

Memories of Terry Smith

by Bernard Wynne, with thanks to Brian Coxhead and Martin Walsh

Terry was a man of many parts and many interests in his professional life and also in his personal life, where his activities and involvements were legion. Was there anything he wasn't involved with? Everything that Terry did was for the good of others, whether it was in his days in the YCW, as a local councillor or, in more recent times, the massive amount of work he did for refugees through the Bromley Refugee Centre, or his involvement with Justice and Peace. Outside of his family everything he did was devoted to improving the prospects and lives of other people.



By the mid-1950s, Terry was one of the key YCW leaders in the South East and most specifically in Diocese of Westminster. Born and brought up in the East End he remained committed to the values and beliefs he developed early on in his life, values and beliefs we rightly associate with someone growing up with his background.

His association with the YCW started in Limehouse, where he lived above the library where his father, I believe, was caretaker. [An extraordinary coincidence (or working by the Spirit): this is right next to the new YCW community house in Limehouse and the flat is visible from the community room!] Terry developed quickly and was shortly playing his part on the wider diocesan and national stage of the movement. He was very influential in the development of the YCW in the Diocese of Westminster along with people such as Peter Beech and Eddie Lock. He regularly attended YCW events such as the National Council and study weekends and he was an active participant in the 1956 Study Week in Dunkirk.

Martin Walsh told me that Terry "was the inspiration for me to join the YCW in my teens and I have many happy memories of the Christ the King Rallies

held in London at which Terry spoke." I am confident that this experience is one that was shared by many of the young people who came into contact with Terry in those early days.

His ability to be inspirational but laid back and relaxed was a characteristic that Terry never lost. Not for Terry the out-in-front style of leadership, hoping people would follow, but leadership and inspiration within the group: people followed Terry because they had confidence in him and trusted him.

His generosity and commitment were demonstrated by the way he lent his Hillman Husky estate – a Hillman Husky estate, I ask you! – to Mick Foley and Brian Coxhead to drive to Colchester to set Brian up to do the Alexandra Rose collection there in 1959. Knowing Mick and Brian it is easy to understand how much a commitment from Terry this was, but I bet he was pleased to get it back in one piece.

I remember going to Mary and Terry's home in Southwark for dinner sometime in the early 1960s. I was looking for help with developing the YCW in the Diocese by getting a Management Committee up and running and I may have been feeling a bit down. However

when I came away I was reinvigorated, positive that we could succeed and with many ideas that I could work on. This was the impact that Mary and Terry had on me and it cemented a friendship that has remained true.

After a spell living away from London Terry and Mary returned and again became the mainstay of the YCW Management Committee in Southwark which lasted many years. Terry also served with dedication on the committee of the Cardijn Association.

Over the years Terry and I spent many hours, sometimes over a beer, putting the world to rights; we both held strong views about politics, society, football and the Church and were always willing to express them. Even recently when Terry was in hospital we did our usual run around the topics of the day and we remained convinced that things would be better if we were in charge rather than those who are.

Terry will be greatly missed by his family, by his many friends in the Cardijn Association, the Bromley Refugee Centre, his parish and the Justice and Peace Movement.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the YCW in memory of Terry Smith.

REAL LIFE

The Journal of the Young Christian Workers

Many of us involved in youth ministry are currently up to our necks with preparations for the 23rd World Youth Day to be held in Sydney, Australia, this July. The theme for this year's event is:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses."

Acts 1:8

Pope Benedict XVI has been inviting young people to reflect upon the person of the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit can motivate us to witness to the Christian faith. Just like his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict sees the World Youth Day event as an opportunity to galvanise young people within the Church to take seriously the mission to evangelize, to bring the Gospel to the world. The time for this publication of Real Life coincides with the celebration of the Easter season which ends with the feast of Pentecost. As we travel through Eastertide, we follow in the daily readings at Mass, the story of the early Church and how its mission was inspired and fuelled by the Holy Spirit powerfully working through individuals and the community as a whole. The Church was very aware of being "Spirit-filled" and "Spirit-led" in its mission to bring the Gospel message to the world. The Spirit inspired people to witness to the name of Christ, to witness to his saving death and resurrection. It is the same Spirit that should inspire us to do likewise. In his message to young people, Pope Benedict urges them to realise that the Church of today needs them to evangelize their peers in the power of the Holy Spirit, to create a new Pentecost, a new evangelization:

"I assure you that the Spirit of Jesus today is inviting you young people to be bearers of the good news of Jesus to your contemporaries. The difficulty that adults undoubtedly find in approaching the sphere of youth in a comprehensible and convincing way could be a sign with which the Spirit is urging you young people to take this task upon yourselves. You know the ideals, the language, and also the wounds, the expectations, and at the same time the desire for goodness felt by your

contemporaries. This opens up the vast world of young people's emotions, work, education, expectations, and suffering ... Each one of you must have the courage to promise the Holy Spirit that you will bring one young person to Jesus Christ in the way you consider best, knowing how to 'give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but [to] do it with gentleness and reverence'" (cf. 1 Peter 3:15)."

Pope Benedict XVI,

Message to the Young People of World

These words especially resonate with us as part of the YCW movement. Cardijn founded the YCW to be a pastoral response to the growing need to evangelize the mass of workers increasingly alienated from the Church and from the wider society in which they lived and worked. He wanted them to know for themselves the Good News that they were created in the image and likeness of God to live life to the full; to discover their eternal destiny and their unique purpose in life. Cardijn realised that he could not himself evangelize the young people of his time. He needed to witness to groups of young people Christ's love for them, and send them out to be the witnesses to their peers in the cotton mill, the mines and the factories, or on the unemployment line or in the soup kitchens. He empowered them with a "Spirit-inspired" formula: groups formed to support each other through the Review of Life, called to organise in order to serve, and to transform their world in the image of the Gospel.

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In this edition of Real Life we celebrate with gratitude the different ways in which individuals of the Movement have been witnesses to the Gospel and so inspired our

young people to take up the challenge to transform their reality as young leaders. In particular we thank God for the ministry of Fr John Marsland who came to the end of his time as International Chaplain to the ICYCW last December. It can be seen by the examples of the letters and tributes included in this edition how much Fr John has been greatly appreciated across the globe for his tireless and dedicated service to young people. He is a great example to us all as chaplains/adult companions to the YCW Movement of how to inspire, form and educate young leaders to go out and witness to the truth of the Gospel. We also acknowledge in this edition the life of Terry Smith, a dedicated member and supporter of the YCW for many years. I was personally saddened to hear of the news of Terry's death, and we send our thoughts, prayers and condolences to his wife Mary, and to his family. We remember with gratitude Terry's witness and his work to support the Movement in the Archdioceses of Southwark and Westminster, and nationally.

Recently we held our Impact/YCW National event in Birmingham. The whole emphasis of the weekend was on the idea of being a leader, and I was greatly encouraged and animated by the enthusiasm of the 60 Impact members as they mapped out their reality as young people today. I was equally impressed by their enthusiasm to seek ways to transform that reality for the positive. They were challenged to think of themselves as leaders within their peer group, and judging by what they brought to the closing liturgy, the message that they are indeed instruments for real transformation really hit home. I enjoyed the opportunity to do some serious training with the young leaders involved or potentially involved with the YCW and potential adult companions and chaplains on the theme of the Review of Life. We were all reminded of Cardijn's words, "Give me a young leader and I will transform the world." I really got the sense that we have some good and enthusiastic leaders who will be the basis of a genuine resurrection of the Movement in this country. So let us with courage, with the hope of Easter in our hearts go out and witness in the power of the Holy Spirit, and believe we have the capability to make a difference.

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YCW
The Difference
is You

Thank you Fr John

A heartfelt expression of thanks to Fr John Marsland, International Chaplain, 2000-2007

Fr John Marsland ended his term as International Chaplain for the ICYCW in Rome in December 2008. He was appointed International Chaplain in October 2000, and after a few months of intensive language study (French and Spanish), he took up the post in January 2001. Over the last 7 years he has tirelessly travelled the world, supporting existing national movements old and new, nurturing new and sometimes fragile national movements, and inspiring the national teams and national chaplains, not to mention increasing his carbon footprint! He was always either just back from some far-flung corner of the globe, or was getting a visa for the next exotic-sounding destination.

His work in this role was immensely important and very greatly appreciated by all those he met and helped. Below are some extracts from some of the appreciative letters about Fr John and his work which the ICYCW received from the national movements and their chaplains.

From the YCW of England and Wales:

“Fr John, how can we say thank you enough for everything you’ve given to the YCW of England and Wales? You’ve always given us support and encouragement in everything we do, from advice on starting up new projects, training the new team and key leaders, and offering your thoughts on the new materials. Especially in times of difficulty you have always been there, as a true friend to England and Wales YCW. When things have looked uncertain you have been there to encourage us and guide us through. Knowing that we can always call on you is valued greatly as we move into a brighter future.

We know that while you might be stepping down as international chaplain, your support will still be there for us. We look forward to maintaining a close working relationship with you at all levels of the Movement in England and Wales.

We wouldn’t be where we are today without your guidance, support and encouragement. These words aren’t really enough to convey the gratitude and friendship we feel for you. Thank you for everything.”

National Team, England and Wales



Fr John during an ICYCW visit to England and Wales

From the YCW in France:

“Thank you for all the good work carried out by the ICYCW. We particularly appreciated the Barcelona meeting, which was a great time for exchanges between chaplains from all countries. This opened new horizons for us, and we know how much you put into that meeting.

Thank you too for your presence at the REM [European members’ meeting, Paris, August 2007] and for the celebration of the Eucharist we were delighted you could share with us.

We all send you every good wish for your future ministry in England, and we hope that everything you have learned at the ICYCW will help you in the future, for the YCW is a great school for life, for priests too: it helps us to live the ministry which is granted to us in other ways, and makes us go back to the Gospel.

Be assured of our friendship and our prayers.”

Monique, Chantal, Claude, Bernard, Daniel, national chaplains, France

From the YCW in Malta:

“We would like to thank you for believing in the potential of the ICYCW and all the national movements; however a special word of thanks with regards to our own Maltese experience is necessary! You believed in us even before knowing who we were! As you know when we arrived we were quite green in the YCW to say the least; but along the way we could realise how much your guidance together with the infinite support from the ICYCW were a constant encouragement and eye opener to continue in our aim to revive the work amongst young workers in Malta based on Cardijn’s method!

When I (Albert) came to the ICYCW International Council in Rome... totally unaware of what was really happening(!!!) you were very sensitive in making me feel at home and encouraging me not to feel belittled by my lack of knowledge and experience in YCW, an encouragement which I did my best to pass on to my co-members in Malta as it is what still today keeps me going when I feel I might not be up to it.

May you have some well deserved rest and many good things that the Lord would present you with in your future experiences!”

Albert and Roberta, YCW national team, Malta

“[I must show] my grateful appreciation for all you have done for the CIJOC, for the Maltese YCW and for me personally. You were always a PRIEST to us.

You have been of great inspiration to many ‘jocistes’ – militants, members, chaplains and lay accompaniers. You have been providential in spreading the Movement again throughout several countries.

May God bless you for all this.”

Fr Joe Inguanez, YCW Chaplain, Malta

From the YCW in the Philippines:

“I don’t know how to say thank you for all the good things that you have done to us. No words can explain how thankful I am that you became a big part of my journey.

Thank you for giving me the chance to be a part of the international chaplain’s forum to share my personal experience. That is one very memorable experience that I will never ever forget in my life. I know that you recommended me for that and I really appreciated the trust that you have given to me. You helped me to build up my self-confidence to speak in front of many different people. You also helped me a lot to face the challenges in my journey being a leader. As you had said to us, ‘A YCW member is a leader to herself or himself’, and I learned that from you.

Thank you for your time, for all the sacrifices, for all the efforts, for the love, for the trust, for the words of wisdom, for being a good listener to everybody.

May God keep you safe and healthy all the time.”

Idy, National President, The Philippines

From the YCW in Uganda:

“On behalf of the Uganda YCW and on my behalf I would like to give a big clap for the wonderful work that Father John has done for the YCW. The Uganda YCW is what it is now because of you, Father: you found us beginning a YCW and you have left us beginning.

As our founder said, the young people are always at the beginning. We promise you to always begin the YCW in our country. You have fought a good fight for the young people.

We pray that the almighty God rewards you abundantly.”

Bumba Fred, Uganda YCW

Fr John’s new role

On 18 January 2008 the following announcement was made by Ushaw College, Durham:

“The Roman Catholic Bishops of the Northern Province of England and Wales and the Bishop of Shrewsbury have appointed Father John Marsland to be Rector of Ushaw College, Durham.

From the EAST AFRICA COORDINATION of the YCW

“You have been a model to us in our region who has not hesitated to visit any sort of place where we can fish the young people, especially in the war-torn area of Gulu in Uganda.

Your continued support since has really helped us a lot in strengthening the YCW. On behalf of the region I congratulate you for having brought us together, especially the recent sub-regional meeting where we gathered in large numbers. This is a sign of success.

But I ask you to pray for us to continue with the spirit that we don’t fall back.

May God bless you in all your works, Father.”

Kakyeke Francis, sub-regional contact for the East African Coordination



Fr John pictured in East Africa

From the YCW in Ethiopia:

“Dear Fr John,

We knew each other since the time you were in the English College as Vice-Rector. The YCW ideal has grown deeply in me with the time I spent with you. Especially the spirituality.



Fr John pictured in Ethiopia

I can assure you that all your good example of simple life, compassionate spirit, dedication above all your capacity to integrate all liturgical life of the church with the method of the YCW.

As a priest I take you as model for my priestly life. Dear Father, we still need your assistance where ever you may be.

God bless you in abundance.”

Abba Lesanu-Christos Matheos, Chaplain, Addis Ababa

From the YCW in Dominican Republic

“The YCW in the Dominican Republic are very grateful for your presence at CIJOC. Many thanks for all those times when you accompanied us. May God continue to bless you in whatever pastoral work you undertake. God bless you always.”

From the YCW in the Holy Land:

“The JOC/YCW in Bethlehem want to thank you about everything you have done for us especially because you have visited us.

Pray for Bethlehem and for us to get a peace in the Holy Land.”

From the YCW in Jordan

“Fr John, Thank you for all you did for the YCW, especially in Asia, the Middle East and Jordan.”

Fr Bassam Shahtit, National Chaplain, Jordan/Amman

Father Marsland, a priest of the Diocese of Salford, has been working with the Young Christian Workers (YCW) in Rome; previously he was Vice Rector of the Venerable English College, Rome. He is currently concluding a sabbatical in Jerusalem.”

Fr John will formally take up his position as Rector of Ushaw College in September 2008. We wish him every success.

Ushaw College, the northern seminary, was founded in Douai, north-east France in 1568, and is now near Durham, where it has close connections with the University. Its governors are keen that “Ushaw be developed as an Institute for Mission providing formation and education for seminarians, clergy, religious and lay people”, and the College offers courses and conference facilities, particularly “special spaces for young people”.