faithful to Christ in a hostile world.



Each month we start our Diocesan Secretariat meeting with a meditation. During the course of this year, we have undertaken a series of meditations based on the first letter of Peter - a concentrating on the persecuted church. Some of you may have done these in your parishes.

Called "Living in Babylon" we journeyed through 1 Peter over 8 sessions. In the introduction to this journey, we are told that: The New Testament uses the name "Babylon" to refer to a place of exile and suffering for Christians. All over the world today, believers are living in their own "Babylons", where we endure contempt, rejection and hostility for Jesus' sake. But we are called to stay faithful to Him in the midst of this hostile world.

Our brothers and sisters who suffer the most because of their of Christian faith desperately need our prayers - to help them stand firm in the face of their persecutions. And we need also to pray for ourselves wherever God has put us, so that we too can resist the pressure to fall away.

The first letter of Peter was written to nurture its readers' faith and discipleship, and guide them in how to live as they struggled with pressure and hostility from their neighbours. So it can also inspire and direct our prayers as we bring the needs of persecuted Christians to "the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1:3)' (Continued over page)



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During our Cursillo 3 days we learn about the tripod - the 3 things we need to keep our faith strong and balanced - Piety (holy living), Study, and Apostolic Action. In our 4th day we need to continue to live it continue to learn about it and a



continue to live it, continue to learn about it and continue to put it all into action. At the time of writing, our Sunday Lectionary readings have included passages from the book of James – and James, in chapter 2 at verses 14-17 says this:

wild What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." We need to walk the walk as well as talk the talk - not only in our local parishes and communities - but in our national and international contexts as well.

May God bless you as you continue to walk with Him and care for others. Fr Steve



BRIAN WALSH—Diocesan Co-Lay Director GOD IS REALLY, REALLY GOOD.

Have you ever been looking forward to a well earned holiday, salivating about the sumptuous meals, excited about being introduced to new places and experiences, meet-

ing new friends and being absolutely overjoyed at the prospects of all that lies ahead in the great unknown and then been let down at the last minute when you miss the flight to your holiday destination. Well, that happened to us recently and without going into some of the controversial details we were devastated and all of a sudden our excitement turned very quickly into utter despair, the glossy photos of our destination quickly became dim, distant and uninviting. (Continued on page 5)

LAKE MACQUARIE DEANERY ULTREYA DATES 2015.

This year, we will hold Ultreyas on both Friday nights at 6 for 6.30pm and Sunday afternoons, at 1.30 for 2.00 pm.

Redhead 25th Sept. Friday night Hutchison St. Charlestown 30th October Friday night St. Alban's Cl.

Sunday afternoons will have an afternoon tea, Friday nights will be tea.

CENTRAL COAST ULTREYA dates for 2015.

Sat . . . Nov 14th 10am—noon St Christophers BATEAU BAY

NEWCASTLE ULTREYA dates for 2015.

Thank you to all who help in making arrangements for the Ultreyas.

Friday September 18 - Kotara South (Synod in October?)

Friday 16 October - ANEW

LIFE IS NOTHING Without God!

Oh, look! A little bit of space left for me to fill! —here are my final words of wisdom: Read in a book many years ago and never forgotten (apologies to St Johners who have heard this quoted from me over and

over) Some talk about PIE in the SKY when we DIE but we have to make life STEAK on our PLATE

while we WAIT! It's GOoD advice—and please remember: Today is a GOOD day to have a GOoD day! A fillet steak kind of day!

De Colores

may the colours of God's Love go with you

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Page 4

Clouds bring rain and shade. Who taught them how to E vaporise and to pick up fresh water and carry it to places which need it? Is snow just a winter decoration? Or does it sit **E** on mountaintops waiting for the warm spring sun to melt it into grains needed for the streams and farms below? A very lovely accident! And why does it melt at just the right time for the young crops to drink?



A salmon will swim upstream to have its babies and die, and it will iump up fish ladders to do it. How does a salmon know that we need more salmon?

Why do eels swim all the way from European rivers to Bermuda to breed? And how do the little eels find their way back to Europe all by themselves? Who teaches a house dog to tear up strips of paper in a fluffy pile for puppies about to be born?

THE HUMAN HEART will beat for 70-80 years without faltering. How does it get sufficient rest between beats? A kidney will filter poison from the blood and leave good things alone. How does it know one from the other? Who gave the human tongue flexibility to form words, and a brain to understand them but denied it to all the animals?

Illnesses have specific symptoms. Why this warning? Why not many illnesses with identical symptoms? Or no symptoms? Who showed a womb how to take the love of two persons, and keep splitting a tiny ovum until, in 7 time a baby would have the proper number of fingers, eyes, and hair in the right places and come into the world when it is strong enough to ໍ່ໄກ sustain life?

IT'S ALL ACCIDENTAL! THERE IS NO GOD.....

THAT'S WHAT SOME PEOPLE SAY?

S Yet, with all of this abundant evidence of God, man cannot know God until by faith he comes to know God's Son, The Saviour, Jesus Christ.....this story continues.....

....WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD...

AND WE **KNOW THAT** HE IS GOOD.



It's funny because we ask God to CHANGE

OUR SITUATION

was reminded of the same feeling I experienced a short time ago when we as a team were told that the particular Men's Cursillo we were completing preparation for had just been cancelled as there were insufficient candidates applying to go. If you haven't been in that position it is difficult to describe, but at the very least the feeling is devastating and in this case was further exacerbated knowing that there are hundreds of potential candidates out there waiting to be

invited. Even the last couple of Men's weekends have been barely economic (not that that is of a concern) because of the poor numbers of attendees and another weekend was cancelled because of minimal support.

I'm writing this at the beginning of August 2015 as we head for the final sprint to W44A and Mens44 so you can imagine how excited I feel, learning that there are 15 women and 8 MEN candidates that are attending the upcoming weekend with possibly more to come.

What a blessing! Our prayers for ongoing support and participation have been answered.

I feel that the stigma of secrecy that has undeservedly been associated with the Cursillo model is finally beginning to melt away. It is my hope and prayer that this awakening will continue to gather strength well into the future. This of course depends largely on us and our regard for the cause. I believe, it is now time for us as committed Cursillisters to capitalize on this current momentum and bring a timely revival back into our beloved Cursillo movement.

We have been praying for a revival within our movement now for some time and it is not difficult to recognize that God is now answering our prayer.

As a way of giving thanks let us show our support by attending the various functions at hand, supporting 17 the weekend, the Ultreyas, encouragement days and KFV more especially the support for our new veterans including the fourth day. (Continued on page 6)

OPTION,

NECESSITY



I can't help but repeat that there are many, many, possible candidates still out there that will benefit greatly by an introduction to the Cursillo model and there are sadly many parishes that do not yet recognize the importance of $\frac{5}{8}$ Cursillo and how participation in the program can enrich the = life of a parish.

Cursillo apart from being a great stimulus for individual Christian growth is also a well tried a tested training ground for our church leaders.

It is important to make it known that Cursillo is not an exclusive club for "Holy-er than thou" Christians but an encompassing movement which forms only a part of our Christian faith journey and in so doing enables our Christian brothers and sisters an opportunity to come closer to God with a profound recognition of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Oh, and if you are wondering about the outcome from our bitter holiday experience, then don't be concerned because we had unexpected new experiences and arrived there only a day late, but barely noticed the 2 missed day. We had a wonderful and blessed holiday with lots of great \ddot{a} memories to cherish.

That is a way God can work, we sometimes have to experience the bad to appreciate the good. Bad experiences in life are soon erased by that H which is good. Keep praying!!

Romans 8:28. "All things work for good to those who love God."

And from the lyrics of Don Moen:-

GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME. (look it up on Utube- a great song)

"God is good all the time

He put a song of praise in this heart of mine God is good all the time

Through the darkest night, his light will shine God is good, God is good all the time"

God Bless and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Brian Walsh, Co-Lay director Cursillo, Newcastle Anglican Diocese.

THERE IS NO GOD?

All the wonders around you are accidental. No almighty hand made a thousand billion stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them on their steady courses. The earth magnetised itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. Infants teach themselves to cry when they are hungry or hurt. A small flower invented itself so that we could extract digitalis for sick hearts.

The top few inches of our land just happen to have topsoil, without which we would have no vegetables to eat, no grass for the animals whose meat is our food. No one put oil just deep enough in the earth to keep until we need it. The wind which carries the delicate seedling to a fertile place was devised by us. The inexhaustible envelope of air-only 50 miles deep, and of exactly the right density to support human life—is just another law of physics. But who invented.....physics? Who made the bank deposits of coal and zinc and iron and uranium inside the earth? Nobody! It was all just another priceless accident.

Water expands when it freezes, while other substances contract. This makes ice lighter than water and keeps it floating on the surface. Otherwise lakes would be solid ice down to the bottom all year, and no fish could survive. Who made this arrangement?

Why does the earth spin at a given speed without ever slowing up, so that we get seasons? No one really knows the why and how of the magnetic poles. But there they are. Who put them there?

How about the sugar thermostat below the human pancreas? It maintains a level of sugar in the human blood sufficient for energy, but without it all of us would fall into a coma and die. No one created it? The sun stokes a fire just warm enough to sustain us on earth, but not hot enough to fry us or cold enough to kill us. Who keeps the fire constant?

What makes a light bulb light? Electricity? What is it? Who showed it how to travel at lightning speed, making right angle turns and twists on a piece of wire without flying off? By the way, what is light? Who invented eyes to see liaht?

A young bird will migrate from Canada to Argentina—who showed it what course, what speed, and why it must do this? Swallows return on a given day. What calendar do they use? Man has a conscience—no animal has.

Who engineered this? And who put the medicines in herbs and weeds? Who put the healing power into penicillin?



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Where did the seeds come from for the first tree so that we would have shelter? Did someone devise fire to keep us warm? For countless centuries in countless places the forests and the vegetation perpetuated themselves without man's help. Why did they not die of blight and flame and neglect?

good: He hears and answers because

The ENCOURAGER

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENCOURAGER EDITORS...
The very first ENCOURAGER MAGAZINE was printed in SPRING 1990—the Editor for No 1—No.

17 was Neredah Gill. From No 17— No. 45 the Editor was Russ Cooper. (Phew!!) An Editorial Committee, consisting of

Ruth Brand, Noel Herbert, Robyn Ashley Brown and Carol Wills, were responsible for Encouragers No. 46—No 53. Encouragers No. 54—56 the team consisted of Ruth McFarlane, Noel, Robyn and Carol and No. 57 was put together by Ruth, Robyn and Carol. From No. 58—70 Dorothy Harman was Editor and then No 70—80 the Editor was Helen Fraser (our current DLD) and then yours truly from No. 81 to this current issue No 92.

IS GOD CALLING YOU to be the new Editor?

Typing the ENCOURAGER MAGAZINE has been a real joy and privilege for me. It's been so exciting each time to get a THEME from God on which to base each issue (not once has He let me down, but then I didn't expect Him to—I sometimes have trouble listening or reading the signs!) - I've so enjoyed having more contact with other cursillistas, by e-mail, snail mail or by attending more (than normal) Cursillo events (in the hope of picking up some interesting things to report) ©©©©©) Thank you everyone for the great encouragement I've received over the last 4 years. It's been a GOoD experience. I pray the next Editor will enjoy the experience as much as I have. Special thanks to the awesome DLD's during this time for the proof-reading and many corrections—it is much appreciated.

This is over and out for me, thanks again.....I love you all $\$ DE COLORES, xoxox



I am GOD'S Child.
Lavished in LOVE.
Gifted with GRACE.
Showered with MERCY.
Overflowing with
HOPE.

THE GLORY, FOREVER!

"Article and image courtesy of the Port Stephens Examiner".

VALE BOB ROYAL "Mr (Bob) Royal, an active member of
the community for the past 35 years, died from a heart
attack while playing golf in Wyong on Thursday, August 20. He
was 68. His funeral was held at St John's Anglican Church in
Raymond Terrace on August 27.

Born in Toowomba, Queensland, in 1947, Mr Royal served in the RAAF for 25 years. There, he met and married wife Sue and raised three children - Elizabeth, James and Olivia.

He was a member of Lions for 38 years, Medowie rugby union club, Tilligerry RSL Sub-Branch, Rural Fire Service, Tanilba Bay Golf Club and The Tilligerry Habitat.

He was a convener for Clean Up Australia Day and a founder of the inaugural 2015 Tilligerry Lions Club fishing competition.

. A committed Christian, he was a licensed lay pastor within the Anglican church and a volunteer for St Vincent de Paul Society.

Mr Royal's faith motivated him in the community and beyond through the Kairos prison ministry, at Cessnock Correctional Centre.

Daughter Elizabeth said her father was a "loving husband, proud father and grandfather, faithful friend and compassionate companion to anyone who needed it".

"He will be sorely missed by many people in the local and wider community."

Bob was also a committed Cursillista, as is wife Sue. Sue was due to be on W44a team but sadly was replaced a few days before the week-end began. Sue was LD for W43 and her theme was "Bowed down, Lifted up", from 1 Peter 5:6-7. Sue wrote: "We humble ourselves, to seek, to discern and to do God's will, and it is not in our strength or wisdom, but God's hand upon us at the right time and place. God wants us to bring our concerns to Him and give us a purposeful life."

Our heartfelt sympathy, love and prayers are with you and family at this time Sue and we pray you will rest in God's strength and wisdom, knowing, as you take any concerns to Him His hand will be upon you at this time and in this place you now find yourself.

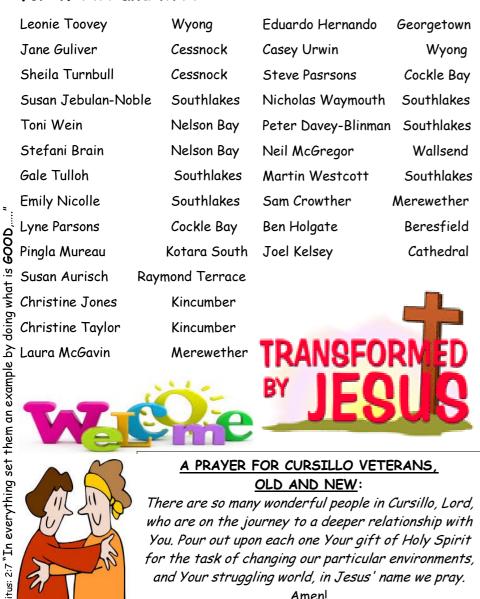
De Colores & much love our sister in Christ. xo

The Encourager—Spring/Summer 2015

DONE
THOU
SERVANT

(Wel) COME, LISTEN, LIVE

A BIG welcome to new candidates for W44A and M44







Christine Jones

Christine Taylor

Laura McGavin

A PRAYER FOR CURSILLO VETERANS. OLD AND NEW:

There are so many wonderful people in Cursillo, Lord, who are on the journey to a deeper relationship with You. Pour out upon each one Your gift of Holy Spirit for the task of changing our particular environments, and Your struggling world, in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen!

Why is it when a man retires and time is no longer of importance, his colleagues usually present him with a watch?

CONGRATULATIONS to our Proctor,

MICHAEL SINCLAIR who recently retired! OOoops! no he didn't! Well, yes he did, for a few weeks, but PSSC couldn't do without him and he is back at work! All the best for future retirement x

2 Michael and a life of luxury + (we can all dream!). When I asked Michael (told him really!) about writing above he said I must write the word **PERMANENTLY** (italics!, underlined!, bold!, caps!) after his retirement x 2!!! @@@@@

(Please note: change in contact details for Michael on page 2.)



Our last Encouragement Renewal Day for 2015 was on 11th July at Lakes Anglican, Kanwal - in some ways it was disappointing because the numbers attending were few - but in another way those who attended felt greatly uplifted because of the small group dynamic of all relating to one

God's Work Our Hands another.

Our SD was Revd Val McDonald who celebrated the Eucharist and inspired us. Some thoughts from the day...

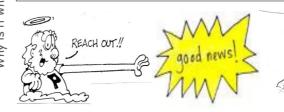
"We have a great story to tell - so let's tell it".

'We are about promoting God's business'. 'There is not a Saint without a past and there is not a sinner without a future".

And from the 'starfish story' -"it made a difference to that one".



Some people decide to be saved at the 11th hour but die at 10.30!



The Encourager—Spring/Summer 2015



-GOD'S

More memories (see Encourager 91) continuing on the COME, LISTEN, LIVE theme

AN OPEN INVITATION: "COME TO THE WATERS"

AN ANGLICAN ENCOUNTER of August 1997 in

the possession of Cursillo veteran, Nettie Sullivan, has great reports of the visit of then Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, as keynote speaker at the Mission for the celebrations of the 150th year of our Diocese. (In the same issue is an eighth page advertisement for the 1997/8 Cursillo MW 20, 21, and 22 Weekends at Lochinvar and Morpeth.)

Nettie's Encounter copy describes the designing and making of the 24 beautiful banners for the 1997 Mission which decorated the venues: City Hall, West's, and Newcastle University Great Hall. Designers and artists, Nettie, Sara, Linda Rees, Cathy Chegwidden, and Maureen Hazelwood used hundreds of hours, and hundreds and thousands of meters of material and thread. The four "Come" and four "Grevillea" banners were screen printed on blue backgrounds; the four "Listen" and four "Live" banners were machine appliqued on yellow and green, and the main work carried out by these women of Cursillo. Sara Powter's photograph album and church and various newspaper memorabilia also remind us that Cursillo is continuously involved in proclaiming the message of Christ in great as well as small mission

events over time.

The lovely wors the choreographed by Waters...come, list event the message The lovely worship dance group pictured in articles and photos choreographed by Katrina Lentfer, used the theme song, "Come to the Waters...come, listen, live!" In the banner sets purchased after the event the message lives on.

The greatest heritage we have to give is the heritage of lives lived. And these can only be told in stories. So often we hold back. We think



others don't care to hear our stories, aren't interested in our joys, have no time to pray over our pain. But if the stories are not shared, the joys are not celebrated, the pains are not revealed, the world grows dim and cold and empty, and something of the precious gift of life is lost.

privilege'....and what a great privilege it is for us all to support and encourage and love our fellow brothers and sisters in all walks of life.... The Candidates said...... "Thank You God:..... Revealed things I should be looking @ in my life....Open, trusting in God....Pretty daunting—a challenge but it was great....Extraordinary. I'll never be the same again.....Awaking of the Holy Spirit in me I'm renewed, excited my life has meaning.....I feel His love..... "Wow" incredible, what a week-end..... Height, breadth and depth....Lots of laughs and tears....Come with a closed mind thought it would be like a 'Christian camp', it was funny, there's a sense of humour, I met some really good blokes, I can't explain what happened—I was different.....Emotional week-end.....Opened my eyes-very powerful.....What I enjoyed was the healing session.....Every person realised their negativity and we felt the light.....Its' a journey—God has lead us o here and I am thankful for being here.....A moving time.....Made some great friendships.....Can't put into words.....

The LD's said (the weekend, W44a and M44) was 'a

Emotional awakening and kick in the butt.....Moving, wonderful experience..... Tears of sadness, tears of joy, tears for wonderful people.... I don't know what happened this week-end but something has....Rainbow Angels....Experiencing the Holy spirit.....Singing and love over the weekend was amazing.....Full of surprises, I'm meant to be here.....We all held each other up I will never forget it I blame the Holy Spirit 'cos I'm here.....Uplifting—have never felt so much Christian love before.....A roller coaster ride.....Thankful to the people who have a calling for the weekend on their life.....An honour to be here, a great experience.....A sense of calm.....I can support people.....A lot to digest and weeks for the pennies to drop. Feeling extremely blessed—feel part of a bigger family and the church as a whole".....and after all those wise, meaningful, heart-warming, encouraging words of wisdom....

'Someone?' said grace: "Bless this bunch as they munch and crunch."!!!!! ©©©© THANK YOU to Jane S for writing down words from candidates xoxox ©©©©©

'E ARE COUNTING ON HIM!

The Encourager—Spring/Summer2015



There is no wrong time to





25 years ago—In Encourager No. 1—The Rt Reverend A.C. Holland, Bishop of Newcastle wrote—

"The Encourager is well named because Cursillo is a movement that encourages Christian men and women in one another their Christian pilgrimages. We all need encouragement because it is not an easy task to live our Christian lifestyle in

a non-Christian social and cultural context. In fact, one of the names for the Holy Spirit is 'The Encourager' - the one who puts courage into us-and the

encouragement that comes from God is encouragement we share with one another. I hope the Cursillo Movement, now begun in our Diocese, will encourage many men and women to proclaim their faith in Jesus as a living, real friendship/relationship with Him."

CELEBRATE WITH NEW VETERANS

ANNUAL SUBS WELCOMED



CELEBRATING 25 YEARS: **ROLL KEEPER:** 1990-2015 Keith Watson

DIOCESAN co LAY DIRECTORS:

1990 Joan Langley Tony Blanch 1993 Lorraine Lowe Tony Blanch 1994 Geoff Rigby

1996 Robyn Ashley-Brown

1997 Bruce Fraser

1999 Dorothy Harman

2000 Ken Youman

2002 Ruth Brand

2004 Noel Herbert

2005 Ruth McFarland

2006 Jim Cooper

2008 Denise Brown

of today, the memories of yesterday, and the hopes

.**D**@@

2009 Grant Killen

2011 Cheryl Cooper

2012 Jim Warland

2014 Helen Fraser

2015 Brian Walsh

DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS:

The Encourager—Spring/Summer 2015

1990 Rev Rod Turner

1994 Adn Colvin Ford

1998 Rev Arthur Copeman

2001 Rev Gary Parker

2003 Bp Graham Rutherford

2006 Rev Chris Bullock

2009 Rev Sonia Roulston

2012 Rev Ian Howarth

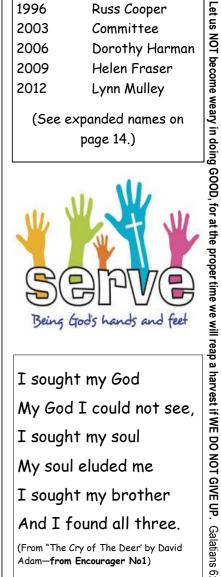
2014 Rev Stephen Bloor

2015 Rev Steve Niland

ENCOURAGER EDITORS:

1990 Neredah Gill 1996 Russ Cooper 2003 Committee 2006 Dorothy Harman 2009 Helen Fraser 2012 Lynn Mulley

> (See expanded names on page 14.)



I sought my God My God I could not see

I sought my soul

My soul eluded me

I sought my brother

And I found all three.

(From "The Cry of The Deer' by David Adam—from Encourager No1)

We may not have it all together, but together we have it all....

and we all shine