

“To Care For The Church Of God”

Acts 20.28

A Lay Reader Training Course

For Parishes in the
Anglican Network in Canada

2022

1. INTRODUCTION

"Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine providence hast appointed divers Orders in thy Church: Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same; and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name, and to the benefit of the holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Collect for the Pentecost Ember Days (Said before each Session of the Course)

Background

The present Course developed in the parish of St. David's (Prince Albert) & St. John's (Royal), Diocese of Saskatchewan, throughout the years of my incumbency there - 1997-2008.¹ At the encouraging of the Bishop - who discovered his list of licensed Lay Readers included some who were then in the grave !! - every parish was encouraged and challenged to re-establish a team of competent Lay Readers. They would have a license for 1 year, renewed annually at their Rector's discretion; a special Commissioning Service for the Diocese was established for one Sunday afternoon, in Lent. By the time I left, St. David's had trained over a dozen Lay Readers, who would lead Morning and Evening Services, assist at Funerals & Holy Communion and parish visiting, with about half of them trained to preach and teach the Bible.

The present **Course Outline** has been adapted to our present parish, St. John's Richmond. We are theologically-Reformed in conviction and practice, and our training has concentrated on the Morning/Evening Prayer Service, as we worked through the liturgies of the BCP². ANiC parishes with a more sacramental weekly regimen can readily adapt this 'Liturgical' training, to concentrate on Lay Readers' participation at Ante- and Post-Communion.

History of the Office

The Office of "Lay Reader" has a long and noble history within Anglicanism, most notably since the Evangelical Revival in the Church of England in the 18th Century. Clergy such as John Wesley, George Whitfield, and a century later Bp. J.C. Ryle and many in his diocese, recognized afresh the Biblical injunctions (eg. Ephesians 4.11f; 2Corinthians 5.20) commanding ALL Christians to engage in Gospel ministry, and not just the ordained ministers. These parish clergy began using trained lay people from their churches to assist them. Lay ministry flourished as a result. Men and women were instructed and deployed - in Evangelical, multi-point parishes especially. John Wesley's 'Methodism' model relied heavily on these trained laity. The 'Order' of Lay Readers was not officially established in the English Church until a meeting of bishops at Lambeth Palace in 1866; since then - admittedly, with variation of enthusiasm³ - Lay Readers have been a part of regular, Anglican ministry in many Dioceses in Britain, North America, and throughout the Communion.

¹ My name is Guy Bellerby; I am at present Associate Minister at St. John's Richmond.

² Each person then completed training in practice, taking responsibility for leading weekly Morning / Evening Prayer, receiving feedback (and prior coaching) at their turn. After leading the Service three times, we expect the Lay Readers will need no further, regular, training/feedback. Similar training to follow will equip them to assist at Holy Communion Services, taking the ante and post-Communion prayers.

³ There are many separate factors which will influence the strength of commitment to lay ministry, including the Diocesan Bishop's and parish Rector's theological convictions, their dedication to training, and the local parish's history, amongst others.

Benefits of Lay Reader Training

What is the point of engaging in this program? We have found there are **3 major benefits** of Lay Reader Training, illustrating important New Testament principles of Gospel ministry, both multiplying and magnifying opportunities for service:

- 1) **The Gospel grows within the saints.** The calibre of theological acumen is significantly raised within this key cohort of gifted parishioners. As the Course progresses through 'Part One', we have found Trainees' curiosity and receptivity to teaching also greatly enhanced - the more one learns, and grows in understanding the Gospel and its relevant application, the better we can integrate new learning. See **1Peter 2.5**
- 2) **The Gospel grows in the parish.** Opportunities for ministry typically compound as trainees' equipping 'spills over' into their own involvement in parish ministries. Trainees' ability, the calibre and effectiveness of their leadership, and creative ability to imagine new ministries, is enhanced, and extended. See **Colossians 1.28**
- 3) **The Gospel grows in the world.** Effective Christian teaching both sharpens perspective, and inspires confidence in 'the Faith once-delivered'. Through normal day-to-day interactions with others inside and especially outside the parish - in conversation, reflection, and interaction - we have found Trainees much more prepared and willing to engage evangelistically with their world. See **Acts 2.46-47**

2. RATIONALE: Why should ANiC be training up Lay Readers?

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." Ephesians 4.12

- i) There are over **350** ordained persons, male and female, in ANiC⁴.
- ii) And, there are many, *many* others - ministry-minded, gifted, but not ordained - in ANiC now!
- iii) Here is a vision for practical training, to 'establish' these leaders, and form an '**Order of Lay Readers'** - selected, trained, recognized, & deployed - in parishes throughout the Diocese.
- iv) Lay Readers would **assist** their Ministers in Services, as required on Sundays and other times.
- v) Invited by neighbouring parishes, Lay Readers could **cover** Interregna, Vacation, Conferences, or merely provide Sunday duty to give their Rectors a rest - this could be especially welcome in small, or multi-point parishes, which often lack any assisting clergy.
- vi) Lay Readers' **duties** may include: Liturgists, Intercessors, Communion Assistants, Bible Study Leaders, Preachers & Teachers, Visitors - and importantly, assisting Rectors in training more lay people for this ministry! Some of these duties are already an established part of many parish's life; not all need necessarily be included in formal Lay Reader duties.
- vii) Lay Readers carry a **License** from their Bishop, which may be renewed regularly, presented perhaps at a unique **Licensing Service**. Once established, it is hoped there could be a **yearly Conference** (perhaps alongside a Synod Clergy Day, or else in Deanery/Regional clusters), designed specifically to enhance and celebrate the Lay Readers' ministry. (Such a Conference was a resource we developed in Saskatchewan, and became an annual highlight in the Diocese).

⁴ As of September, 2022.

3. THE COURSE

There are **8 distinct areas of instruction**, presented in two separate **PARTS** :

PART ONE CONTENT (13 Weeks)

1. Anglican History

- i) Survey of the Reformation in Europe
- ii) Henry VIII, Thomas Cranmer, and the break with Rome

2. Liturgical Leadership

- i) The formation-history, & overall content of the BCP
- ii) Services
 - Holy Communion
 - Morning / Evening Prayer
 - Funeral
 - Prayers for the Sick (Pastoral / Hospital Visitation)

3. Theology

- i) J.I. Packer "Concise Theology" (Selections)
- ii) The 39 Articles
- iii) Addenda: Papers, Articles, & Resources

4. Spiritual Discipline

- i) The Service of Compline
- ii) Lectionary Bible Reading

5. Bible Study

- i) 2 Models for Personal Bible Study

6. Intercessory Prayer

- i) Bible Study [1Kings 18] : Elijah on Mt. Carmel
- ii) Additional Resources

7. Visitation

- i) 'The 3 Elements of a pastoral visit' [Luke 24.13-32] : The Emmaus Walk
- ii) Who / Where / Why Visitation is so important

PART TWO CONTENT (12 Weeks)

8. Preaching & Teaching the Bible

- i) DVD Preaching Course "The Unashamed Workman" (UK Proclamation Trust)
 - 4 Video Lectures - Rev. Dick Lucas
 - 8 Preaching Workshops with Instruction & Feedback

THE SPECIFICS

PART ONE

1. Anglican History

The Course begins with a survey in which the history of the Reformation in Europe is narrated, culminating with the career of King Henry VIII, his Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer, and the establishment of the Church of England. The theological study of the Articles of Religion also makes frequent reference to the historical context in which they were composed - Cranmer and his colleagues seeking to distance the Anglican Church from Roman Catholic accretions and un-Biblical practices.

2. Liturgy and Leadership

The Course looks at the general content of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) - the **1662, 1962 Canadian, and 2019 ACNA** Prayer Books are all in view, with a concentration on **4 particular Services**: Morning/Evening Prayer, Compline, Holy Communion, and Ministry to the Sick, including Funerals. Lay Readers will be able to thoughtfully assist their clergy in all of them at the conclusion of Part One (and be able to preach a short sermon after Part Two is complete).

In Saskatchewan, I used my Lay Readers whenever I took holiday, regularly in the Sunday Services, and for occasional Sunday preaching duty, too. We also supported neighbouring parishes, as well as supplying regular Sunday leadership, during the (sometimes long) Interregna between clergy appointments. Here in Richmond, Lay Readers have taken responsibility for shared leading and preaching at our weekly Morning Prayer Service, alongside the clergy; we're also supporting a neighbouring parish, twice allowing their Rector a much-needed Sunday rest.

3. Theology

The Course requires a genuine interplay between Jim Packer's brilliant little systematic "**Concise Theology**", and the **39 Articles of Religion**. This interplay brings comprehensive understanding of the Articles' present relevance to the Church in which ANiC today finds itself.⁵ The Course Leader is responsible for moderating these conversations. Towards the middle of the course, once trainees are familiar with the format, they will take turns presenting the content of one or two topics, with feedback from the Leader following, the whole group still present.

We've found the complimentary nature of both Dr. Packer's book and the Articles makes for great learning, robust conversation, and renewed appreciation for the genius of Anglican Christianity.⁶ Not surprisingly, learning about, and from, the BCP is richly enhanced when the Articles are also being taught. This is what Bishop Ryle once appealed to as 'Prayerbook teaching', and (especially with respect to looking at the 39 Articles) is uncommon in parishes today.

⁵ Recognizing that the 39 Articles are unfamiliar to many Anglicans today, the Course includes excerpts from D.B. Knox's short volume from the "Christian Foundations" series, Hodder & Stoughton, 1967 (now out of print).

⁶ "An Anglican Catechism" is a helpful addition (but no substitute) to the theological content and present application, of the teaching of the Articles. The Catechism is designed for Christian Initiation, or for a renewed commitment to its principles; the Articles are our theological 'confession', and Dr. Packer's text wonderfully illustrates all the key elements of the Articles' teaching.

4. Spiritual Discipline

Lay Reader Trainees are encouraged to each evening say, on their own, the **Service of Compline (1962 BCP p.722ff.; 2019 BCP p.57ff.)**. We look together at the components of the Service during the first Week, and have found it a source of fellowship one with another to be saying the Service individually, but close to the same time each evening.⁷ Trainees are also encouraged to adopt a daily, systematic Bible reading scheme, either from the Prayer Book lectionary, or another system of daily readings.⁸

5. Bible Study

Two **Models for Personal Bible Study** are presented, to encourage the systematic approach to Scripture study, with personal application. This can be achieved *without* the aid of any published study guide, or commentary.

6. Intercessory Prayer

Most (all?) parishes in our Diocese use the laity for the **ministry of Intercession** on Sundays. These prayers are sometimes composed by the intercessor; others simply follow the set prayers laid out in the Liturgy. But there is a rich supply of intercessory prayer collected in many volumes, and the Course offers samples of these. Additionally, a 'framework', for the composition of intercessory prayer is suggested, along with sample prayers to illustrate.

7. Visitation

Most ministers I know do not regularly accompany their people in **parish visiting**, nor do our parishioners typically accompany us. In one session we look at a Biblical model for a 'successful' parish visit. We discuss 3 key elements which combine to make a visit useful, within a variety of settings, to model and adapt to the local parish's unique situation. Trained Lay Readers will greatly support their ministers in this crucial area of pastoral ministry.

⁷ Obviously, the Daily Offices - Morning and Evening Prayer - are also invaluable; we focus on Compline, both because it is not so familiar, and takes less time to complete.

⁸ There are a multitude of such schemes available today, with immense variation thematically. Recommended is R. Murray McCheyne 'Calendar for Daily Reading' which was first published in 1840. It is, "a Plan for Bible reading to take readers through the New Testament and Psalms twice a year, and through the rest of the Bible once each year." One reads 4 chapters per day.

PART TWO

8) The Ministry of the Word⁹

PART TWO of the Course is devoted to learning and applying **four important 'Instructions'** - key insights, presented in video lectures - which teach, clarify, and enhance effective Word ministry. The Lectures come in a pre-packaged DVD course, "***The Unashamed Workman***" published by 'The Proclamation Trust', a para-church organization founded by The Rev'd Dick Lucas in London England, in 1982.¹⁰ This course has been used extensively for many years in Bible-teaching Churches throughout the UK, North America, and Australia, and by the *Artizo* programme in ANiC. It is of very high quality.

Trainees take part in four one-hour **video lectures** presented by Dick Lucas, each one containing lecture material - the 'Instructions' - followed by a biblical exposition. Each Trainee then presents their own sample-teaching in follow-up sessions, with a prepared **5 minute outline** of a talk they would give, on an assigned Biblical passage. The outline talk is presented to the entire class, with feedback following from the group and the Leader.

"***The Unashamed Workman***" has proved an immense, lasting benefit - not only in pulpit ministry, but for Bible study leaders, group presentations, and especially for personal Scripture study. Trainees gain invaluable help both in appreciating the craft of preparation and writing talks, and also in hearing others' sermons.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES - PARTS ONE & TWO

There are resources labelled "**Addenda**", presented for most weeks. They are included in two Appendices, for Part One and Part Two of the Course. I have mined my own files for these; undoubtedly, most clergy will have their own relevant supply of useful papers, book excerpts, handouts, etc., which can be added, or substituted to the Appendices. It's quite rewarding to teach some things from one's own files: very little preparation is typically required; and we've found that sharing material to which the Leader particularly relates goes a long way to enhance trainee's learning¹¹.

⁹ We use the Proclamation Trust DVD Course filmed in 2006. There are also more recent preaching Courses available at no charge from their website <https://www.proctrust.org.uk>

¹⁰ For copyright reasons, we have been live-streaming the lectures from the VIMEO website.

¹¹ I've included the named material from our Course, in Appendices. To the best of my knowledge it is all in the public domain, of my own composition, or else has been taken from books now out of print, and may be used without copyright infringement. Only J.I. Packer's book, "Concise Theology", and a Prayer Book, need be purchased.

4. GETTING STARTED

The Course is designed to be led by a Senior Minister, typically the Rector. Trainees should be lay-leaders in their parish, likely involved already in one or more of the course's 'Areas of Concentration'. It is essential that there be a group of trainees - we recommend at least **four** people, men and women - who will commit 12 or 13 weeks for each Part of the Course. (More than one parish's leaders could be trained at the same time to make up this quota).

We've found that Sessions should ideally last 1.5 hours, including a brief time **at the beginning** of every meeting for prayer, and Q&A from the previous week's content. The Ember Days Collect (**1962** BCP, p. 210; **2019** BCP, p. 634 top) is recommended to be included.

As a Resource for Trainees, each Weekly Session contains **Learning Outcomes**, which will introduce each weekly teaching section.

Teaching Points, and suggested emphases for Discussion, are included in separate **Leader's Notes**. There are two separate **Appendices** containing the supplementary **Addenda** documents and exercises, which should be distributed physically or electronically.

A very useful '**Framework for Discussion**' is included in the Preface to the 'Leader's Notes', to assist Leaders in teaching the Course material. Again, this is designed to be readily adapted for your parish.

Detailed Weekly Outlines begin on the next page.

PART ONE

Weekly Outlines

WEEKS 1&2

Learning Outcomes

As an introduction, Course members and Leaders share their history of **conversion** and **attendance** in the Anglican Church. A general **Introduction** to Anglicanism, the Reformation, Lay Readers, and the Articles should be given by the Leader, and discussed. The first two weeks set the Course within an historical, and theological reference. The Teaching Points (below) will require two full sessions, with allowance for questions and dialogue along the way. Any material that cannot be covered in Week 1 should flow over to Week 2. A practical **Orientation** to the **Service of Compline** is included. Two **papers** highlight a) the present value of the 39 Articles, and b) a brief theological 'Survey of Anglicanism'. Sessions should begin with the **Collect for the Pentecost Ember Days**, (1962 BCP, p. 210; 2019 BCP, p. 634 top).

- **Introduction**
 - 'How I became a Christian, and attend an Anglican Church'
 - What is 'Anglicanism'? A Brief History. Theological Overview of the Reformation
 - What is a Lay Reader? Why should ANiC have them?
 - Introducing the 39 Articles
 - **Compline Service**¹²
- **Theology**¹³ (numbering order keyed to "Concise Theology")
 - 1. "Revelation"
 - 3. "General Revelation"
 - 4. "Guilt"
- **39 Articles**
 - Context, Purpose, Structure, & Use¹⁴
 - The SUBSTANCE of Faith (I-V) The Trinity; The Son of God; The Holy Spirit
- **Addenda:**
 - "The 39 Articles in the Anglican Church of the 21st Century (G. Bellerby, 2022)
 - "10 Elements of Historic Anglicanism" (J.I Packer, Paul Barnett)

NOTES

¹² 'Compline' is the daily liturgy recommended for use by Trainees. See above, p.6, "Spiritual Discipline".

¹³ Discussion of chapters from Dr. Packer's book are 'in tandem' with the Articles, and should be used to **clarify and apply** the doctrine found there. We found Jim Packer's material a great 'way in' for Trainees unfamiliar with the content and relevance of the 39 Articles.

¹⁴ There are several useful commentaries on the 39 Articles; we used David Broughton Knox's short summary volume "Thirty-Nine Articles" (1967) from Hodder & Stoughton's 'Christian Foundations' series (out of print). Several pages are included in Addenda for specific weeks. The Leader will find a great deal more help from Griffith Thomas' magisterial *The Principles of Theology* [Longmans, Green & Co., 1930].

WEEK 3

Learning Outcomes

Theology: Three chapters highlight the nature of our ability, and God's enabling, to understand, submit to, and apply the teaching of the Bible to the life of a believer. We consider the '**RULE**' - the bedrock reality - of Christian Faith's dependence on the Bible, and the three **historic credal summaries**, as well as the reality of sin, in the '**LIFE**' of faith. **Dr. Packer's interview** is a notable explanation of the present-day relevance of the BCP, and so is the essay by Matthew Lee. **John Webster's paper** is a great *theological* help, to frame discussion of the substance of the **Morning (and Evening) Prayer Services**.

- **Theology**
 - 2. "Interpretation"
 - 5. "Witness"
 - 6. "Authority"
- **39 Articles**
 - The RULE of Faith (VI-VIII) The Sufficiency of Scripture; The OT; The 3 Creeds
 - The LIFE of Faith (IX) Original Sin
- **Praxis**
 - **Morning Prayer Service**
- **Addenda:**
 - "An Interview with JI Packer on the BCP" (The Anglican Planet)
 - "Our Great Inheritance" essay by H. Matthew Lee (Prayer Book Society Newsletter, Lent 2022). ¹⁵
 - John Webster "The Service of the Word" (Wycliffe College, 1997)

NOTES

¹⁵ Matthew is a recent graduate of Wycliffe College, Toronto, and a member of the Prayer Book Society of Canada.

WEEK 4

Learning Outcomes

The doctrine of **Predestination** is *never* easy to present! It is one of the foundations of Biblical theology and Prayer Book Anglicanism. The **paper** from D.B. Knox (he was the Principal of Moore College Sydney AU, from 1959 until 1985) is a lucid, short introduction helping Trainees to understand and embrace some of the doctrine's more controversial aspects. In addition, Leaders are encouraged to use other material of their own, to help teach **ARTICLE XVII**. (I have found the following chapters especially useful: "The God Who is Rich in Mercy" - excerpt from "*D. Broughton Knox Selected Works Vol. 1*" [Matthias Media, 2000]; ARTICLE XVII in Griffith Thomas, *op. cit*, p.236ff; and the article in the New Dictionary of Theology, [IVP, 1988].)

- Theology

- 30. "The Fall"
- 32. "Inability"
- 15. "Predestination"

- 39 Articles

- The LIFE of Faith (X-XIV) Free Will; Justification; Good Works; Works Before Justification; Supererogation
- The COURSE of Faith (XV-XVIII) Christ Alone; Sin After Baptism; Predestination & Election; Salvation by Christ's Name Alone

- Addenda

- D.B. Knox "*Thirty Nine Articles*" - 'Predestination' (p.30-35)

NOTES

WEEK 5

Learning Outcomes

“**A Way To Study the Bible**” is a one-page, cumulative Study method which I have used for many years. “**How to Study the Bible** Pt. 2” is similar, a system of ‘4 key questions’, taught by Inter Varsity. Both are simple, thorough, and develop good habits. Footnote 12 contains ‘SPECK’ explanation. Most / All? Trainees will of course have their own method; these are presented as alternatives, or a refinement. At least **15 minutes** should be given at the end of this week’s session for Q & A.

- **Theology**

- 74. “The Church”
- 75. “Word & Sacraments”

- **Praxis**

- **Evening Prayer Service**

- **Addenda:**

- “A Way to Study the Bible”¹⁶
- “How to Study the Bible Pt. 2”

- **Q & A :** ‘The Course Thus Far ..’

NOTES

¹⁶ This is a resource from my own files. The headings are pretty clear, apart from the concluding section: Any Bible passage will fall into one of these 5 ‘categories’, which I explain on the page, opposite the appropriate Capital Letter: **SIN** (to avoid); **PROMISE** (to claim); **EXAMPLE** (to follow); **COMMAND** (to obey); **KNOWLEDGE** (to master).

WEEK 6

Learning Outcomes

Dr. Packer's **paper**, and the short **exercise** are **crucial** for Trainees to discover the pattern - 'Sin / Grace / Faith' - in the two major Services you will help lead, Morning Prayer & Holy Communion, as well to see how this repeats in other Services in the BCP.

- Theology

- 77. "The Sacraments"
- 78. "Baptism"
- 79. "The Lord's Supper"

- 39 Articles

- The HOUSEHOLD of Faith (XIX-XXII) The Church; The Authority of the Church; General Councils; Purgatory
- The SACRAMENTS (XXV-XXXI) The Sacraments; The Unworthiness of Ministers; Baptism; The Lord's Supper; The Wicked at Holy Communion; Communion in Both Kinds; Christ's One Oblation

- Addenda:

- "The Gospel in the Prayer Book" (J.I. Packer)
- "The Gospel at Holy Communion" (Outline Sheet & Answer Primer)

- Praxis

- **Holy Communion Service**

NOTES

WEEK 7

Learning Outcomes

Trainees begin **presenting** the 'Theology' portion this week. At least two should present Theology - 'Sacrifice', interacting with the two Addenda paper 'Four Eucharistic Theologies'. It will help to look at several **Collects**, & identify elements therein, which are outlined in Rev'd Stephens-Hodge's excellent short summary.

Praxis: "Ministry To The Sick" discussion will cover all **6 Sections** of Ministry to the Sick (**1962 BCP** pp. 576-591; **2019 BCP** pp.223-242).

- **Theology - Trainee Presentation**
 - 51. "Sacrifice"
- **Addenda:**
 - "What is a 'Collect'?" (L.E.H. Stephens-Hodge)
 - "Four Eucharistic Theologies"
- **Praxis**
 - Lay Reader Participation: **Ante-Communion & Post-Communion**
 - **Funeral Services & The Ministry to the Sick**¹⁷

NOTES

¹⁷ Note that the 1962 Canadian BCP liturgy contains three separate Funeral Services - Adult, Graveside, Children; we review all three, noting differences / similarities.

WEEK 8

Learning Outcomes

Theology trainee presentations continue. Praxis selections are practical **Instructions**: The Three **Elements of a Visit**, modelled in the 'Emmaus Walk' from Luke 24. These three components should *always* occur in any visiting: initially when all is well, so that when all is NOT well, parishioners will know exactly what to expect! **Intercessory Prayer** within Services could be one area of Lay Readers' responsibility; this is typically led now by lay persons; **Resources** presented are a sample.

- **Theology** - Trainee Presentations
 - 61. "Justification"
 - 62. "Adoption"
 - 63. "Sanctification"
- **39 Articles**
 - The MINISTRY (XXIII-XXIV) Ministering in the Congregation; Speaking To Be Understood
 - CHURCH & STATE (XXXVII-XXXIX) Civil Magistrates; Christian Possessions; A Christian's Oath
- **Praxis**
 - **Visitation**: Elements of an Effective Visit; A Biblical Model in Luke 24¹⁸
 - Biblical Principles for Parish **Intercessions** on Sunday¹⁹
 - Intercessory Prayer **resources**²⁰

NOTES

¹⁸ The three 'Elements' of a visit (L,R,P) are **Listening**, **Reading** a portion of Scripture, and **Prayer**. All three are clearly present in the passage from Luke 24; further applications are included in the Study. It is *essential* to draw out the difference between the 'presenting' problem of the two disciples (their deep disappointment in Jesus' apparent failure), and their 'root' problem (failure to discern the necessity of the Cross, and the redeeming nature of suffering).

¹⁹ The passage has three petitions from Elijah: 1) That people recognize the Greatness and Power of God; 2) That we listen and depend upon God's Word as active and true; and 3) That God would answer.

²⁰ There are dozens of volumes available, either in print or on-line. The following are from my own library, and have stood the test of time, and much use: *The Oxford Book of Prayer* [Oxford, 1985]; *The Communion of Saints* [Eerdmans, 1990]; *Parish Prayers* [Ed. Frank Colquhoun. 3 Vol's: 1967,1975,1982, Hodder & Stoughton].

WEEK 9

Learning Outcomes

Further Trainee Presentations. Introduce Week 10-12 Morning Prayer **Trial Leadership**, and assign each Trainee their time to lead. There are five Articles to discuss, which can be carried over to **WEEK 10** if necessary.

- **Theology - Trainee Presentations**
 - 52. "Definite Redemption"
 - 54. "Salvation"
 - 76. "Elders"
- **Praxis**
 - **The Ordinal (1962 BCP pp. 638-668; 2019 BCP pp. 472-512)**
- **39 Articles**
 - CHURCH DISCIPLINE (XXXII-XXXVI) The Marriage of Priests; Excommunication; The Traditions of the Church; The Homilies; Consecration of Bishops, Ordering of Priests, Making of Deacons

NOTES

WEEK 10-13

Learning Outcomes

Leaders may wish the Lay Readers to participate at **Funerals** and/or **Baptisms**: if so, extra time should be taken with the discussion of these Services. A **Wrap-up** for Wk 12/13 could involve either/both written and oral Evaluations (assign in Week 11/12); a lot of time ought to be provided for Evaluations.

- **Praxis**

- **The Burial of the Dead** (1962 BCP pp. 591-610; 2019 BCP pp. 249-266)
- **Baptisms** (1962 BCP pp. 522-543; 2019 BCP pp. 161-196)

- **Trial Leadership** of MP/EP for Trainees (with feedback from Instructor)²¹

- **Wrapping Up Part 1 (Week 13)**

- 'One Thing I Still Want to Know ...'
- What's Next?
- **Evaluation** of the training

- **Addenda**

- Lay Reader **Licensing Service** (St. John's Richmond)
- Lay Reader **License** (Sample)

COURSE EVALUATION

- 1) What's one or two things you've learned from this Course which you find most interesting?
- 2) What something which surprised, or challenged you?
- 3) What did you find most difficult about this Course?
- 4) How could this Course (content and/or delivery) be modified or improved?
- 5) What's one thing, especially, you'll take away and remember?

²¹ At St. John's Richmond, after these trial times in leading the Service with the class, we have used the Lay Readers leading our regular, weekday Morning & Evening Prayer Services, as well as Sunday Service participation (preaching, leading, intercession). Feedback and encouragement, meeting with clergy after the first few times leading, were most helpful for Trainees.

PART TWO²²

TEACHING THE BIBLE & PREACHING

"When the Bible is faithfully expounded, God speaks with power and authority into our lives in fresh ways. Through this means - preaching, and teaching - God still calls the dead to life; He calls the Church into being; He goes on strengthening and equipping it for life, and witness. It is His normal way of communicating Truth to His world." - The Proclamation Trust, 1985.

RATIONALE - Equipping, for the Ministry of the Word

- i) During a Pastoral 'Vacancy' (Interregnum, Vacation, Week Off) it will be useful for you, the Lay Reader, to be able to offer leadership to a parish for their regular, Sunday / Week-day Services. This should include both leading the Service (Morning / Evening Prayer), and preaching a Sermon, or shorter Homily.
- ii) It will also greatly assist the parish to have a Team of Lay Readers who have learned the craft of Sermon / Homily / Bible Interpretation, Preparation, and Delivery. Sermons will improve when the preachers are well taught!
- iii) 'The Proclamation Trust' is a para-church organization in England, founded by the Rev'd Dick Lucas, who was the Rector of St. Helen's (Bishopsgate) Church in the City of London for 37 years. His was a preaching and teaching ministry par excellence. The Course of Instructions and Workshops developed over many years: "*The Unashamed Workman*", has shaped an entire generation of preachers and Bible teachers. In whatever capacity you handle the Bible as a Christian - in preaching, teaching, small group studies, and your own personal study - this Course will equip you to "rightly handle the Word of truth." (2Tim 2.15).
- iv) As part of the Course, passages of Scripture will be assigned early to each participant, who will be expected after preparation to give a 5 minute précis or outline of a talk they would give from the passage. The rest of the group will listen, and offer feedback, along with the Instructor. This is a most challenging, valuable, and effective way to learn how to accurately-teach the Bible, preparing and delivering short outlines of a talk, with creative and helpful feedback from your peers.
- v) Each separate Workshop in fact lasts for 3 weeks: Week 1 is a video lecture²³; Weeks 2 and 3 are Trainee presentations. These presentations should be **5 minutes max**. The entire group provide feedback, questions, and commentary, alongside the Instructor (who should go last!). Feedback should be kind, accurate, with the goal to encourage correct handling of the specific text. There are also two different 'rubrics' for assessing your own or someone else's talk, that you are invited to use and evaluate.²⁴

²² To begin this Part of LRT Trainees should have: a) completed PART ONE of the Course to the satisfaction of the Instructor; and b) lead Services of Morning or Evening Prayer in trial format with the LRT cohort, and ideally then 'live' with a congregation.

²³ 4 Video Lectures are available, free, at the VIMEO website: search for "The Unashamed Workman" (eg. Part 1: <https://vimeo.com/39055424>). (Note that Parts 3 and 4 are in reverse-order, incorrectly-titled).

²⁴ The efficacy of the two 'rubrics' is itself useful for discussion. They can be found in the Appendix for Part Two.

RESOURCE PAPERS

These resources appear in the **Appendix** for **Part Two** document, and should be used as introductory material for each Video Session (Week 1, 4, 7, & 10).

- An apology for preachers - "Fling him into his office"
- John Stott: "On Preparing Sermons"
- David Watson: "A Model for Sermon Construction"
- Sermon Reaction Questionnaire - Dr. William H. Willimon
- ARTIZO - Preaching Rubric / Feedback Discussion Guidelines
- An 'Interpretation' Exercise
- "Concerning Preaching" - William Phillip
- 4 Cartoons, for theological reflection!

John Stott was also a Church of England clergyman, uniquely holding 3 offices in the same parish - All Soul's (Langham Place) London: Curate, Rector, and Rector Emeritus. John Stott served full-time there from 1945-1975; afterwards, he assumed a teaching ministry through books, commentaries, conference speaking, and courses taught in seminaries and theological colleges across the world.

David Watson was a gifted Evangelist and Minister in the Church of England, from 1960 until his untimely death from cancer, in 1985. His ministry extended throughout the United Kingdom, and to North America, Australia, and Africa. David Watson's preaching was clear, and deceptively-simple.

William Willimon was for many years Dean of the Chapel at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

William Phillip is Director of Ministry at the Proclamation Trust, London England.

ARTIZO is a 2 Year Ministry Training Program, begun by David Short at St. John's (Vancouver). It equips future ministers to faithfully teach and preach God's word and entrust it to others. It provides an intensive hands-on 2-year apprenticeship program which, under God, aims to build Conviction (guard the gospel), Character (live the gospel) and Competence (preach and teach the gospel) in each Apprentice.

Suggested Preaching, Teaching, & Small Group Leadership Resource Books

Preaching

"Speaking God's Words" (Peter Adam: Inter-Varsity Press, 1996)

"Preaching? Simple Teaching on Simply Preaching" (Alec Motyer: Christian Focus, 2013)

"When God's Voice is Heard" (Christopher Green Ed.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1995)

"Between Two Worlds" {"I Believe in Preaching", UK} (John Stott: Eerdmans, 1982)

Teaching

"God's Big Picture" (Vaughan Roberts: Inter-Varsity Press, 2002)

"Dig Deeper" (Nigel Benyon & Andrew Sach: Inter-Varsity Press, 2005)

Small Group Leadership

"One to One Bible Reading" (David Helm: Holy Trinity (Chicago), Matthias Media, 2011)

"Growth Groups" (Colin Marshall: Matthias Media, 1995)

THE UNASHAMED WORKMAN

Instructions in Biblical Preaching

WORKSHOP 1 - "PUTTING THE TEXT INTO CONTEXT"

- 'An Apology for Preachers'
- An 'Observation Exercise'

I Introduction: "*Is your journey really necessary?*"

2Tim 2.15 - Correctly handling the Word

Mark 7.35 - Not homiletics!

II Instruction: "*Travelling to Corinth*"

The Bible speaks today!

III Exposition: *1Corinthians 13*

IV Workshop Passages²⁵

- A) John 20.24-29 "Doubting Thomas???"
- B) Mark 3.31-35. "True Family"
- C) 2Peter 1.12-15 "Repetion or Transmission?"
- D) John 14.1-6 "Real Comfort is Through Death"

²⁵ Workshops will follow the Video Instruction, on the two subsequent weeks. It is *not* necessary that Trainees prepare their talk from different texts! In fact, having multiple talks given on the same Biblical passage greatly-enhances learning and discussion. We have found 1/2 hr is adequate time for each presentation-plus-feedback.

WORKSHOP 2 - "OBSERVATION"

- "Preparing Sermons" - John Stott
- "A Model for Preparing Sermons" - David Watson

I Introduction: "Preaching on a single text"

1Kings 7.45 - danger of sermons with little anchor in the text

II Asking Questions in the Study: "Observation"

1Corinthians 2.2 (Cross reference: 2Corinthians 2.17)

III Asking Questions in the Pulpit: "Challenge"

... publishing the questions of the Bible to the world!

Mark 8.36 'Profit and Loss'

1Corinthians 1.20 'The Wisdom of the Word'

1Corinthians 1.13 'To Whom do you Belong?'

IV Asking Questions in Study and Pulpit to Make People Think

... when we can't easily 'travel to Corinth'

Psalm 1

V Workshop Passages

- A) Acts 10.42-43 "Jesus as Judge and Saviour"
- B) James 2.26 "Faith and Deeds"
- C) Colossians 1.29 "Struggling with All His Energy"
- D) 2Timothy 2.7 "Reflecting with God"

WORKSHOP 3 - "THE BIBLE AS INTERPRETATION"

- Sermon Reaction Questionnaire
- ARTIZO Preaching Rubric

I Introduction: "Speaking the Truth in Love [Ephesians 4.15]"

II The Bible IS an Interpretation!

1Corinthians 15.3 "Fact + Interpretation

THE BIBLE ALONE INTERPRETS THE BIBLE

III Framework and Text

2Timothy 1.13 "THE Pattern of Sound Teaching"

Jude 24,25 "...Able to Keep You From Falling"

IV Exposition: 2Peter 1.12-21

V Workshop Passages

- A) Mark 8.22-26 "God Alone Opens Eyes and Hearts"
- B) John 5.1-9 "Life Through the Son"
- C) Mark 4.13-20 "Learning About Sowing"
- D) 1Kings 18.36 'Knowing the One, True God"

WORKSHOP 4 - "THE BIBLE AS PREACHING"

- An 'Interpretation' Exercise

I Introduction: "The Bible is God, Preaching"

The *proclamation* of the message is our task, not just the story

II Instruction: "*Making the Point*"

Mark 8.14-33

III Making the Point

Context is *Vital*

Luke 15.3-7

IV Necessary Negatives

John 14.6b

John 1.18

Mark 1.7-8

The Preacher!

V Workshop Passages

Mark 2.13-14 "Forgiveness"

Mark 15.33-39 "The Message of the Cross"

2Corinthians 12.9 "Power in Weakness"

2Timothy 3.16 "The Bible is for Preaching!"

Trainee Notes