



Youth and Children's News Update

To: All Churches, Ministers, Children's and Youth Workers, Safeguarding Co-ordinators April 2015 Issue 21

From Nicola:

Have you noticed there is a General Election looming? Perhaps you are fully engaged with all the manifestos or perhaps you are fed up with hearing about it and just want it all over and done with. My question for you is how is it affecting your ministry with children and young people?

Do you know young people who desperately need support from your local CAMHS service (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)? If so how quickly are they seen? How are your children and young people affected by the provision in their local school, with changing curriculums each time a new government has a better way? How many families do you know who struggle with benefits or the recent bedroom tax?

Like it or not politics affects the children, young people and families we work with and therefore we should engage with it.

If we are not sure how to go about it, then let me recommend the Joint Public Issues Team:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/>

They have a wealth of resources you may find useful in the coming weeks:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/politics-and-elections/elections/>



How are we engaging the young adults in our churches and encouraging them to vote at this

election? We know from research, but I am sure you know from conversations you have had, that younger people are less likely to vote than older people. So why not have discussion groups targeting younger voters looking at different issues and what Jesus might say about those things. We will not all agree but debate is healthy, so why not engage in this area?

Some say the following quote cannot be attributed to John Wesley; whether or not it can the words stand as a challenge to all our politicians:

**Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.**

These words are challenging for each of us too as we seek to serve our God, our Church and our communities. Perhaps we can use them to reflect with our children, young people and families on the ministry of our churches and circuit – are we living up to this standard? What should we be doing differently?

Let us hold all politicians in our prayers, whether or not we agree with their policies. They are servants of our country, and God can work through them. In time perhaps the issues I mentioned at the beginning will be resolved.

Let's seek to be salt and light as we approach the 7th May General Election and beyond.

Nicola Briggs

MAYC 1945-2015



MAYC was founded in June 1945 with a special event held in the Royal Albert Hall. The Christian influence at the heart of MAYC changed the lives of many young people.

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of MAYC

On **Saturday 11 July** we are hosting an event at **St James Road Methodist Church, Southampton**, to celebrate Methodist youth work past and present and it will be an opportunity to inspire future generations / young people.

11.30am The celebration starts with worship and continues with the sharing of memories and hearing about present day Methodist youth work. A bring and share lunch will be followed by yellow & green themed games for all ages....with prizes for the best dressed in MAYC colours!

4.00pm Cake cutting ceremony, prayer and close.

We will also have a memorabilia table / display. If you have photographs or programmes you would like to share please send them to Nicola Briggs. We will take copies for the display and return the originals to you.

Resources for work with children and young people



Premier Childrenswork is a one-stop resource for planning and growing your children's ministry. Each bi-monthly issue is packed full of insightful articles, creative ideas, helpful resources like all-age service plans and session outlines, along with practical guidance and support. They also have a website with downloadable resources, game ideas, blogs and videos! Plus if you're a subscriber, you have exclusive access to all the past issues of the magazine online!

Request the current issue of Childrenswork for free:
<https://www.premierchildrenswork.com/subscriptions/free-trial>



Premier Youthwork is the UK's most widely read magazine for Christian youth workers, providing ideas and guidance, deep thinking features, themed curriculum and lots more. There is also a website hosting downloadable resources, blogs, videos and podcasts, and exclusive access to all the past issues of the magazine online for subscribers.

Request a free copy of the Youthwork magazine at:
<https://www.premieryouthwork.com/subscriptions/free-trial>

Why not discuss these survey results with your young people and talk about Jesus' words in Matt 11:28-30.

A survey by the National Citizen Service has revealed the ten things that young people dread the most:

1. First job interview
2. Sitting an exam
3. Talking with their parents about sex
4. Going on a blind date
5. Writing a CV
6. Visiting the dentist
7. Having their phone confiscated
8. Being told to tidy their room
9. Being grounded
10. Being banned from social media



Nominations are now open for the 2015 Christian Youth Work Awards. The awards, now in their fifth year, honour youth workers, volunteers, supporters and projects across the country.

The Christian Youth Work Awards are all about appreciating and celebrating the incredible work done with young people in churches and through Christian organisations up and down the UK. Thousands of youth workers, paid and volunteers, run clubs, Bible studies and groups every week. They spend hours talking and listening to young people, just hanging out. They don't just give their time, they give themselves.

Awards include:

- ❖ Youth Worker of the Year
- ❖ Volunteer of the Year
- ❖ Best Youth Work Employer
- ❖ Most Innovative Youth Work
- ❖ Best Youth Work Resource
- ❖ Unsung Hero of the Year
- ❖ Young Leader of the Year

Nominations can be made now at: <http://www.youthworkawards.co.uk>. Alternatively why not find a way to say thank you to the people in your church who serve children, young people and families in your community.

The 2015 **World Weekend of Prayer** for children at risk campaign on 6th-7th June is focused on the words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, 'I am with you always'. Hosted by the international children's charity Viva, the annual prayer event unites hundreds of thousands of adults and children in 40 countries. During the weekend thousands of children across the world – many of them living in difficult situations will turn to God in prayer, thanking him for his goodness and faithfulness, and asking for change in their situations. Join the World Weekend of Prayer on 6th-7th June. Resources are available at www.worldweekendofprayer.com

Visit <http://www.southamptonmethodistdistrict.org.uk/youth/newsletter> to download this newsletter as a PDF document.

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