Hello, and welcome!

to the 2006 edition of Interdep! So what is waiting for you inside? We have reports about Swanwick 2006 and the YAG Social in February – all complete with photos, so watch out for any photos taken of you unaware!

Also, our congratulations go out to anyone who has been confirmed this year – both Julian Granger-Bevan and Will Docherty have been confirmed recently and they have written an article each about their different experiences. Both make for good reading for anyone considering getting confirmed.

Martin Ash tells us about his work with CTE (Churches Together in England) over the past year and as he steps down from his work with CTE, we are very keen to find someone, or maybe a group of people on a rota basis, willing to take on this role (for more details see pg 16)

The Finch family have been out and about and Aidan has written a great article about the Northern Cross Walk they took part in and there are many other lovely articles to keep you reading. What better excuse for not doing your homework? We’ve even got our very own Interchurch Sudoku!

Philip and Catherine
Hello and welcome to this year’s edition of The Interdependent. You may have noticed its looking a bit different from before ...and you’d be right! This is the all new and improved COMPACT Interdependent. This is not only easier to read on a train or bus but also to hide inside a book to read in secret or even to fit in a shredder....

We’d like you to believe that this change is due to a daring change of direction by a new dynamic and enterprising editorial team. In fact it makes it cheaper to post!

Anyway, we have a bumper issue for your enjoyment and many thanks to everyone who sent us articles, photos, pictures and puzzles etc.

Philip

interdep@ifyag.org.uk

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 .....BLAST OFF...

for your new -look Interdependent! To coincide with the launch of the new Mini, we’ve also gone mini to stay in line with new postal rates.

This is my first edition as co-editor, so hopefully it will continue to please, although any feedback is always welcome. There is a saying that you should never work with children or animals. Well I would like to add brothers to that list! Only joking, Philip (grovel, grovel). At this juncture I want to say a HUGE thank you to Julian for all his work in his time as a co-editor.

Well I don’t want to keep you from reading those articles any longer, so I’ll leave you to it, but before I do, anyone who wants to contribute anything to the next edition or even has any questions about this edition, please contact me at (interdep@ifyag.org.uk) or at home:

35 St. Vincent’s Road
Fulwood
Preston, Lancs
PR2 8YU

All contributions are warmly welcome.

Catherine
Walking Hadrian’s Wall
Aidan Finch

This year, Aidan and Cuthbert Finch took part in the Northern Cross pilgrimage along Hadrian’s Wall to Holy Island:

Short history

Hadrian’s Wall, which was built in 122 AD, stretches 73 miles across one side of Britain to the other, crossing Cumbria and Northumberland. The idea of the wall was to protect the Roman-occupied south of Britain from the wild north.

The Walk

Cuthbert and I didn’t actually hike the wall from start to finish, instead we walked along most of it with Northern Cross on our annual pilgrimage to Holy Island at Easter.

We started from Carlisle very near the wall’s start and walked towards it. The terrain was very hilly, possibly due to the fact that we were walking over the wall. On Monday, we reached a well-known face of the wall, which faced over very high cliffs. It was a steep climb, and when I mean steep, I mean STEEP! Everybody got exhausted from walking up the curving, almost vertical steps that lead up the side of the hill, overlooking the cliff. The cross got swapped more times than anybody could count. But when it came to the top of the hills, it was a nice smooth(ish) walk down to the car park where refreshments awaited us.

We went on further along the wall until we came to Kevin Costner’s tree where we had a station (pause for thought and a prayer). Do you remember the film of Robin Hood: Prince of thieves, where Robin and his friend walked past this tree. We thought of how it would be nice to have unity between the faiths and denominations. Lots of fellow walkers stopped and asked us what we
were doing, the cross with our band of pilgrims could be seen for miles in both directions when we were walking along the wall.

After clearing the hills we came to the small village of Gilsland, where the local Women’s Institute had prepared for us a magnificent tea, which I (Aidan) wasn’t allowed to join in due to the fact that I was, at the time, on a Gluten free diet. Unlucky me.

At times we came to roads that ran along the wall. This was following an old Roman road, and we knew this due to the fact the Romans had an uncanny ability to make their roads straight for both marching and cargo travel but with enormous dips and rises in them. We then left the wall completely after Haltwhistle (which is the highest point of the wall which still remains) and Brocolitia the Roman fort and headed north for Wark. Looking back at the walk and seeing the wall, I wonder what the locals thought of it when it was fully built. The sight must have been really impressive, a stronghold for defence to stop the Barbarians in the north raiding the farms in the south. A real wonder for man’s achievement.

[Catherine, not being very worldly-wise, had never heard of the Northern Cross Walk and was keen to find out more, so she probed a little deeper:]

1. You say that on Monday you reached the wall having set out from Carlisle - does the walk take place over a number of days, or was the whole walk done in one day?

   It takes about five days to do the whole Carlisle leg. Gathering at a random church to get to know who is going on it and to get friendly with them on Friday evening. Walking to a different stop which varies in length each day until a week later on Friday afternoon on which we reach the sands of Holy Island. We are not like the Romans who possibly could have walked the whole walk in one day!

2) Who else took part in the walk? People from your church? A random group of Christians from the local area?

   People from different churches from all over the place come on this pilgrimage. It gives them, especially for me, a feeling of achievement and a closer understanding of God.
3) What's the significance of the Kevin Costner tree? Why is it his tree? Sorry I'm rubbish with celebrities, I don’t know anything about them really!

You really need to watch Robin Hood: Prince of thieves. It was call Kevin Costner’s tree because it appears in the film where Robin Hood and his friend walk past it. It’s been called that ever since. But it’s significance is that Robin Hood (Christian) is walking side by side in peace with his friend (Muslim) showing us that people of different faiths can co-exist together. (Side note about the film; Robin must have been really lost to wind up at Hadrian’s Wall from Dover!)

4) What do you do when you get to Holy Island?

Just relax really, go down to the showers washed (you get really smelly when walking for a whole week!), visit the local shops and cafes, have a pint or two at the local pub (many songs about it in our walking songs!), sightsee the National Trust’s historical buildings, go down to the beach and cool those aching feet of yours or go to your room and enjoy the comforts of a real bed! Find out more on the Northern Cross website at www.northerncross.co.uk.

Links
http://
www.aboutscotland.com/hadrian/index.html

If anyone is interested in walking Northern Cross, ask Aidan or Cuthbert Finch or Sarah and Helena Mayles.
Reflections on the Mass

Martin Ash

I. Liturgy

1. Lord have mercy

With this, we come before the Lord,
Attempt to open up our hearts:
To feel the presence always near
And let ourselves receive His grace.
It is a fitting way to start,
In absolute simplicity:
No ornament, no arty show,
No complex set of symbols here.
Instead, the simple acceptance
And quiet acknowledgement that we come
Without a plea or case to bring,
That we are helpless and dare not
Begin, without mercy assured.
No arguments, no reasons; just
The guilty plea for God's great grace.

2. Gloria

Glory to God! A ringing trumpet-crash,
The fitting cry to honour one with power;
But not said just because He rules our fates,
But more because He loves us, every hour.
His life and ours are so bound up as one - His
Glory and our peace in one great will -
That we can shout our praise in many forms
Not out of fear, but from a need to fill.
For if the Lord would not receive our prayer,
Or This would be just a plea made out of fear
To please an absent god, to get us in
To his good books; but as we really stand
We need, we love, we never weary of
This song of praise; because our glorious God
Compels us by His look, on us, of love.

3. We believe

The first two words express more power
Than many books of legal terms:
That 'We believe' - so strong.
Community's essential self -
The power of one common belief
Uniting many kinds.
It reaches out with mighty power
And yet - it hurts my heart to know
That some are not within
That outwardly embracing 'we'.
I have faith in one catholic Church -
But don't find it at Rome,
Or not complete; it does not yet
Embrace the whole people of Christ.
Other Christians cannot
All claim this Creed in just this form -
These words do not include all yet.
For that I must await
A time that I believe will come
When all God's people will, as one,
Proclaim together 'We believe!'

4. Holy, holy

The modern world is not prepared
To deal with absolutes, of good
No less than wrong; those three 'Holies'
Strike notes in no post-modern chord.
But that is good; for God is no
Equivocal postmodernist.
We must take him as absolute -
Or else our faith will fall apart.
But God is also near at hand,
Not distant unknown holiness:
The glory that is all around
Throughout this wholly wondrous world
Springs from His own, shows Him to us.
And we must show Him, too, to those
Who are not looking for him here:
That is the challenge hiding in
The blessing on the one who comes;
Because there must then be a will
To go and, in the Lord's name, come
To others. 'Then 'Hosannas' ring.'
5. Lamb of God
The links are not quite stated, but
They lead to something beautiful.
A meaning-rich connection – yet
So obvious you never think
You might have missed it. Would I have?
I stand in need of peace – always,
Beyond what earth can hold or give;
And here I find the source expressed.
That lack of peace which weighs me down
Can only be relieved by Him
Whose mercy I always pray for,
The Lamb who sacrificed himself.
And there is only one true way
That He can lift me up again -
I will not fail to have His peace
When He has taken all my sin.

II. Koinonia

I don't know why it should have taken me
Until the several hundredth time I heard
The words inviting people to receive
The Lord, within the form of bread and wine,
To realise what 'communion' really means.
It is a simple act and a belief
That draws us all together in this place
With one another, and with many more
That join with us in it throughout the world.
But not just those of our own sphere and
time,
But many more, through time and space and
spirit,
All those who were or will be Church on
earth.
And they are only one side of the coin,
For all of us are in communion with
The whole great host of those who are in
heaven:
The blest, whose knowledge and whose
worship of
The God we welcome, while on earth, in part,
Is full and without pause; and even more,
With all their partners who rejoice with them:
The orders of the angels and archangels,
For whom to praise is their sole joy and need.
Yes, 'communion' is union indeed.

Twelve months with England's ecumenists
Martin Ash

Churches Together in England has continued to keep me very busy over the last year. The most significant of these things was CTE Forum. This only happens once in three years; the last one was on 12th-14th May at the Hayes, Swanwick. It brought together representatives of churches, Christian organisations, and various associated bodies, from the Archbishop of Canterbury to, er, me.

Worship was an integral part of the Forum, with Mass before breakfast (!) on Sunday and Taizé morning prayer on Saturday led by a certain Rev. B. Hollins. It closed with a wonderful non-Eucharistic Orthodox liturgy including breaking of blessed bread with sermon by Rowan Williams. Discussion and speakers were continuously challenging, exploring the Forum theme of 'The Glory of God...human beings fully alive.'

The need for ecumenical agendas to change kept coming up and many of the protestant denominations stressed the need for a wider ecumenical viewpoint. - Besides just trying to draw closer, discovering how they work together for mutual benefit – particularly reaching communities with no church presence. Ecumenism must start to inform, and help, evangelism. There was also real concern as to how a younger generation of Christians (that's us!) often increasingly disenchanted with church issues can be helped to connect other believers worldwide and in history. The Greek word 'ecumenism' actually means 'of the whole planet'. It was therefore announced that CTE would be putting extra resources into both ecological work and interfaith relations almost immediately.

Continued page 14
YAG Social 2006, Torquay!
Katie Van Kroonenburg

This year the Social was held in the ‘English Riviera’ which unfortunately did not live up to its name. Everybody arrived at St Matthias very sleepily on Friday. Some much later than others (cough cough the Vernons!!!) We were a very small, select group this year due to the location and so bonded well….almost like a family some might say!

The food shopping was done at Tescos where George set everyone a task of retrieving several items of food. I struggled greatly finding any custard but as it was in the same container as the fizzy drinks I feel it justified!

Back at the Church centre, time was spent playing the chocolate game in which we had to dress up in lots of woolly items and try to eat chocolate with a fork. Being a ‘YOUNG adult’ this is clearly acceptable behaviour. As it was Matt’s first year we naturally explained about the initiation process of adopting a girl’s name. He became ‘Mildred’ for the rest of the weekend.

For dinner we had a magnificent meal of spaghetti bolognaise which Julian, fulfilling the ‘fatherly’ role managed to project across the table while laughing. Safe to say the rest of us did not find it so funny!! Everyone was really very tired and so we were boring and slept lots.

George, as ‘Mummy’ and Chair Bird (with the amazing hat), had constructed a superbly organised and colour-coded rota of groups to cook and so on Saturday morning the first group made the breakfast.

So, after filling up on fruit, cereal and toast we went just a little way down the road to Kent’s Cavern! Much fun was had in the caves, but unfortunately no cavemen in sight!

Lunch was eaten back at the centre and a VERY yummy cake was made and baked!!! Trimmed with many, many lemon and orange decorations.

After a long walk underground we went down the Meadfoot beach where sadly the tide was quite far in. Yet through the wetness and cold it was still exciting to be beside the seaside!
Clearly the day out in Torquay would not have been fulfilling enough without a visit to ‘Thorntons’ to see a certain member of staff!! Torquay town was I’m sure very little in comparison to everyone else’s hometowns but Lizzie did manage to get some very cool laces there!!!

We all attended the 10.30 service at St Matthias on Sunday morning, after which followed a traditional Sunday meal of chicken drumsticks, boiled potato and vegetables! Everyone packed their bags, ate the rest of the food and we all had to say our goodbyes.

Thank you so much for all coming to Torquay for the Social, it was great to see everyone again. Can’t wait till next year!

The YAG Committee meeting was held, business discussed and debated. Dinner was homemade pizzas all of which was eaten very gratefully.

Later that evening we all ventured out again to go bowling. This proved very competitive as the two teams battled it out. The girls clearly displayed a greater skill and technique at the game!

A night time walk back down to the beach let us have an Agape service by the water; it was very dark and cold but strangely calming and quiet to be next to the vast sea.

A well-earned sleep was had following a very hard day! We all woke up super early on Sunday morning so as to begin the cooked breakfast. Although a little slow we did eventually manage to produce a delicious breakfast of bacon, sausages and eggs…some of which may have been a little burnt.
My Confirmation
Will Docherty

First of all, I want to start by saying that I found the whole process of confirmation, from the first “taster” session in the local church, right up to the day, very challenging, difficult and at times stressful! Getting confirmed was perhaps one of the biggest decisions I’ve made so far in my life. I was unsure about which way my decision would swing almost right up to the very day.

I started taking confirmation “lessons” in March and took the plunge in June so I had plenty of time to think about it. I’ll be honest in admitting that around May I was seriously thinking about simply finishing the sessions and not getting confirmed at all. But through talking about the issue with friends and family, I finally came to the decision to go ahead with the confirmation and I’m glad now that I did. It was a decision I did not want to take lightly and I felt that at the end if I wasn’t 100% sure of myself I would not do it. I later realised that this perhaps was a slightly foolish point of view, for not many people can say with all honesty, that they are always 100% sure of God or religion or their own beliefs. So on that bright Sunday morning I still had my doubts and worries about whether I was ready but I went on my gut feeling that I was doing the right thing, and I’ve always been encouraged by gut feelings!

My sessions were led by a priest of the church where we were taking the sessions and a deacon (now a priest) of the same parish. The sessions were challenging and made you think about where you stood in relation to your own beliefs, something I’d never had to do before. They were not lectures on the bible, or lessons on Christian tradition; but more open discussion about morals, opinions and ideas on how to not just be a better Christian but a better person. The priest, Mike, an ex naval officer and scientist had a rather logical if not scientific point of view, that was interesting if not occasionally difficult to follow (and who says science and religion can’t get on!). Gary the Deacon, about 6 foot 6 and a handshake that made the knees buckle, had a much more simple way of explaining things and would simplify it for the “common man”! It was great to have two, so different blokes explaining some very complicated ideas and it gave you two different points of view to consider. Considering and thinking was something I would do a lot over the weeks of the lessons, and I often found myself
having a moral battle with myself at school, oblivious to everything else, although apparently I was not alone in this as a very good mate who I did the confirmation sessions with said he experienced similar thoughts. I think it’s healthy for lads my age to be thinking about their faith and beliefs.

On the actual day of my confirmation I was pretty nervous, but I’d had a rehearsal a few days before, so there wasn’t much chance of me doing something too stupid! I wore a shirt and even put on some religious bling! (a crucifix). When I arrived, all the confirmation candidates sat at the front, there were about 20 of us in all from different churches and of different ages ranging from sixteen to seventy! The bishop of Portsmouth was taking the service and he took all of us behind the altar where he gave us a “pep talk” and reassured my anxieties about not being 100% sure, by saying that the journey has really just begun and these uncertainties are useful for us to grow in our faith.

The service was an interesting one, for the bishop is another huge bloke and very charismatic and to the point. He talked of how he overcame Leukaemia and how his faith was that much stronger not only after, but during this experience. When the time came for me to make my declaration and I was anointed with the holy oil I felt like I had definitely made the right decision and felt good about it. When the service had ended and the bishop made his way down the aisle, he started twirling his hand carved, hardwood crook, which everyone obviously thought was great fun, although on the next twirl he missed decapitating an old lady by an inch and cracked his pole into the pew behind him. He gave a sheepish smile but no more twirls! I had a chat with the bishop afterwards over a glass of champers and he gave me some more advice on my progression as Christian and young person. Sadly that great bloke is back in hospital, his Leukaemia having returned, and I ask you to pray for his return to good health.

After it was all over we had a get together at our house with my godfather, my prayer partner (from my first communion in the Catholic church) and two very close friends, all of whom attended the service. It was a good day, which I think I will remember for a very long time and feel very glad I went through with it, despite my doubts.

PS: I was confirmed into the Anglican church.
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Confirmation
Two different experiences of being confirmed
Continued...

My Confirmation
Julian Granger-Bevan

On the 21st of May, 2006 AD, I was confirmed as a Christian.

So why after so many years of thinking did I finally put myself forward for it? With the mixed denominational background that I have grown up in, there was an additional factor for me to consider. Not only whether I am a Christian and whether I want to make public a personal decision to follow Christ for my life, but in which church community to do it in.

My first introduction to confirmation was the AIF “Considering Confirmation” course, led by Bev Hollins and Martin Reardon in 2001. The course explained the background to confirmation, and the common approaches that the major denominations take. I came out of the weekend thinking that I would probably want to be confirmed; but that it was something I probably needed a bit more time to think about first.

After some thought, I decided that I did want to be confirmed, as a way of showing other people that I took my Christianity seriously and also as a promise to myself to keep following God. However I was still unsure about where I wanted it to happen, as I was aware of possible implications of having to choose one denomination. I started confirmation classes in both churches to give me an idea what I was going in to. Both seemed to be saying lots of things, but one thing in particular was repeated in both, that it had to be something that I wanted to do, that I truly believed in.

After this, I decided that I still wanted to be confirmed, but wasn’t quite sure where. After a couple of years of thinking, I decided that it was better to get on with being confirmed than to indefinitely postpone and never get around to it. I decided to go down the route of an Anglican confirmation, as that is where I have more friends, with the youth and student programmes, I put my name on the list of people interested, and then I was told that there was a deanery confirmation in May. Out of the churches I attend, one is Roman Catholic, and the other is Evangelical Anglican, therefore it was very appropriate that the church in which the confirmation was to be held was a high Anglican church. So I went and was confirmed!

The thing that struck me most about the service was right at the end, when Bishop John took all of the confirmation candidates out into the churchyard, with our candles still lit. It was pretty much howling a gale out there so the candles didn’t last long, except for one, which Bishop John held his hand around and protected. He then compared this flame to our faith, it being very easy within the warm, dry church environment, but then having to make an effort to keep going when in the outside world.

For me, this summed up why I was being confirmed. It was about recognising that being a Christian is not only my decision to make, but something which I had to keep going myself. Since then I have not found it any easier to become a Christian, but I know that I have made a promise that I will keep going.

12
Swanwick 2006
Mary Nugent

It was that time again…lack of sleep, human pyramids and water fights – Swanwick 2006 was upon us! It was another vintage year (starting with a hall with no chairs and a Breton dance—ooooooh), with YAG going one step further from the usual late nights to an all night prayer vigil, and the children surpassing themselves with a song that included something along the lines of "I'm incredible, not all that edible". Further highlights included the just-about-dry Night Prayers by the lake (and no we didn't forget the bible…), an impressive all age-conga to finish the conference, and of course meeting up with old, and making new friends.

Mealtimes were their usual delight, with the ceaseless wander of Peter's eating habits (a WHOLE dish of chilli…for 8 people…). A big thanks to the planning group and YAG's chair-extraordinaire, for such good weekend – I'm sure I'm not the only one who went away feeling sad to be leaving after such brilliant time.
Twelve months with England's ecumenists (continued from page 7)

It was proposed that the goal of ecumenical discussions should be the pairing of unity and diversity. Tom Stuckey, outgoing President of the Methodist Conference compared it to the life of the Trinity itself, referring to the Trinity at the moment of the Crucifixion – dialogue continuing even when the relations are strained to breaking-point. The General Secretary likened it to a Symphony Orchestra, with all parts important but needing to keep time with each other.

'The day of Western liberal Christianity is passing; the day of Southern conservative Christianity is dawning'

It was a challenging and a tiring, but enjoyable weekend. Many people were expecting more rapid, radical changes in the way Britain's churches live and exist. Another recurrent theme was the changing relationships of different kinds of church – traditional Western denominations, African- or Caribbean-origin churches, Pentecostals from the global South – both worldwide and in this country. The most controversial thing I heard all weekend – from Tom Stuckey's keynote address: 'The day of Western liberal Christianity is passing; the day of Southern conservative Christianity is dawning'.

Forum is not the only thing I've done this year. Co-ordinating Group for Youth Work has continued to draw together Christian organisations of all kinds working with young people. Some meetings showed the negative side of ecumenism, with members not taking action, unsure of being backed by their churches or organisations. Others were very informative, including sessions on using media for church purposes and where Government is trying to go on faith and ethnic relations. Last year, the group fed back on a Government discussion document on youth work. They strongly disapproved of the lack of effort to involve the voluntary sector and the attempts to centre everything on schools. It is difficult to change the minds of policy-makers, but we tried. The final results of that consultation have yet to appear.

CTE is already thinking about planning for the 2012 Olympics, and what the churches can do before, during and after them. Planning meetings are under way; CTE's youth work officer also plans trips to China in 2007 and 2008, to pick up the best practice of the Chinese churches at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. If you might want to go, funds may be available, so start thinking now - summer 2007 is less than a year away! Also, please consider whether you could take over (some of) what I've been doing as described above. It needn't cost you anything apart from time and energy, but unfortunately I'm short of both as I head into my final year of university, and I'd really appreciate someone taking over rather than my having to do what I can and that be steadily less as other things get in the way. I can tell you more about it, or better still put you in touch with the relevant CTE person direct.

Heythrop 2006
Julian Granger-Bevan

Every year, AIF holds a London meeting at Heythrop College, in the glorious surroundings of Kensington. This year’s meeting was on Saturday 11th March, and was attended by 4 or 5 of YAG, who came from far and wide to participate in the event. In the morning we discussed some YAG business, and continued to plan Swanwick. Then in the afternoon, we joined the adults for a service.
Lost for Words
Richard Lander

Late in July I was lucky enough to be in Africa; and luckier than that, I found myself under the shadow of an active volcano called Ol Doro Langai near the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, deep in the savannah plains of Massailand, Tanzania. The night we were due to climb the mountain (short climbs in Africa are best done at night to avoid the heat) we camped at a site by small river flowing from the escarpment into the rift valley and Lake Natron. We arrived in the evening, ate under the stars, and made camp for a few hours before we set out in the early hours to the base of the volcano. Perhaps this context is not important – but I’m sure you’ll agree, it is quite some context, and mighty appropriate too.

I shared a tent with someone who was one of the closest friends I have made of recent years – and I was grateful for the opportunity to have some time to speak to someone one-on-one. So we stumbled over those topics one tends to when you get the opportunity to have a real in depth conversation – life, love, hopes, dreams… and God.

Incredibly for a 20-year-old Christian who isn’t particularly shy about his faith, I was asked this question – a spellbindingly simple one – and it totally left me speechless: “What does being a Christian do for you?” Feeling to foolish to admit my surprise at being asked such a question, I tried to answer it on the spot, and as one does when exchanging thoughts with a good friend late at night, ended up rambling for some time. I don’t think I made a convert. But I intend to answer the question in some sort of coherent form – because I know it needs to be answered.

The grounding of my faith has much to do with the moments in my life that I really feel the presence and understanding of God. Some find it in the words of prayer, the halls of a grand Cathedral, the communion of friends. I feel closest to God when I am fully immersed in His creation: landscapes, cloudscapes, trees, fields, rivers, oceans, the stars and the sun – and people too: the so called ‘natural’ world. When I enjoy my life I thank God, and when I thank God I wonder how people cannot believe. It seems embedded deep inside me that creation is divine – is God. Such an
**MISSING PET**

Have you seen this girl?! Last seen summer 2005, Swanwick!

Name: Frances Garsed  
Age: 16 Years  
If anyone has information please post an email to alyouth@yahoogroups.com  
She is very much missed!

**Lost for Words (continued)**

amazing existence must be more than the cogs and equations people have used to explain it. What a glorious cathedral our planet is. I am so often filled with thankfulness for it, and my place within it. For what is a belief in God more than being grateful and humble? If you feel those things, you are compelled to be compassionate – a simple notion, which could solve many of the world’s problems. God’s has given us his creation – all the universe – as our responsibility. What a great gift! Why have we taken it for granted so?

This is why I believe in my God, and this is why I see injustice in the world and feel compelled to act. For despite what pain people have created and beauty people have destroyed, the world is an incredible awesome place.

I see the world, I am humbled, and I have to say thank you. That is why I turn to Jesus, the bible, and prayer. And in return, I receive empowerment, understanding, and the fellowship of my friends in Christ. My Christian faith is the way I try to understand the truth – my conviction – that life is a gift from God, and we must use it wisely.

**Noticeboard**

**YAG Social 2007**

16th- 18th February 2007 in London. We’ll be going to Heythrop as part of this. More details in the post at Christmas

**CTE Rep**

We need a rep to attend the CTE Coordinating Group for Youth Work on Wednesday 6th December in London. Basically this person represents AIF at the meeting and gives feedback to the group about what was discussed. If you’re interested and have any questions etc contact chair@ifyag.org.uk. You should be able to claim travel expenses.

**Committee Meeting**

28th December 2006 in Orpington. Everyone of YAG age welcome. Contact George Walsh (chair@ifyag.org.uk) for more details

**Quaker Youth Event**

We’ve received an invitation to send young people to the Quaker Youth Event for 16-18 year olds from April 10-13th 2007 at the Pioneer Centre near Kidderminster. The theme for the event is ‘Diversity: a cause for conflict or a cause for celebration’.

If anyone’s interested contact chair@ifyag.org.uk for more information- it should be possible to get funding to go towards the cost. This is a really good opportunity to find out about the Quaker denomination and to discuss your experiences as an Interchurch child so it would be really good if some of you could go.