

September 2004

# share

Issue 36

mayc

## Greetings from the National Youth Secretary



Mike Seaton  
National Youth Secretary

### Happy Birthday MAYC

This Connexional Year will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary

of the inauguration of MAYC on 2 June 1945.

"Since 1945 the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs has provided one of the most striking illustrations of the Church in action in the lives of young people. It has fulfilled a twofold purpose in that it has nurtured those who have grown up through the family life of the Church and at the same time has brought within the influence of the Church many thousands who had no previous connection with its life or had drifted away from it"<sup>1</sup>

What an amazing testament... It's impossible to count how many lives have directly and indirectly been influenced through the work of Methodist Association of Youth Clubs (MAYC). Nor to add up the number of people who have heard about and responded to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. And then there's the number of marriages that have occurred as a result! All of this thanks to the vision, enthusiasm and commitment of so many youth workers who serve the Methodist Church, week in and week out, in their local clubs. What a reason to celebrate!

And celebrate we intend to – with three major events planned to take place at Cliff College, Chester House and the Cornwall District, we want to thank God for the vision and inspiration of MAYC - for all that's been achieved and praise Him for all that's to come.

But let's not pretend it has all been success, as *The Reaching The Teenager* report states: "there has been evidence of failure as well as success. Many young people have been attracted to the Church's club life and have then rejected it. Sometimes the failure is due to the lack of leadership and sometimes to the lack of sympathetic understanding on the part of Church officials"<sup>2</sup>

That report was written almost 30 years ago and still some of its recommendations have yet to be implemented. Much of our current work has its origins in that report.

The last edition of *Share* mentioned how important it is that the Methodist Church owns its youth work and sees it as an integral part of its whole mission and ministry "the Church is a family and reflects within its life those of every age who come into its influence".<sup>3</sup>

David Deeks shared with 2,500 young people at Breakout 2004 the key



Photo: LQ Reddie



Photo: LQ Reddie

aspects of the strategic plan for the Methodist Church, which will shape all of our work. These include:

- Underpinning everything we do with God-centred worship and prayer
- Supporting community development and action for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor - in Britain and worldwide

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### Brighton Sunday 26 September

Thousands of people will come together on the opening day of the Labour Party conference to demand the Government ends global poverty and protects our planet.

Be there... be part of the solution  
**Vote for Trade Justice**

Meet at 1pm, Madeira Drive, Brighton



Campaigning as part of the Trade Justice Movement



## MAYC welcomes Valerie Lovett as the Office Co-ordinator

My name is Valerie Lovett: Age definitely over 21!... but young at heart. I began working with MAYC in the middle of May and through the wonderful welcome and team spirit I feel that I am already part of the furniture.



My recent working life has been within education and schools so I have a strong link with the 'youth' of today. I am also a mother to a teenage Kevin/Perry!

## Friends of MAYC

"Friends of MAYC" have existed as a support network for the work of MAYC for about 10 years and we are now in the process of reviewing how we operate. Our primary role has been to keep our members informed of current MAYC news by sending out copies of "Share", this quarterly newsletter, to everyone. We intend to continue offering this service and invite an annual donation of £10 to cover postage and administration, but we also hope to identify practical ways by which "Friends" can support the on-going work of MAYC.

If you are interested in joining please contact us for more information.

Enquiries should be sent to Steve Saunders at 5 Manor Road, Swanland, East Yorkshire HU14 3NZ. [stevedsaunders@hotmail.com](mailto:stevedsaunders@hotmail.com)

## Stop Press

We are happy to say that this year's Breakout collection, donated at worship amounted to over £2,000. This will be divided between The Methodist Relief and Development Fund (MRDF) and Christian Aid.

MRDF would like to say a big thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Breakout collection! This money will be used to give opportunities to children and young people in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

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- Developing confidence in evangelism and in the capacity to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to all involved
- Encouraging fresh ways of being Church
- Nurturing a culture in the Church which is people-centred and flexible.

MAYC has the challenge of transforming that plan into action. Over the next two years the Council for Youth Work will write a report for Methodist Conference 2006 on the future direction of MAYC. We will look at all aspects of our work and determine how they need to develop in order to meet the demands of our age. It has already been agreed that from now MAYC's strap line will be "**supporting youth work in the Methodist Church**" whilst we recognise the value of 'club work' there are also many other ways that the Methodist Church can influence the lives of young people. Please help us with this process – let us know what you think.

Best wishes - Mike

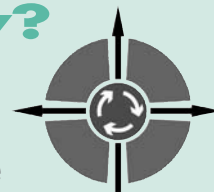
<sup>1</sup> Reaching the Teenager Methodist Youth Department Commission Report 1966

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

## Which Way Now?

Methodist Youth Conference  
19-21 November 2004, Basingstoke



Ok, so you're somewhere between your thirteenth and twenty-sixth birthday, kind of (or a lot) involved in the Methodist Church and WANT TO BE HEARD. It's not really always described as 'the place to be', but for one weekend that's exactly what Basingstoke's becoming for anyone finding themselves agreeing with the sentence above.

With fast-moving debates about real issues (you choose them), inspiring worship by Tadley Taste and other youth groups and bands, and a multitude of workshops including dance, Trade Justice, worship preparation & leadership, HIV & Aids and sports, *Which Way Now?* brings a fresh and exciting way to letting you have your say. There'll also be a fair-trade café to chill in with your new mates (that you've just met at the conference) and fantastic food over the whole weekend.

So, if you want to help navigate the world to taking the right junction, then turn to the centre pages of this copy of Share, complete the booking form and send it off now!

**Louise Rutt**

[www.myc2004.org.uk](http://www.myc2004.org.uk)

# breakout!

## Breakout-lowdown

Blackpool's Winter Gardens was the venue for the biennial Christian Youth Festival, 'Breakout' run by the Methodist Church. Around, 3,000 people enjoyed a lively weekend (9-11 July 2004) of worship, sports, workshops and entertainment spread throughout the various rooms of Blackpool's leading conference centre.

Following a beach BBQ on the Friday evening, the young people were welcomed into the ballroom on Saturday morning by 'Escapade' and a partnership of Methodist Church World Action and Christian Aid.

Lizzie Jeans, The World Action Secretary, introduced an exciting World Action show, with an appearance by Elvis and later a cow, which all raised awareness about the issue of Trade Justice. Although the Ghanaian guests were not present, (due to visa problems) they were remembered through the 'We are one' handshake which they use as an example of solidarity and oneness in the sight of God. There were however guests from Kenya in the form of Kawira and Marete from the Youth Fellowship and Andy Moffoot, a mission partner. They enabled the audience to hear about how Trade Justice affects people at a grassroots level. The crowd was further entertained with drumming from *Drum Jam* culminating in *Hunger for Justice's* moving tribute to the women of Ghana through word and song.

Throughout the weekend young people and their leaders were able to participate in a wide range of workshops from Share Jesus, Iona and puppet ministry to websites, community projects, break dancing and circus skills. A massive sports area oversaw football and netball tournaments, a large bouncy castle, skate park and bungee run. Mike Seaton,



National Youth Secretary said: "This year's theme X:posed was creatively used by all the various areas and ultimately God was X:posed throughout the weekend."

Music for the night areas was provided by Dependence, Superhero and the American group Luna Halo as well as MAYC Orchestra and Singers, Soulz Rest, 29th Chapter and X:alt.

Jonny Baker led early morning worship and communion for over 1,000 young people whilst the rest of them marched through Blackpool town centre, which culminated in a spirit-filled time of worship and commitment led by Rachel Appleyard ('Music and Creative Arts Youth Development Worker'). Rachel said, "It was a privilege to lead young people in worship and the response to the challenge was overwhelming. Many young people responded to the challenge to be X:posed to Christ, to 'Get Real' and to X:pose God in their daily lives."

This exciting Christian festival will be happening again in late June or early July 2006, so watch out for more info on Breakout or check out the website ([www.breakout-online.org.uk](http://www.breakout-online.org.uk)).



## Action Zone

*Edutainment* was the order of the day in the Action Zone, an area hosted by Lilian Quamina Reddie, World Action and Katrine Green of Christian Aid. The partnership worked well to profile the issue of Trade Justice. The area was set out in sections of Learn, Act and Reflect. Participants were able to learn about the issue of Trade Justice through videos, interactive games and resources; reflect upon and help to compile the Balloon Tree - an evolving exhibit filled with messages, pledges and prayers about Trade Justice and also act through creating Banners for Brighton and voting for a change to the Trade Justice rules, all of which will be taken to the Labour Party Conference in Brighton on 26 September. People also enjoyed *Speakers Corner*, where Tom Charlett spoke about the negative effects upon a country like the Philippines; while Chris Cornell related about his World Action trip to Ghana. Lilian Quamina Reddie said, "It was really great to see people actively participating in the various sections of the Action Zone including choosing to vote for change through the ballot box".

Lilian and Katrine would like to thank all those who helped make the Action Zone a success: Alan, Claire, Craig, Hilary, Lizzie, Matt, Peter K, Peter L, Sarah, Tom C, Tom W - a special thanks to Craig Priestly for all his hard work and enthusiasm and also the lovely banners made by himself and his mum, Mrs Priestly.



## Methodist Youth Conference 2004

Having vowed never to forget in Bolton in 2003, we are hoping to help you to look forward in Basingstoke in 2004, by asking 'Which Way Now?' There will be opportunities over the weekend for discussion, election, debate, fun and fellowship, so come along and make new friends and share together, whilst thinking about the way forward for you and your church.

**Cost:** £29 per person includes Operation Friendship (OF) accommodation (in a local church hall), meals and Saturday night entertainment. A pooled fare system will be in place for all delegates.

Arrivals from 6pm on Friday, aiming to finish around 3.30pm Sunday.

We will be meeting delegates from the train and coach stations within Basingstoke. If you fly to Southampton, please catch the next train to Basingstoke, where you will be met. In order for this to run smoothly, we need to know your approximate arrival time as soon as possible.

There will be opportunities to buy drinks and snacks throughout the weekend so some pocket money would be advisable, but please don't bring too much, or any valuables with you.

Methodist Youth Conference is run in a way where debates can take place in the form of small group discussion. This is to encourage everyone to use their voice and share their opinions. We ask for volunteers to help facilitate these small groups, to encourage everyone to think about the issues in an open and informed way. The groups usually consist of around eight people.

### Being involved over the weekend:

If you wish to be a facilitator, you will be given training and support when you arrive at Youth Conference. If you have never been to Youth Conference before you will not be expected to facilitate a group.

If you are a trained first aider and have a current first aid certificate, please let us know on the booking form, as we will need first aiders for each OF venue.

If you are over 18 and have been safeguarded within the last year, please let us know if you are willing to be an overseeing adult at an OF venue, by ticking the appropriate box on the booking form. This would also be helpful to know when allocating young people to workshops.

### Any queries about the event should go to:

Dave Rutt, Management Team Chair, on 07986 903852 or 01256 351084  
Or e-mail [info@myc04.org.uk](mailto:info@myc04.org.uk)

Alternatively, you can e-mail the Methodist Youth Executive (who will be leading the event) at [mye@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:mye@methodistchurch.org.uk) for further advice and information on young people in the Methodist Church.

# Which Way Now?

Name

Home phone number

Age                  DOB

Mobile phone number  
*(if we need to contact you when travelling to conference)*

Gender F/M

Address

E-mail address  
*(NB All bookings will be confirmed by e-mail)*

Church/Circuit/District



Have you been to a Youth Conference before? **YES** **NO**

How will you arrive?

Have you been appointed as a District Representative to Youth Conference by your district synod? **YES** **NO**

**Car**   **Train**   **Coach**   **Plane**   **Minibus**   **Other**

If so, would you be willing to be a facilitator?  
**YES**   **DON'T MIND**   **I'D RATHER NOT**   **NO**

What time do you think you will arrive at the station/church? (Travel directions to follow)

Do you have any dietary requirements? **YES** **NO**  
If yes, what?

If you are willing to be a safeguarded adult at an OF venue and have a CRB enhanced disclosure certificate dated since November 2003, please enclose a photocopy of your certificate. **YES** **NO**

Do you have any special access or mobility requirements?  
**YES** **NO**

If yes, please let us know how we can best help you to get the most out of the weekend.

Are you willing to be a first aider at an OF venue?  
**YES** **NO**

Will you hold a first aid certificate valid on 19-21 November? **YES** **NO**

**If you are under 18, please ensure that the parental consent form has been completed. Failure to do so will hold up your booking.**

## Parental Consent

*If you are under 18 on the 19 November 2004 a parent or guardian must complete and sign this consent form.*

I agree that \_\_\_\_\_ (name) may attend the Methodist Youth Conference from 19-21 November at Trinity Methodist Church, Basingstoke, and may be transported during the weekend.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Money:** If you want to come, please return the booking form on this half of this sheet, completed, with your cheque made payable to The Methodist Church Fund for £29, to: MYC04 Bookings, Trinity Methodist Church, Sarum Hill, Basingstoke RG21 8SR

**Closing date for bookings:** 1 November, however if there are spaces left we will take bookings right up until the day. It would help us to organise the event if you booked early. Cancellations received before 1 November will have £15 returned, and cancellations after 1 November will not receive a refund.

## Which Way Now?

Methodist Youth Conference 2004  
Friday 19 – Sunday 21 November  
Trinity Methodist Church, Basingstoke

*Open to young people associated with the Methodist Church aged between 13 & 25*



# Youth Work in the Shadow of the Wall

**As part of a recent Christian Aid delegation to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, MAYC World Action Secretary Lizzie Jeans talked to those doing youth work under occupation**

Currently the Middle East is in the news more than ever. The wrangling over the Wall or “Separation Barrier” has put Israel’s security policies in the headlines. But seeing the Wall up close is a stark experience – physically a huge structure, it aggressively divides and surrounds villages. Although a country has the right to do whatever it wants on its borders, the Wall has been criticised from a human rights perspective, as the barrier is not constructed along the agreed 1967 border – but is a winding route, cutting deep into the West Bank and expanding Israel’s annexation of Palestinian land and resources. Around 800,000 Palestinian farmers are directly affected, trapped and unable to reach their farmland. In some villages children are unable to continue their education past primary school, as they are unable to leave their village. The wall is costing \$2m a km and it is not something that can easily be moved.

If you’re Palestinian and end up on the wrong side of the barrier, life becomes very difficult. However, there are initiatives to keep hope alive. The East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine have launched a joint project, The Olive Tree Campaign. The olive tree is a symbol of Palestine: denoting peace, prosperity and wisdom. There is a saying “a grandfather plants an olive tree so his grandchildren will live”. However, since 2002, the Israeli Occupation Army has destroyed over 112,000 olive trees in the Palestinian Territories. The Olive Tree Campaign aims to plant 50,000 olive trees in the very places they have been uprooted – aiming to keep hope alive in the lives of Palestinians throughout the territories.

In Bethlehem in the West Bank, I met Osama, the youth co-ordinator of Wi’am Conflict Resolution Centre. He points out: “Our groups meet weekly to discuss democracy, human rights, gender,

etc. Activities in a youth session include a subject and expert speaker who will give training and then there’ll be discussion. The young people choose a subject for each meeting. The political situation does rule their lives, so it’s what you can do with the little bit of your life you do have control over. A lot of our work centres around making young people aware of their rights. Education is a privilege and the kids know it is.”

Indeed, more than one Palestinian young person told me: “Education is the only weapon we have.” This is evident by the best exam results in Israel being from Jenin – a West Bank town ravaged by the conflict.

In Jerusalem, I met members of Sabeel - an ecumenical liberation theology centre for Palestinian Christians. Sabeel Youth Programmes develop leadership skills while exploring the meaning and roots of the Palestinian Christian identity. Members of the youth group shared their frustration of Occupation: “We can’t plan our lives. Friends abroad have a clear programme for their life and career and what next. Here we don’t have that. We are always afraid of the future. It is hard to get work in your field of study. One young person has a business degree but is now working as a security guard. But the only thing we can do is educate ourselves and pray.”

Asked if they had a message for Methodists in the UK, they replied: “Just tell them the Palestinians want peace.” The isolation felt by the Palestinian people shows the need for the Church to be actively engaged in this issue, working alongside all Palestinians and Israelis seeking peace.



For more information and to sponsor a tree, contact [olivetree@ywca-palestine.org](mailto:olivetree@ywca-palestine.org) See also [www.sabeel.org](http://www.sabeel.org) [www.ywca-palestine.org](http://www.ywca-palestine.org) [www.ej-ymca.org](http://www.ej-ymca.org)

# SacredSpace

Sacred Space took place in at Whirlow Grange, Sheffield over the weekend of 30 April - 2 May. An enthusiastic participant, Alex Wyatt from Bristol tells us about her experiences.

What a brilliant weekend I've just had! At Whirlow Grange, Sheffield, I found friendship, laughter, reflection, fun, creativity and ...S P A C E. Yes, space and time for myself.

The Methodist Church came up trumps in providing the opportunity for 20 of its youth workers to experience 'Sacred Space' in recognition of the time that they give to its young people.

Sacred Space was a retreat to enable us to reflect on our relationship with God and the aim was that we would leave feeling 'relaxed, recharged, re-focussed and with a renewed sense of being involved with God's mission'. For me it did all that and more!

The leaders (Leslie Noon and Liz Sturgess from the Methodist Church and Helen O'Donnell from the Iona Community) brought their knowledge and expertise to the programme by way of a variety of

lively and interesting activities. Those that particularly stand out are: the meditation with clay; the labyrinth; the Celtic dance; and the time of worship on Sunday.

These were the pre-determined aspects of the retreat but, of course, the other side of the weekend was about when we were left to our own devices: many friendships were formed - particularly during the small group sessions and free time. The late nights in the bar (or should I say 'early mornings'!) - where Dan, one of the course members, slotted comfortably into his new-found role as barman! - were filled with laughter, silly games and jokes plus hilarious accounts of some people's escapades from their past!

As a busy mum of three and a church youth leader it was great to be on the receiving end, for a change, of other people's planning and hard work. Not only that, Whirlow Grange was the perfect setting for a retreat, away from all the hustle and bustle of everyday pressures; the beautiful house; the tranquillity of the gardens and the superb food.



## Participation in Action

Alexander is one of over 20 young people from around the country who is helping the Methodist Church to grow in the community by encouraging the involvement of young people in church life. This not only involves young people committing themselves, but is also about helping adults to share the desire for a whole and equal community.

It is not enough for youth workers, youth leaders and church leaders to say that young people should be allowed to be involved, but also for young people to be allowed to say this for themselves. There are many challenges in enabling this to happen and one of these is helping adults, and leaders in churches, chapels and communities to listen to and understand young people. A member of Methodist Youth Conference stood up at Methodist Conference in Loughborough this year and said that Youth Conference doesn't want the Methodist Church to just support the call for 24/7 prayer, but to get on and do it! It is the same in this field of work. But to convince the Church that they mean what they say, the young people are getting up and showing what they can do. The Participation Strategy Working Group, a body of

young people, is now in the process of developing a set of criteria that will help the Church to measure how effective it is in involving young people from the beginning of all planning processes, rather than being the objects of it.

A good example of this is Alexander. Using his initiative, the support of his friends at Shettleston Methodist Church, Glasgow, the impetus created by the "It's Your Time to Talk" young people's conference at Coventry and the resources of MAYC, he shared his enthusiasm with members of the Scotland District. Alexander completed three months preparation with a polished presentation to representatives of churches around the District, sending them away enthusiastic about young people's involvement in the Methodist Church. Alexander said: "It is really important that young people are involved now." Support for developing this work in your District can be requested from:

Mike Wilkinson MAYC

Tel: 0207 467 5205

E-mail: wilkinsonm@methodistchurch.org.uk

# COME AND CELEBRATE 6:T YEARS OF MAYC

**6:T INVEST**

**14th May 2005** A garden party at the Guy Chester Centre with the who's who of people who have invested so much in MAYC over the years.

**6:T INTENSE**

**15-17 July 2005** - A national weekend when MAYC take over Cliff College, in the Derbyshire countryside. Celebrate the past and look to the future. Bring your tents for camping and join the 'intense' party! (indoor accommodation also available)

**6:T INSPIRE**

**16-18 September 2005** - A weekend of celebration at Truro School. Get fired up and inspired with MAYC and move with us into a new era.

Check out the MAYC website for details or volunteer and get involved. [www.mayc.info](http://www.mayc.info)

**Vision and volunteer day 9 October 2004**

If you are interested in volunteering for the 6T events please contact Val Lovett on Tel: 020 7467 5209



## Trade Injustice Xposed

World Action has produced a resource on Ghana emanating from the October 2003 visit. If you would like to receive a copy

Contact World Action on Tel: 020 7467 5197  
Or [worldaction@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:worldaction@methodistchurch.org.uk)



## Lick Child Poverty Action Day 1 October 2004

ActionAid's fundraising 'Action Day' on 1 October calls for your support to help Lick Child Poverty. So take a look at the wide range of fundraising activities you can get involved with to help make a difference to some of the world's poorest children.

**For more information, visit [www.lickchildpoverty.org](http://www.lickchildpoverty.org)**  
or contact: LCP Team, ActionAid, Hamlyn House,  
Macdonald Road, London N19 5PG  
Tel: 020 7561 7561, Fax: 020 7263 7605,  
E-mail: [lcp@actionaid.org.uk](mailto:lcp@actionaid.org.uk)

## DIARY

### 2004

10-12 September  
Volleyball Competition

17-19 September  
Worship with Wonder @ GCC, Guy Chester Centre, Muswell Hill, London

26 September  
Vote for Trade Justice, Ballot on the Beach, Madeira Drive, Brighton

22-28 September  
European Methodist Youth Council, Aylesbury

12-14 November  
Youth Work the Conference (Youth Work in Wide Screen) Southport

19-21 November  
Methodist Youth Conference, Basingstoke

21 November  
National Youth Sunday

### 2005

20 January  
Youth Workers induction day, MCH

9-11 February  
Matrix (ecumenical youth workers conference for employed youth workers)

11-13 February  
MAYC Challenge, St Christopher's School, Accrington

12 March  
O&S Concert, Liverpool

14 May  
6:T Invest - a Garden party @ Guy Chester Centre

15-17 July  
6:T Intense - A national weekend when MAYC take over Cliff College

16-18 September  
6:T Inspire - A national weekend, Truro

[www.mayc.info](http://www.mayc.info)



**Further Information**

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Ministers and Deacons in pastoral charge

**Who else in your church might find this useful?**

- Other youth workers
- Junior Church leader
- Circuit Youth & Community Secretary

Please write their names and get them to tick the box when they have received or seen a copy.