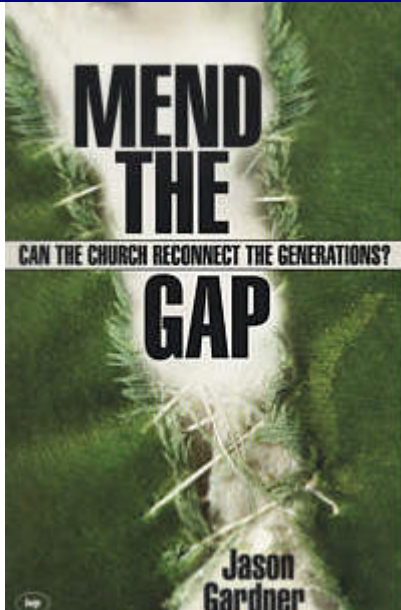


Youthwork Theory and Practice



Mend the Gap

by Jason Gardner

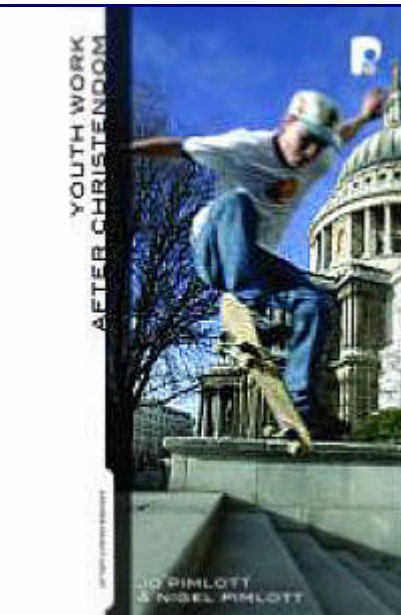
published by IVP(Inter Varsity Press)

in Paperback

at £8.99 (978-1-844-74284-4)

I have to be honest this book is touted as an analysis of the generational gap aimed at youth-workers, Church Leaders and Parents in order to stop the rot for want of a better term. However for me, though it may be a book for Youth Workers and church -leaders it isn't one that really helps in the generational rebalance. It is an interesting book for a youth-worker, but though not simplistic much of it is obvious and it is definitely biased to the youth with the emphasis being on change being needed within the older generations to solve the problems. Definitely an interesting book for a youth-worker as it does have some good material on youth spirituality and society.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Youth Work after Christendom

by Jo and Nigel Pimlott

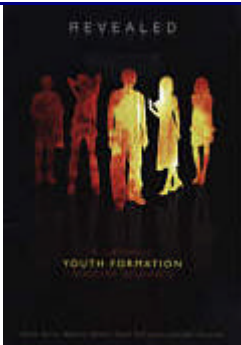
published by Paternoster Press imprint of Authentic Media

in Paperback

at £9.99 (978-1-842-27605-1)

This is a very helpful consideration of youth work today and a much needed guide. Particularly useful is the exploration of HUP (homogeneous unit principle), which will be useful elsewhere. I love the end about paradox. I think that word opens so many doors and the observations so true and advice helpful. I wrote *Grove - Paradox in the Gospel* - and would love to write more about that subject as a means of not only coping about questions of faith, but in finding faith in the first place. So, a book which is most enlightening and full of illustrations about youth work, but with far more implications for other groups of people beyond that.

Notes by [Jim Currin](#)



Revealed

by Karen North, Rebecca Barber, David O'Connell, and
published by Redemptorist Publications
in A4 Paperback
at £11.95 (978-0-852-31348-0)

This is an incredible resource to have on hand, aimed at a Catholic market it is nonetheless an incredibly insightful and in-depth handbook to have on youth ministry for the sheer view to the contract and strategy that you must now have in any youth ministry. The insight and background material on legal aspects of setting up and running youth ministry is more than ably covered in this book, and the sections on music, media and film use are second to none, going into the copyright issues and more! this book is incredible and worth getting whatever churchmanship you are! oh and the other great thing about it is that it is backed up by a fantastic website with loads more information on it that goes along with the book. Fantastic and comprehensive on all levels.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Mission-Shaped Youth

by Tim Sudworth
published by CHP (Church House Publishing)
in Paperback
at £7.99 (978-0-715-14082-6)

In the current climate of - Mission Shaped Church - this book is an inevitable follow on and necessary addition to that initiative. We can always state that to work with youth and encourage them in their part in the life of the church is vital. This brief yet packed book gives sound advice through case studies, examples, practical exercises and common sense. The book starts with actual stories of young people and their sometimes struggle to make adults understand their special needs. There are examples of working in schools, in clubs, in neighbourhoods, of liturgies which express the needs and desires of youngsters, remembering that young people progress through their understanding of belief and church and have sound ideas of how they wish to worship and express their faith. If you need to discover new ways of youth ministry then this is your book.

Notes by [Ian Gibson](#)



Young People + Worship

Edited by Mark Montgomery

published by CHP (Church House Publishing)

in Paperback

at £11.99 (978-0-715-14057-4)

This is the next book in the series from Church House Publishing exploring themes of National Youth Strategy. It is not a book for young people, but their leaders, for those who seek some alternative routes to planning and leading worship, always a difficult area, I feel with young people. Many young people have to endure “family services” which are aimed at them but leave them cold; this book connects the Sunday theme and service with what happens for the rest of the week. It also opens a debate about setting aside different days and services for the young, a change from the norm but emphasising the difference of style and content that young people may need to relate to God. Young people do not want to dumb down God but treat their style of worship as a serious alternative. This book gives plenty of resources, ideas, practical hints and tips and case studies of items that have succeeded and some that haven't. Moreover the book gives us the chance to review what is happening in our neck of the woods and seeing if it is sensible to try something new; I challenge you to read this book carefully and try something different!

Notes by [Ian Gibson](#)



Young People + Mission

Edited by Alison and David Booker

published by CHP (Church House Publishing)

in Paperback

at £11.99 (978-0-715-14060-4)

This is part one of a series of books which have been commissioned by Church House Publishing to explore the themes of the Church of England National Youth Strategy and are aimed at Youth Workers and leaders who are seeking professional qualifications in this area of work. The contributors are all experienced youth workers and give a breadth of teaching which is full of hints and tips, practical help, guidance for resources, and real life case studies. The mission field for youth is sometimes neglected and treated instead as an add-on to the work in clubs and societies. This book underpins the value of treating young people to work with God in building his kingdom here on earth and tapping the resources and skills of young people. Youngsters work not only in church environments but also in the wider world and to take their mission based belief to others is a vital area of their ministry. As a resource for teachers and workers this series should prove of great value.

Notes by [Ian Gibson](#)



Top Tips: On Welcoming Special Children

by Denise Abraham

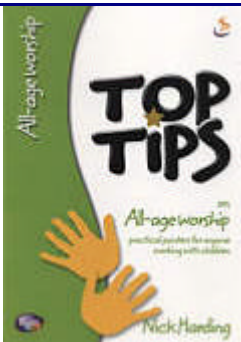
published by SU (Scripture Union)

in Stapled A5

at £2.99 (978-1-844-27126-9)

This - Top Tips - book is excellent indeed, not least because there really is not that much out there on such an important subject, but simply because this book is a short, easy to read and important keynotes booklet on working with Children with learning difficulties and disabilities. It covers all the essentials from understanding what special needs are, the Disability Discrimination Act, and also giving some good ideas on activities to do. It also includes ideas on standard forms to use and a listing of websites for further assistance. This book really is a great book of top tips and recommended for any church or group to use.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Top Tips: On All-Age Worship

by Nick Harding

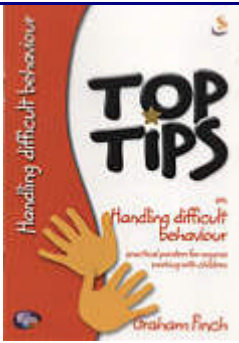
published by SU (Scripture Union)

in Stapled A5

at £2.99 (978-1-844-27125-2)

Nick Harding is a well known name in All-age worship materials and this little - Top Tips - booklet from him really is full of top tips and great ideas. All-age worship can be a bit of a landmine in getting it right for everyone but with the help of this little booklet some of the danger can be removed. It moves from looking at why all age worship, through to the how of all-age worship, and best of all it is in very little chunks making it easy to read and digest for any busy minister or service leader.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Top Tips: On Handling Difficult Behaviour

by Graham Finch

published by SU (Scripture Union)

in Stapled A5

at £2.99 (978-1-844-27124-5)

This is an excellent and essential little book for any children's or youth worker, or indeed anyone having to work with a group of children (although to be fair some of the tips would work just as well with some troublesome adults as well!). Looking at some of the reasons that may be behind the problem behaviour and then how that problem may manifest it then proceeds to give a framework of techniques that can be utilized when dealing with a child manifesting difficult behaviour. This is another hit book in the - Top Tips - series and an essential tool for anyone coming into working with children.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Top Tips: On Reaching Unchurched Children

by Helen Franklin

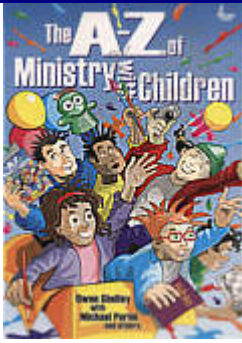
published by SU (Scripture Union)

in Stapled A5

at £2.99 (978-1-844-27127-6)

This is a great little booklet of tips on reaching unchurched children. Written in an informal and yet well presented manner it is a helpful tool for any youth or children's worker. Including as it does some real life insights as well as 'how to' tips it really is a good little tool to have to hand just before trying any outreach. I also liked the little cartoons scattered throughout it that just lift it up a little as well. As part of the - Top Tips - series it is a great addition to any parish shelf.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



The A-Z of Ministry With Children

by Owen Shelley with Michael Perini and others

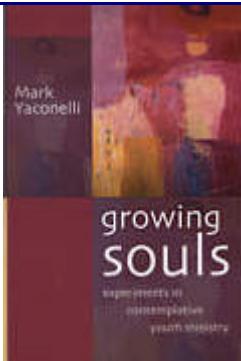
published by SU (Scripture Union)

in Paperback

at £8.99 (978-1-876-79442-2)

This is an amazing book; under 'E' it teaches you how to build a wooden easel for your outside presentations! Under 'I' you have the most amazing 12 pages showing you how to draw incredible quick sketches and doodles to enable you to illustrate a Story on the run as it were. This book is great, it's comprehensive but not dense and it really is an essential piece of kit for all children's and youth work teams, especially if they are involved in active ministry and holiday clubs or outreaches.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Growing Souls

by Mark Yaconelli

published by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)

in Paperback

at £9.99 (978-0-281-05937-9)

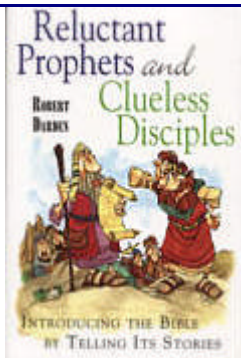
This book is written in acknowledgement that youth ministry culture has often become increasingly frantic, consumerist, dull, formulaic and spiritually stunted. However much of the thought in the book is applicable to other aspects of church life and it's a helpful read for those who don't play any part in youth ministry as well as for those for whom it is primarily written. The explanation of the busyness and frantic nature of much youth ministry, focusing mainly on fun activities and moral guidance rather than building young people with souls, was a timely reminder of the way that many churches have bought into the world's views on success and business-like methods as the be-all and end-all. -

The first section is an introduction to contemplative youth ministry and how the programme of the YMSP (Youth Ministry and Spirituality Project) came about. The second section looks more closely at two specific churches and the way in which this new form of youth ministry works within those churches. The third section is an interview with many youth leaders from the churches that have been involved in the pilot projects and also with some of the youth who have been at these projects. The last section sums up the results of ten years of the youth ministry project and describes in more detail some of the problems that were encountered on the way. There are some helpful appendices which provide information on some of the methods used during the project. -

The section that describes the experiences of two of these churches was fascinating, as were the apparent effects on the rest of the church, not just the youth section. What was interesting was that only three or four out of the original sixteen churches involved in the project had found that their churches really embraced this way of ministry and that in some cases the project contributed to instability in the church - sometimes church pastors or other parts of the churches shut the projects down and sometimes, even if the project continued to run, it created something of a wedge between youth and main church. However the overwhelming feeling from reading this book is that contemplative prayer is a vital tool for the youth leader who wants to build spiritually mature young people and "an attempt to counter the isolation, hyperactivity and emphasis on efficiency that plagues ministries with youth... an intervention to heal the more destructive aspects of the way youth ministry is often practised within a western context," even if many churches aren't yet ready for it or able to practise it. -

My only reservation about the book was that it didn't address whether some young people couldn't relate to the more contemplative approach and therefore didn't stay involved with the churches studied; I imagine this could be the case but it wasn't specifically mentioned. However it was an enlightening book to read and it showed that this method can be of immense value to both the young people and also to the adult youth leaders and others involved in bringing the next generation of Christians into a deeper faith.

Notes by Helen Hancox



Reluctant Prophets & Clueless Disciples

by Robert Darden

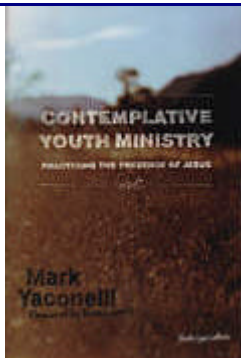
published by Abingdon Press distributed by Alban Books

in Paperback

at £14.99 (978-0-687-49395-1)

The sub-title of this book is "Introducing the Bible by Telling Its Stories". Let me be honest; my reaction was something between "Ho, hum" and "Yeah, yeah". How are the mighty fallen – I could not have been more wrong. This book is very much more than what it says on the cover. The first chapter is an extremely readable but precise and literary, examination of what makes a good story, why some stories are great and stay with us for ever and why some are merely ephemerally entertaining. As a teacher of literature, I applied Robert Darden's analysis to two traditional, literary texts and it works as well for them as it does for Bible stories. Furthermore, when applied to Bible stories, the analysis presents a level of understanding and perception that makes for compelling reading. In fact I think this book is more than it says on the cover; it is, in fact, a very accessible and illuminating commentary of the Bible through a literary and questioning examination of its stories. One to keep!

Notes by Sue Cooper



Contemplative Youth Ministry

by Mark Yaconelli

published by Zondervan Publishing House

in Hardback

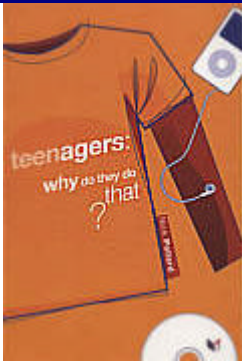
at £11.99 (0-310-26777-3)

Subtitled 'Practicing the Presence of Jesus', this is a great book on the spirituality of Youth Work.

Written in an insightful manner with an eye to the realities of day to day youth work and how easy it is to mislay the deeper spiritual root both for the minister and those you are trying to reach.

This book, though American and thoroughly presented from an evangelical perspective, is definitely worth reading for any youth worker as it is a refreshing look at why and how to do some things and why and how we should be doing them in the first instance. Well written, insightful and easy to read, a good addition to a youth workers shelf.

Notes by Melanie Carroll



Teenagers: Why Do They Do That?

by Nick Pollard

published by Damaris dist. Authentic

in Paperback

at £6.99 (1-904-75313-2)

A small but excellently formed book looking at the difficulties teenagers face and trying to explain them to the adult population. So Ok this sounds like a recipe for disaster, a condescension, but actually this book works. Looking at things from both a psychological and spiritual perspective, Pollard attempts to help re-engage adults with teens through a concise explanation of both how and why the youth of today are how they are. This is a stunningly insightful quick flit through post modernism and the prevailing philosophies and politics that have led to this situation and how they truly do effect our teenagers. A must read for parents or anyone to help foster an understanding of teens.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Saving Sex

by Trevor Stammers and Tim Doak

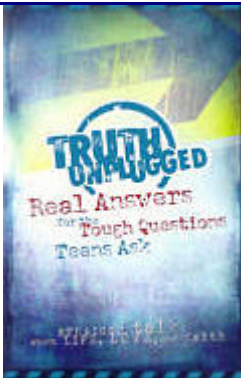
published by Authentic Publications

in Paperback

at £6.99 (1-904-75314-0)

Co-written by a Dr Stammer, this is the kind of book that a parent who will stammer through answers on SEX will probably want to buy! STD's, Oral Sex and Pubic Hairs all get mentioned in this book. It really is full of the types of questions your growing teens want answered but probably won't ever ask you. That said the book does rather read like something from a Dr's waiting room. However better this than nothing. This book gives sound advice that does not come over as too preachy and is not afraid to deal with the most embarrassing and intimate of questions.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Truth Unplugged

by Jim Burns

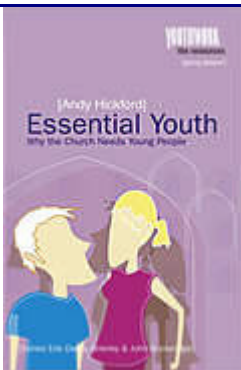
published by Honor Books Dist. Kingsway

in Paperback

at £5.99 (1-562-92218-1)

- Truth Unplugged - is a series on answers and questions. Each question is based on a real question from a young person ranging from smoking to same-sex attraction. Due to its style this is not a book to read but to dip into as needed. To get the best out of Truth Unplugged will require some work. Because of its size it is limited to only a basic answer with supporting Scripture. Where contact numbers or websites are given for further help they are American. The problem is not the book's but the UK market's reliance on books from America. While this book has a pastoral aim, the questions are suitable for use as a discussion starter or Bible Study. How would your young people answer the questions? What does the Bible say on this issue? In spite of the problem of an American book in a British market, - Truth Unplugged - is a useful book for a youth worker's bookshelf.

Notes by [Phelim McIntyre](#)



Essential Youth

by Andy Hickford

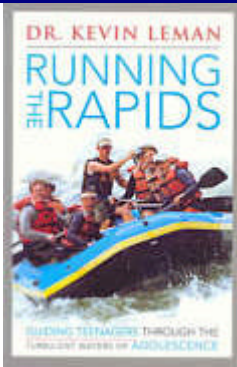
published by Spring Harvest distributed by Authentic

in Paperback

at £9.99 (1-850-78542-2)

Essential Youth will help a church reach and keep young people. It argues vigorously for a model of church life which takes young people from the edge to the centre.' A vital tool for ministers and youth leaders, Essential Youth points the way forward striking powerfully at the very root of how we do church, how we select leaders and how we preach the Gospel. Author Andy Hickford wants this title to give churches a vision for including young people in its very centre. How should we 'do church'? How should we preach the gospel? How should we involve our young people? Written for the youth leader and church minister, - Essential Youth - points the way forward for the next step in youth ministry. For the youth leader the book shows how we can't just turn up on a Friday night and expect results we need to get the bigger picture, we need a renewed vision. For the church leader, Hickford shows how young people are an investment in the church's future. Can we really afford to miss out? - Essential Youth - is the essential guide for youth workers, youth ministers, church leaders, and all those who have a passion for God's church.

Notes by [publisher](#)



Running the Rapids

by Kevin Leman

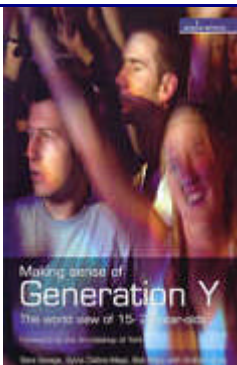
published by Tyndale House Publishers

in Paperback

at £7.50 (978-0-842-37413-2)

Written by someone who is both a psychologist and a father of five this book does come with some stories that will be recognizable to anyone who parents a teen, and Dr Leman does give some practical guidance on addressing teen angst, rebellion, the mood swings and dealing with SEX issues - in fact the sections dealing with Sex are very informative. It is written in an easy to read style, however as good as it is, it is let down by how very American it is, there is a lot about American Culture, summer camps and other such information that just does not transpose. So on the whole while worth a glance it may well not be that helpful to most UK parents.

Notes by [Melanie Carroll](#)



Making sense of generation Y

by Sara savage, Sylvia Collins-Mayo, Bob Mayo with Gr

published by CHP (Church House Publishing)

in Paperback

at £12.99 (0-715-14051-5)

This book has been eagerly awaited by those church leaders who have been reading about the 'Spiritual Revolution' described by David Tacey and Heeles and Woodhead in their respective seminal works. Phil Rankin followed that with 'Buried Spirituality' then looked at Generation Y – or young people (15-25 yrs) for the uninitiated! In some contrast to Rankin, this new work again asks young people for their views and concludes that spirituality is not a quest for many of them. So, this significant book will be much analyzed and quoted as an important contribution to a wider debate, questioning as it does many of our widely held assumptions about the world view of young people today. Jim Currin

Notes by [Jim Currin](#)