Hello, and welcome to the first edition of the Interdependent with me as co-editor. A lot has happened in the world of Interchurch youth since the last Interdependent, I am sure everyone else like me enjoyed both the Swanwick and Rome conferences (If you weren’t there then you won’t have done) - There are articles to tell you what happened if you can’t remember…

Beyond YAG: Rev. Bev Hollins

I asked (the now Reverend) Bev Hollins a few questions about what she did as Youth Officer, and what she is doing now.

-How long have you been YO for? I started the paid job in October 1997, but I have been involved with the youth group since the Birmingham Conference, where I was the networking co-ordinator.

-Roughly how many young people have you seen pass through your sessions in that time? (Long list) Probably about 45-50, because there were the oldest people like the Gillian and Sarah Banks who have now moved on and the younger people like the Rachel Docherty and the Hannah Woodhouse who are just entering the YAG age range.

-How often do you meet the YO for your Job? Yes, I was the AIF youth representative on the enabling group of CTE, and a couple of times of CBMT. I got to know the now Cardinal Cormac quite well, when he was still bishop of Arundel and Brighton, as well as meeting George Carey and the Free Church Moderator, and most of the other presidents of AIF.

-What has been your most memorable experience in the YO job? The Confirmation Weekends (two of them), the YAG Socials especially sleeping on a hard floor in a scout hut in London, and Peter Vernon eating too much pizza. (continued overleaf)
Beyond YAG: Rev. Bev Hollins (continued)

- Which Denominations are represented in the LEP?
  There are people who are Roman Catholics, Church of England, URC, Methodist and Baptist.
- Is the LEP better than a normal church?
  Yes, it lives out the vision of AIF, and is what Jesus prayed for. It is also a better use of church resources, although it needs harder work.
- What will your job involve?
  I am a Team Minister (or what the Anglican Church calls a Curate), so I will be leading worship, preaching and doing pastoral jobs. It will also include children's and youth work, including links on Confirmation.
- Do you have any big career hopes (such as Archbishop of Canterbury)?
  No, I just want to go where God wants me to, so I have no real ambitions. What God does is sometimes strange at first, but works in the end.
- What do you do now in the AIF role of Youth Chaplain?
  It was a self-invented role, because I didn't really want to leave YAG. It is basically a pastoral role, where I am a friend to YAG and I can link YAG to Christian Unity through confirmation. I am available to YAG as a shoulder to lean on, or to help with worship. I can also act as a bridge to the adults.
- How can the young people of AIF support you in what you are doing now?
  By praying for me and keeping in touch.

Bev Hollins September 2003

Considering Confirmation?

Rachel Docherty

The Confirmation Weekend was designed for young people considering confirmation. There were three monitors there, Bev Hollins, Martin Reardon and Mgr. Chris Lightbound. The weekend was split up into sessions with a different topic to do with confirmation for each. Helena Maples also joined the group to share with them her own experiences of confirmation.

During the course of the weekend the whole group got to ask questions and then have them answered. The aim of the weekend was to eventually help the young people try to make a decision about confirmation. Whether they wanted to be confirmed, affirmed or nothing at all. I found it very useful and informative and many of my questions were answered. I now know that confirmation to one church is not the only option for people who belong to two different churches. There is always the possibility of affirmation and having both your prayers given you a blessing.

It was a very relaxed and helpful weekend. Although there were a lot of sessions there was also free time during the day and the day would end with the evening being free to be able to relax with your new found friends!

The weekend ended with a very quiet, small and personal service. Early on in the day everybody had sat down praying on to different shaped and coloured paper pieces. During the service we hung these on to a hanger offering our prayers up to God, while music played in the background.

Although at the moment I still haven't decided whether or not I want to be confirmed, I do feel that this weekend helped me in my journey to making a decision.

"Reformed Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1879, or Reformed Baptist Church of God, reformation of 1915!" To which I said, "Die, heretic scum!" and pushed him off!

(thanks to John Nugent)
Swanwick 2003
Martin Ash reports (continued)

However, judging from the number of people through the whole confer-
ence who knew my name that I did-
...enough for me at this point, with an
hour's rehearsal fol-
played for the service we had re-

Music lacked in, as it
normally does for me at
this point, with an
hour's rehearsal fol-
played for the service we had re-

We were nearly all in the Henry
(exceptions shall remain unnamed).
This was perhaps most notable for
being in fact four successive discus-
tions, none of which had enough
...one answered all Sunday night -
maybe there's no such a thing as a
final night. I think everyone would
say they could fit it in, as normal,
and as it's traditional finished with
the song at the end which everyone
organisers could think of
hadn't been used before (even
without any drum). All of which
sent us on our way home, hands
full of a thousand different ideas -
and unable to wait until February...

Me too! Are you Episcopalian or
Baptist?"

"Baptist."

"Wow! Me too! Are you Baptist
Church of God and Baptist
Church of the Lord?"

"Baptist Church of God."

"Me too! Are you Original
Baptist Church of God, or are you
Reformed Baptist Church?"

"Protestant."

The YAG Social, Cardiff
catherine Garsed

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd February 2003,
Cyncoed Methodist Church, Cardiff

On one dark evening in late
Winter the beautiful city of
Cardiff was invaded by one of the most powerful
forces on Earth - YAG!

Most people arrived towards late after-
noon/early evening and once the majority of people had arrived we sat down for a delicious tea, cooked by (if my memory... Jane and Mel. A few late arrivals appeared after tea, much to the delight of everyone gathered. The final line-up was:


After a fairly comfortable night (the church provided mats to sleep on) and a tasty (and in some cases HUGE breakfast the church was only too eager to help and 4 volunteers got up bright and early (8:30!!!) to drive us all down to the bay.

The bay has recently undergone major re-development, which is continuing, so there was a lot going on. We wandered around the bay briefly and had a couple of group photos, before heading for the Light Ship. The 'Gulegong Light Ship 2000' is a mission to spread the light of Christ throughout the world. All of the workers onboard are voluntary and..."
Roma!

George Walsh

The Second World Gathering of Inter-church Families Thursday 24th - Monday 28th July 2003

In our first session of the 14+ group, we met Kathy the leader, the other people and played some icebreakers to learn everyone’s names. There were about thirty of us, from four different countries: England, France, Austria and Canada using three different languages. The adult sessions had simultaneous translations but we didn’t and before the session we were quite nervous about communicating with the others. Luckily Helene proved to be a very helpful translator and we all owe her several. After a break we had another session where we divided into our small groups led by Jen, Miki, Mel and Sarah. We soon discovered that school French doesn’t quite prepare you for theological discussion and even Helene couldn’t handle our best. We had a quick tour of the site as well. After the session we practiced the great YAG tradition of the human pyramid! This was followed by a conversation into the early hours and the discovery of my friend the espresso machine.

At some unholy hour of the morning the alarm clock woke me out of bed and I went down to breakfast. Still not quite awake I went down to the chapel for the first service. I’m not quite sure which language it was in, or which denomination was leading it, but the Communion was really nice because we sang Taize chants, that seemed to go across the language barriers. The next session started a little late, due to the over-running and we had some discussion about life in an interchurch family in our small groups. After a break we had a Bible study outside, first though we went swimming again!! It was sung a couple of songs and then the really fun part until somebody told me that the lake was actually in the crater of a dormant volcano and then I was part of a group to discuss the passage. After completely freaked out. In the afternoon we proceeded to 11 cars to take us to the lake for a swim – it was a welcome break from the heat! The afternoon session was craft, hand-work and tie-dye. I was mixing the dye and so I ended up with one red and one blue hand – it looked like I had some weird and wonderful disease. Then we started to plan for the vigil, which was split into 4 groups, drama, dance, music and prayers. The music group had one person, namely me, guitar, and the Church. There was an incredible atmosphere and you could really feel God. A massive round of applause has to go to Laura for her careful planning and all night service then.

Our first session of the morning was outside – in our groups we discussed Sunday was clay, you could either go to Casto Gandolfo, Rome or both. Casto Gandolfo was very crowded and there was a massive crush to get into the courtyard for the Angelus. The Pope had been unable to give Interchurch Families a private vigil for Interchurch Families. This was considered to be of just as much interest to members of YAG as to the adults.

Swanwick 2003

Interchurch Families National Conference, The Hayes Saturday 23rd-Monday 25th August

Martin Ash Reports:

A Blues Singer’s View

Arriving in Derbyshire in sun, after having left home in cloud and spent an hour or so of the journey in a cloud, seemed unusually syncromatic and our own sessions at this which challenges can be turned to an advantage of what Swanwick has to offer. We will have people, although Peter’s new persona which introduced new concepts to both of “Hannah Woolmer” – the adults, I was working out who wasn’t there (a lot of information about Christian initiation), and of course, although we have been steeped in interchurch family issues from birth, the differences between the timing of, and beliefs about, baptism in the free and established churches, were discussed by the four speakers, and the experiences of members of YAG had a particular wealth of information. In the middle of the floor there were a lot of information about Christian initiation, people, although Peter’s new persona which introduced new concepts to people, although Peter’s new persona which introduced new concepts to us, we had been steeped in interchurch family issues from birth. The differences between the timing of, and beliefs about, baptism in the free and established churches, were discussed by the four speakers, and the experiences of members of YAG had a particular wealth of information. In the middle of the floor there were four speakers, and the experiences of members of YAG had a particular wealth of information.

Roma! (continued)

Mark gave a great address about his times at Crusader camp, readings were read and prayers were said, and we finished with a wonderful dance to ‘Faith, Hope and Love’. Monday had come too soon – we cleaned up a scary number of sweet wrappers and coke bottles, trying to work around Ric and Katie who were still asleep in the middle of the floor. We improvised to improve the candle and returned various large pot plants to their rightful homes. Then with promises of emails, phone calls, texts and future meetings the 14+ group was disbanded – so long and after a great final service it was time for goodbyes.

It was the end of a really amazing conference. My highlights? Definitely the vigil and the service. Thanks have to go to Kathy, Laura and of course the YAG and PREPROMA Committee, for all their hard work in making the conference what it was.

YAG members have never been so tired. Thank you for your lovely hospitality! Thanks also to Swanwick 2003 and the staff for their work in making the conference the best it could be. I hope we can continue this tradition in the future.

The Interdependent October 2003

(The Interdependent October 2003 5)

Stephen Granger-Bevan reports...

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