

AMICUS

PART OF THE BB FAMILY

Resourced by Britain's largest Christian
uniformed youth organisation

Progressive youth work for today's Church

To attract and retain young people

Run as a pilot scheme, evaluated during the first part of 1997, Amicus proved to be a viable method enabling the church to retain the older teenagers it has and to offer an alternative to those yet to be reached.

Amicus is moving into a period of further development and is available to churches as a genuine alternative, or additional programme, if they wish to use it.

There are currently Amicus Groups running from as far south as Bournemouth to as far north as Salford. Three of these are jointly sponsored by the Girls' Brigade in England & Wales. Twenty churches are in the process of looking at the Amicus concept to see if it meets their needs and fits in to their youth work strategy. Some Battalions are looking at establishing groups to support companies in their area. Also, a number of church organisations such as the Peterborough Diocese are informing churches in their area about Amicus.

AMICUS Explained

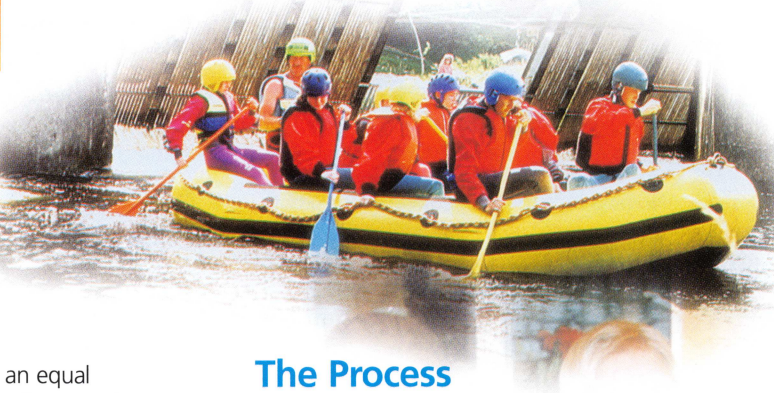
- As part of the BB family Amicus is unashamedly Christian, the object of The Boys' Brigade being 'the advancement of Christ's Kingdom'. The programme provides for the Christian development of the members and attendance at church worship is encouraged.
- Membership is available to male and female on an equal basis between school year 9/10 (or equivalent) to 22 years. Youth organisations such as The Boys' Brigade and The Girls' Brigade demonstrate very effective work with young people, in a single sex setting, up to the age of 18. Amicus enables churches to utilise the expertise of organisations such as these in a mixed gender setting over an extended age range at a time when many young people leave the church.
- All members have an equal opportunity to contribute to the running of the group. Leaders are appointed by the local church on completion of Amicus Leader Training, their role being to co-ordinate group activities and programme but not necessarily to deliver it. Amicus is less prescriptive than some of its counterparts and its members have a greater say in what happens and when. Groups determine their own programme which is structured, progressive and demanding. It is designed to meet the needs of the members based on a five-sided framework, developing the members' experience of Christian leadership, adventure, community and environment, physical activities and interests. Resources are provided centrally to assist with programme planning and delivery.
- Uniform is optional and it is up to the group members themselves to decide whether to have any kind of uniform. The pilot scheme has demonstrated that where groups have chosen to adopt a uniform it is informal in style displaying the approved Amicus logo as required.
- Amicus is offered as an additional resource or alternative available to church groups with or without existing Boys' Brigade or Girls' Brigade. The pilot scheme demonstrated that Amicus can complement existing youth work in a new and dynamic way.

Resources available on request:

- 1 Pilot Scheme Evaluation Report
- 2 Operating Procedures
- 3 Leaflet giving information about Amicus to potential members

To find out more, enquire in the first instance to:

Amicus Project Manager, Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP3 0BL.
Tel: 01442 231681 Fax: 01442 235391 Email: amicus@boys-brigade.org.uk



The Process

Before deciding to establish a group it is suggested that a consultative meeting be held where church leaders, potential group leaders, young people and parents may be invited to consult with a member of the Amicus central management team – the Amicus Support Group. This meeting is usually held at the church, is free of charge and without obligation. This is an ideal opportunity for interested parties to explore the Amicus concept and its potential within the existing youth work of the church.

Once it has been agreed to establish a group, Amicus Leader Training is provided by the Amicus Support Group and again this is carried out locally. The training consists of six modules and has been designed to be delivered during one weekend and to equip volunteers for this type of youth work. Amicus leaders will be nominated for training by the church and appointed upon successful completion.

Ongoing support is provided by the Amicus Support Group. This includes regular visits, provision of resources, further training, events and competitions.

