

# St Boniface Trust Essay Competition

## **The Judges' Comments**

The whole experience has been inspiring. Literally. Sometimes we took a sharp intake of breath as another quotable phrase came up. Sometimes an essay gave us food for thought and exposition. We always felt the Holy Spirit was not far away.

The more we read, the more we realised what a difficult task had been set. The fact that the subject involved Anglicans meant it was a stretching theological exercise. On the other hand the title itself demanded a personal approach and a future perspective. We were looking for a conversation between sound Anglican tradition and personal testimony which demonstrated how and why the dynamic worked in practice.

As befits an Anglican approach we had a broad spectrum of writers and not only from a theological standpoint. The youngest entrant was 10 and we guess the oldest might have been at least 60 years his senior. The entrants represented many parts of the Anglican Communion which made us realise what a lot we have to enrich each other. Some contributions were from small minority churches and others from booming congregations. Some wrote with a presumed establishment background and others from an environment of persecution. Some were young theological students strutting their stuff and some writers were lay people with infectious confidence about why they are where they are and what their present vocation is.

There are of course some common themes without which you can hardly write about Anglicanism – catholic continuity; liturgical framework and growth; biblical honesty; poetic, musical and artistic expressions; reason and yet accessibility; freedom to explore. The telling thing about this menu, however, is that it can be cooked for the individual yet welcomed round the whole table.

One thing struck us as particularly hopeful. This was the concern for unity and mutual forbearance demonstrated by thoughtful people from parts of the Communion where church leaders have taken up sharp and confrontative positions on issues like sexuality.

We owe a great deal to the St Boniface Trust for providing the occasion when much of this is able to be expressed and we hope these essays will bring as much encouragement to others as they have to us.

+Mark Santer  
+Michael Turnbull