



**YWS** YOUTH  
WORK  
SUMMIT  
**23:10:2010**  
LONDON

‘a new kind of youth work event... breaking down old ways of doing things, and finding new ones; listening to a wider range of voices than ever before, from parts of the church - and the world outside it - that normally we wouldn’t stop to engage with.’

Below are session notes taken by Ricky Rew - you can follow him at [@easyrew](https://twitter.com/easyrew) or <http://www.easyrew.com>. He has kindly allowed others to download the notes that he took from the day

*A word from Richard:*

*“On Saturday 23rd October I spent the day in London in the presence of 592 youth workers/leaders/ministers/etc and at least 20 speakers at the first Youthwork Summit:*

*‘a new kind of youth work event... breaking down old ways of doing things, and finding new ones; listening to a wider range of voices than ever before, from parts of the church – and the world outside it – that normally we wouldn’t stop to engage with.’*

*Each speaker had just 10 minutes to speak on their specific topic, which meant there was little time for waffle, and just enough time to get across their main message. It was an intense and amazing day – not just because of the free Starbucks coffee and snacks. Below are my notes from each of the sessions as I managed to capture them, when I wasn’t joining in the Twitter conversation which was being broadcast on the main screen.*

*As time allows I’ll be reflecting on each of the sessions further. If time allows, I may note my thoughts here too.”*

*Rend Collective:*

Opening Worship led by Rend Collective Experiment – a group I’d heard of in relation to their fantastic iPhone worship video, but hadn’t listened to their music. They led worship brilliantly, but I was particularly impacted when they shared the Methodist Covenant Prayer:

I am no longer my own but yours.  
Put me to what you will,  
rank me with whom you will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for you or laid aside for you,  
exalted for you or brought low for you;  
let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things, let me have nothing;  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
you are mine and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the covenant made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



## Matt King - Kick London

### Background:

Church attendance down among YP  
Average church age rising  
Church is failing to attract: men, poor, YP, Christians  
Any place for a poor male carpenter?

only 15% of the UK population in church on Sunday  
do they/we care about those not in church?

### Great commission

But how for young people?

How many young people are around my church?

I have a responsibility for them  
How can I connect with them  
Every single young person every week...

What a job to do, but we've been called to it

Need to engage relevantly

they won't be coming into church for a look

First, need to meet them on their territory and with their agenda!

The things they love are not the things we do in church on Sunday morning

Then perhaps, engage them on our territory but with their agenda

Not the things we do, but their things  
Not worshipping through songs or offering

Only then can we attempt to meet them on our territory and with our agenda

But why must we always bring them into our territory?  
Can we not attempt to grow Church organically with the young people?

### Ideas:

Connecting through schools – breakfast clubs, sports events, football academies  
Football service – start with whistle, half time, oranges

### Model:

Connect with millions  
Community with 10s of thousands  
Church/disciple thousands  
Connect and think about how to lead them on a journey of faith

### Fundamentals:

Bring hope  
Transform lives  
From church attendance to kingdom participation...



## Andrew Smith - Youth Encounter

*[I didn't take many notes as I'd heard Andrew speak on this previously]*

### Faithful followers of Isa

Isa is the name by which Muslims know Jesus

When did you last go to an interfaith meeting?

YP are attending them – every day and every week

RE lessons  
and in the playground, on the street

Do we have a mission to young people of other faiths?

need to remember that young people don't live in a secular society...

we need to train/educate young people to explain their faith in a positive way with gentleness and respect to Muslims



## Bob Mayo - The Faith of Generation Y

Young people aren't reacting against/hostile to the church or Christian faith because they don't know enough about it

Positive: because you don't have to fight against it

Negative: because they just don't care

referred to as the 'benign indifference of young people'

We can talk about our faith much quicker, because if this – mention Jesus sooner

Need to put the name of Jesus on what we're doing

Family situations:

gone through a divorce

children have to grow up quicker

when parents use them as a negotiating tool

friendship parenting – my mum/dad is my best friend

children have to grow up quicker

forces children into an adult 'space'

dealing with adult issues with fewer resources

Heading into a shame generation – not a guilt generation (as previously)

Guilt needs challenging

Shame needs affirming(?)

Authenticity has replaced authority



## Leanne Sedin & Mixed Opinions - XLP Tower Hamlets

Urban youth work – it's not as bad as people make out

We shouldn't speak up for those who can speak up for themselves

disempowering

Instead, enable them to speak up for themselves

Mixed Opinions – group of young people performed their song: Child of War

'people are dying over postcodes'

'fallen Angela from up above'

'we're not all bad'

'I'd only you knew what I've been through'

'full of hatred that once was love'

'I'm a child if war'

*you can view a very rough early version on YouTube... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwSK82A55A8>*



Half-baked Idea – Andy Burns Incarnational ministry online?

## Christopher Pilkington - TV Executive for Children's TV Endemol

Talking about the role of story in the lives of children

Need to captivate young people

How can we do it?

Need to take them on a journey

Need to actively engage them

'I'm talking theory, you put it into practice'

The narrative arc holds everything together

structure and character

Setup, Conflict, Resolution

Deal or no deal

an explanation of the three elements

'true character is revealed in the choices a human being makes under pressure' – Robert McGee

Need to know your audience

be aware of their world



they are frequently the underdog  
in the family, at school  
told what to do and when to do it  
they desire freedom and want to triumph

Use media to help captivate young people  
these are their references

If there is no surprise, why will they take the journey?

In what way is Jesus a triumph of the underdog?

His choices taken under such pressure

that's what will captivate young people

The answer is Jesus

Fr Dermott Donnelly - CYMFD

spoke briefly about the Diocesan Youth Village recently opened in the North East  
I figured out, eventually, that he's Declan Donnelly's brother

Rachel Welch - Selfharm.co.uk

Affects 10% of young people  
that's probably a conservative estimate

Self harm is not about attention seeking  
it's a coping mechanism

How will you cope \*when\* it happens in your group?

Showed a couple of powerful videos  
more will be available on the website, made from different perspectives



Pete Jeffry - Urban Saints

We have a problem – teenagers are leaving the Church in large numbers, primarily led by boys

Boys and girls are created differently

Does mixed youth work appropriately meet the needs of the young people?

Needs:

balanced boy-centric programme  
active, messy, competition, creative

Idea: reflective writing of sins on their hands then get them to wash it off

Invite them to simply listen to God

what is God saying? Share what they hear together

Rites of passage

iron ball(!), numbers game,  
they hear about it and want to join in

Residentials

build community and healthy gangs

Encourage them to share

Good role models, leaders

Create space in mixed groups for single-sex work



Toni Coulton

The story of Job in triptychs – Si Smith

Sorry – really didn't engage me at all



## Andrea Boden - Romance Academy

Can celibacy be a realistic option for young people?

'celibacy is a massive pair of iron knickers and a big lock which only your church leader has access too'

Culture says: 'everyone is doing it'

'a one-off sex talk is not going to cut it'

It's about a journey together

It's about intelligent choices

- responsible
- rational
- relational

'intelligent choice not an informed choice

'it's worth sticking it out rather than sticking it in'



## Andy Flannagan - Christian Socialist Movement

'Dad asked me to help him wash the car'

'because he wanted me to be where he was, doing what he was doing'

he didn't need my help, but he wanted it

Our Heavenly Father

- same applies

Helping the poor, healing the sick, etc

- He doesn't need us, but he wants us there with him
- shared tasks

Easy to be the good Samaritan

harder thing is to return the Jericho Road and trying to stop those bad things from happening

Need to get young people involved in political solutions to problems

'we should encourage young people to help bring about heaven on earth, rather than selling them an escape ticket to heaven'

read a powerful piece: his vision of what 2020 could be like if we act now

see Susa.info for resources



## Nate Morgan Lock - All Souls Clubhouse

Trying to impress upon us the importance of Scripture in youthwork

I didn't get it - perhaps I was distracted...

was it just me?

Half-baked Idea - Matt Summerfield

Churches struggle to find enough volunteers

What do you do when young people get too old for one group and have to move to another?

Should have movable age groups in church

cohort moves on and grows up together

volunteers stay with the same cohort

grow up through church with your young people

## Rachel Warwick - Breathe

Young people can experience God

Introduced the Breathe resource:

It's personal:

don't have to worry about what others are doing, or share it

It's simple: uses simple tools to explore deeper things

It's open: doesn't force young people to believe anything

It's structured: giving young people a way to respond to whatever they experience

we were introduced to one of the tools: Play-doh as a tool to worship God



## Kenny Wilson - International Christian College

Discipleship as adventure:

have we lost the spirit of Jesus' radical call?

Discipleship is a way of forming Christian character

The focus has shifted to: Programme, event & mission

Discipleship was an adventure for early Christians

It should be a daily adventure, of bringing love to those around us

Jesus through the holy Spirit is still with us and working through us, but we've changed what discipleship is:

'We've emphasised the great commission over the great commandments'

We should refocus on the great commandments

Young disciple – strong desire to tell others how great it is, but not wanting to push it on them too soon – but what could I do in the meantime? Love others...

Loving your neighbours as you love yourself

secret discipleship

'stealing' bikes and making them new

signed 'the nice'

We need to re-empower our young Christians to live discipleship as adventure



## Lloyd Harp - Rudgwick Youth

used to work for a megachurch in the US

90% of his time was spent within the church

Is this why the attendance among YP is on the decline? Almost certainly

'Jesus: friend of sinners'

I would love to hear that 'the problem with Lloyd is that he is friends with sinners'

'How can you encourage YP to share their faith with non-Christian friends, if we don't have friendships with sinners'

we don't have the right!

'as we follow Christ and pursue discipleship we \*must\* associate with sinners'



## Yanah Nightingale - One Life

Could you be overlooking leadership potential in your youth group?

Simon Peter was asked 'do you love me?' by Jesus

He's then asked 'do you know Jesus?' – he denies it

Jesus asks him again

everything rests on Peter's reply

This is about his character and not his skills and abilities

– his suitability for leadership depends on it

Answering 'yes' will lead to change within you

obedience, listening, submission

The same question should be asked of anyone wishing to serve in the Kingdom of God

The same question should be asked of our young people who wish to lead

Leadership as influence, in any context



Mark Russell - Church Army  
Final Commissioning Address

delivered the final commissioning address:

'the call to youth ministry takes up so much time that our relationship with God suffers...'

'horror stories are everywhere – I know, I'm an Anglican'

The Lord's Prayer

your Kingdom come  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven

Matt 9:35 – ministry of words and action

Jesus spoke the values of the kingdom  
Jesus also lived the kingdom

'The spirit of the lord has anointed me to...'

reach those on the margins

Jesus went to the broken...

...and brings the kingdom in

'Youthwork is not a strategy to shore up a crumbling institution, but because young people need Jesus'

– those on the margins won't fit in to our church services or youth groups

The cute fluffy lambs don't run away – the angry ones do.

Go after them, because Jesus is already there.

Challenge the church to model the kingdom

If the church is boring, it's not following Jesus

'it takes serious talent to make Christianity seem boring – but we're doing it'

Have confidence to expect miracles – because the kingdom is here

We will have opposition from the devil because the kingdom is not fully here

Let's demonstrate and speak the kingdom

'which is more important: words or actions?'

'breathing in or out?'

– whichever one you didn't do last

– do the other this time

Challenge to model the kingdom

How many non-Christian friends do we have?

'The more time you spend with Christians the more you'll spend talking about church; the more time you spend with non-Christians the more you'll talk about Jesus'

They need Jesus, want hope, but don't want to come to church.

We need to model kingdom values: evangelism, etc.

Keep company with sinners and with Jesus

Trust in a god of miracles

Modelling Kingdom changes lives

– the story of the hippo and the tortoise

Christ met and touched people where they were

young people need to find a place to be loved in our churches and communities

'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'