

DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS

Archdeacon Bob Barrett

Preaching and Teaching

**Timothy was urged *"preach the Word;
be prepared in season and out of season;
correct, rebuke and encourage –
with great patience and careful instruction"*. 2 Tim 4:2.**

DEVELOPING YOUR SKILLS Number 5

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Preaching and Teaching

**We reflect on our role as preachers and/or teachers in the Church
- exploring the way we prepare and present teaching.**

**We also use these techniques to prepare talks
and Bible studies for a variety of settings.**

This series of Booklets provide practical ideas to help leaders develop their skills in a variety of ministry areas. Experimenting with them, growing your own ideas, discussion with ministry teams will help both you and others grow in skill. Good modelling, evaluation and training will inspire worshippers to worship, pray and grow in their Christian life and ministry.

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21 Characteristics of a Leader in the Local Church and

21 Principles for Managing the Local Church.

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TO BEGIN – a Personal Reflection

Reflect on the following question and write your answer in 80-100 words.

When I prepare and deliver a sermon my aim (what I am trying to achieve; the outcome I am hoping for) is.

To focus your thoughts it is suggested that you write your answer

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to reflect on our role as preachers and/or teachers in the Church setting. We will explore some of the techniques we use for preparation, "writing" and presenting our teaching or sermons.

This is a brief introduction to the subject. It contains ideas useful for Lay Readers, Preachers and Leaders of Worship. The same techniques can be used by those who prepare talks, Bible studies and other teachings from God's Word to use in a variety of settings including small groups.

This booklet focuses more on preparation. It needs to be coupled with training for the use of the voice in delivery.

FOLLOWING THE MASTER

In preaching we seek to follow the example of Jesus.

We also learn a lot from the early days of the Church - the example of the apostles.

From both we get examples of:-

Preaching has a focus - on the Kingdom

Jesus *"Sent them out to preach the Kingdom of God and heal the sick"*. Lk 9:2

Preaching has a desired end result - living it

Jesus said *"Make disciples....teach them to obey everything I have commanded you..."* Mt 28:19, 20.

Note the "obey" - teaching people to do it, live it, apply it.

Preaching needs preparation

Timothy was urged *"preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction"*. 2 Tim 4:2

Note how this verse mentions being "prepared" and it covers some aspects of the roles of the preacher.

Preachers and teachers have a responsibility.

"Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly". James 3:1

As you read the New Testament note the many other Biblical injunctions preachers are fulfilling.

Personal Reflection:

Which of these verses (or other passages of scripture) are the ones that inspire us to preach well?

OUR AIM

REFLECT ON THE PREACHERS YOU HAVE HEARD

- OR ON YOURSELF AS A PREACHER.

Before reading further make a list of the **aims** you think some preachers have:

- What are preachers aiming to achieve?
- List some of the aims you suspect they and you have had.

HERE IS ONE WAY (NOT THE ONLY WAY)

TO EXPRESS THE PREACHER'S AIM

"To so rely on the Holy Spirit (in preparation and delivery) that we can communicate God's truth, especially the message the Lord wants us to share on this occasion.

To do so in a way that all present can receive it, remember it, and respond to it.

So that those present will want to live the truth, will feel encouraged to live it, will know they can and will begin to apply it in their lives".

NOTE SOME OF THE KEY WORDS IN THIS DEFINITION

It is critical to "rely on the Holy Spirit". We are not giving an ordinary human-based speech. Preaching has a spiritual dimension and it aims for a Spirit-empowered result.

The Holy Spirit is the one who will enable a message to be given, received and applied.

We are dealing with "God's truth". A message that is true and from God. We do not preach our own ideas.

- Jesus is the constant focus - to help people come close to him and follow him.
- We are looking for the **"message the Lord wants"**. We need to listen to see **what** the Lord wants us to say - and **how** the Lord wants us to say it!
- On **"this occasion"** we cannot give the whole truth of God - not even all about any topic. We are to give the special aspect that is relevant for today. A word for now. In a way that is relevant, applicable and liveable today

We preach to "all present". We plan for those we hope will be there and adjust our message for those who come.

- We proclaim it in a way that suits the particular people.
- We watch our style, words, examples and depth.

We want people to "receive" and "remember" the message.

- Our aim is to **'communicate'**. We do not just want to *give* a message. We want to get the message across. We want the message *"received"*.
- We do not want it rejected because of **the way** we proclaim.
- We present it in a way that helps those present **understand** it.
- Receiving is more than having our eardrums vibrate. We look for a way of presenting it so that it reaches the heart and mind and it enters into the head.
- Tricky issues need "handle with care". For example: some issues of morality and politics. In today's society these issues may be better in a different setting, where people have an opportunity to comment, ask questions, clarify and share their ideas.
- Look for headings and link words which can help aid memory so that its central truth has ongoing impact.

"Respond" A response is important.

- Allow hearers to respond - maybe in repentance, commitment, empowering, prayer, or to make a promise to the Lord.
- **"Feel encouraged"**. People are more likely to receive the message and respond if our proclamation brings encouragement rather than condemnation and the weight of failure.
- Hearers need to be uplifted, inspired and encouraged.

To live the message – not just hear a message and not just understand a truth.

- They **"can"** live it - encouragement helps us see it is possible!
- Many hearers will have tried and failed. The will of Christ seems beyond them.
- A sense of God's forgiveness, new possibilities, and fresh beginnings helps people try again. Encouragement opens them to God's guidance and power.
- This helps desire - people will **"want"** to live it.

"Begin" - A sense of positive beginning is important.

- The preacher is not going to complete the task of "maturing the congregation" on one occasion.
- Do not be disappointed if some do not entirely grasp everything you say on this occasion.
- The goal is to see people gradually **"apply"** our teaching in their daily life.
- Teaching needs to be practical - with "how to" included. Show how it can be acted on, and how it helps us with today's needs. Be relevant for people facing today's struggles.

FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

Spend time reflecting on this question:

What are you aiming to do as a preacher/teacher?

What parts of the definition are significant for you?

What other aspects would you include in your definition?

What other Biblical passages challenge and inspire your aim?

How do you go about checking whether or not you are achieving your aim?

*"...all Christian communication
has to involve the supernatural"*

James Rye "The Communicator's Craft"

"... we use what is already in our mind to interpret incoming information. The best communicators are those who are able to understand the kind of experiences and the knowledge that we already have. They are then able to forge links between what we already know and what they want us to know."

James Rye

THE CHALLENGE OF THE 3 "C" WORDS

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

When I listen to a sermon what helps me listen, pay attention, remember and be inspired to go and live it?

CHANNEL

We are the channel God chooses to use.

- Who we are as people is vitally important.
- For our message to have credibility it needs to be backed up by the authenticity of our lives.

CONTENT

It is vital to have content which is:

- True and accurate
- Scripturally based
- Relevant for the listeners
- Necessary for this occasion

COMMUNICATION

The best content in the world will be wasted if it is not communicated to the congregation in a way that is:

- Understood by them
- Touching them
- Encouraging them
- Remembered by them
- Communicated in a manner that inspires hearers to go and live it

***Content without communication
is a sermon that may not be received
Communication without content
is a sermon that entertains but may not be lived.***

PERSONAL REFLECTION

If these '3 C's are important for us today then our preparation will include spending time on each of them. Is that true for the way we go about preparing?

TWO QUOTES from James Rye 'The Communicator's Craft

“. . . . emphasis is often placed on content of talks, and little on communication of messages”

“Most communicators know that physically hearing or reading a message doesn't mean that people would necessarily take it in, even if they could understand it”

WHERE DO WE BEGIN

WE BEGIN WITH OUR BASIC CONVICTIONS -

I SUGGEST 7 BASIC CONVICTIONS which are useful for the preacher to have:

1. Have a conviction that **preaching begins with God**

Rely on the Lord for inspiration.

His Spirit will lead us each step of the way

- To the passage or topic
- To understand the passage or topic
- To expose the Word of God lying in the passage or topic.

2. Have a conviction that the **Bible is God's Word**. God inspired it. Its message is "from the Lord". It is true.

3. Have a conviction that all you say will **be based on God's Word**.

Avoid proclaiming our own ideas or interpretations.

**Ensure other Christians confirm
our interpretation of God's word.**

4. Have a conviction that **God speaks** through the Scriptures.

5. Have a conviction that the message contained is **relevant for today's generation** - it is worth giving to them. It is still applicable today.

6. Have a conviction that if we are to faithfully proclaim the word, we have to **make it our own** by reading it, meditating on it, studying it, remembering it, discussing it and living it ourselves. Let God's Word become part of us.

7. Have a conviction that proclaiming the Word as well as we can is so important that we are willing to put in the **hard work required**.

We need to be willing to take time to "hear it" for ourselves, giving time to get our message into shape so that we can communicate to the best of the abilities God has given us.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: these seven convictions are important!

How willing are we to be a channel of God's communication? Can we say about the above points that "these are my convictions"?

What other convictions would we want to place alongside them?

Spurgeon was regarded as a great preacher:

"...Not only were people at Spurgeon's meeting converted, but they came to be converted. His faith was contagious; the fact that he expected them to be converted led people to expect it themselves. He expected it because he loved the people, because he believed they needed to be converted, and because he knew that the Gospel is "the power of God to salvation to everyone that believeth" (W.Y. Fullerton).

PREPARATION - HOW DO WE GET IT TOGETHER?

I find that **four critical preparation steps** are very important for me.

- I need each if I am to preach a sermon that will have:

CONTENT - from the Lord, and

COMMUNICATION - with the people

- We need the Holy Spirit to guide us through each step!
- The four steps are about content and communication, although steps 1 & 2 are more about content, and steps 3 & 4 are more about communication.

Step 1: REVELATION

Listen to the Lord

Look to receive the message

Pray and seek God

God by the Spirit will give us elements of the special message that the Lord wants us to share. Listen carefully.

If we are to share God's message

- we need to learn to listen

If others are to listen to us

- we must first listen to the Lord

If sharing on a **Biblical passage**, read the passage a number of times - maybe in different translations.

If it is on a **topic**, read **one or two passages** on the subject (not more at this stage).

Try to **let God bring ideas**, thoughts, meanings, applications, examples, other passages (to read later) etc.

Write down all the ideas that come to you.

Ask yourself "*what is the passage really saying?*" Write down your answers.

Note: Distinguish two kinds of truths the Lord might bring to you.

- The **clear teaching**. The truth the passage explains.
- The **devotional thought**. God can speak through a passage. The idea may not strictly speaking lie in the passage but, nevertheless, the Lord can still encourage or challenge through it.

***People need to sense that this message comes from God -
the Lord is communicating with us today.***

Step 2: RESEARCH

Listen to the ideas of others

Check out what you are thinking and the ideas you are writing. Are you "on track"? Are you interpreting it correctly and hearing God properly?

To **research a passage** we can use **seven things** - the order is often very important! Each may give us more ideas to write.

- The text - read it carefully.
- The surrounding verses = the context - they give a great deal of illumination.
- For a Gospel - parallel texts in the other Gospels.
- Parallel verses through the Bible - some are listed in the Bible margin.
- The notes in the Bible - translation notes - notes in a Study Bible.
- Other translations.
- Bible commentary - Bible dictionary - concordance.

To **research a subject**. Many of the above apply - check a number of verses on the subject. Use a concordance and Bible dictionary. You will not be able to cover everything on the subject - cover the points applicable to the particular theme.

Try to base subjects on a pivotal verse - adding other passages as appropriate. This gives people a passage to "hold on to", to remember, to refer to.

Even with detailed research we may still say "*I cannot fully understand it*".

Don't get hung up on what you don't know.

Our limited minds will never fully understand everything. We accept it, believe it and often find the understanding follows.

When Revd David Watson was a young Christian he was given some important advice: "*Don't let what you don't know put you off from what you do know*"

We can share teaching based on what we do know.

Step 3: RESTRUCTURE

Listen to the concepts as others will be required to listen to them

Group ideas together.

Look for the **main theme or point**.

Write a one sentence **summary** of what you feel it is important to say.

Write a one sentence **aim** for the teaching.

Lay aside some (many, most) ideas, - especially those not relevant for this occasion.

Decide **headings** and flow - expressed in a way that will help people follow.

Proportion time you will speak on each section. Before beginning to write it is important to know how long you will have for your presentation.

Words are like parcels – packages of information. When listening to someone speaking, or when reading a book, your brain is trying to make sense of the thousands of words that pour into our ears or through our eyes . . . one of the key ways to helping understanding and making the listening or reading process less stressful, is to make sure that the words are clearly sorted before they are given to people to understand.”

James Rye

Step 4: REFINE

Listen to what you have written

Write the "sermon-teaching".

If we are experienced speakers we may get away with headings. However, people who speak easily need to watch that their words are meaningful and relevant for the particular theme, on this occasion.

Some “experienced preachers” fall into the traps of wasting words, unnecessary repetition, deviation and consequently talk for longer than allocated or necessary.

People learning to preach should probably write word for word - even if we then speak from "memory" or notes.

Writing it out helps us get the ideas clear and followable. Some points/explanations need well ordered paragraphs – to allow the listeners to follow the concept, pick up the progression and ‘get the point across’. Sometimes we hear preachers struggling to get the point across. More thought at preparation time would have made an incredible difference.

Even if using brief notes, some statements need to be written in full - to find (and later remember) a way to express an idea that is clear, concise and understandable.

The **Beginning**:

Prepare a clear "attention grabbing introduction". Whet the hearers' appetites so they want to listen.

Prepare a clear conclusion which helps people remember and inspires them to apply.

Know exactly how we will finish so the main points are clear. Provide people with a challenge, and encouragement to respond and apply the message.

Check our notes.

Go through and cross out words and whole blocks which we could omit without losing the point. Ensure the focus is clear and the message is presented in a simple followable way.

Do not say things which do not need to be said for this content to be communicated on this occasion.

Remember we have spent time thinking through the issue. Others have given no prior thought to the issue - can they follow our way of "putting it"?

Read through our notes many times. Practise our delivery - if possible out loud, and if possible in the place where we will present the "sermon".

Pray (and pray again.....!)

- for your own calmness and clarity
- for an openness in the hearer to receive all the Spirit of God wishes to bring to them on this occasion.

See appendix 1 "**Guidelines for Preachers**" those notes will help in all these steps.

COMMUNICATING MORE EFFECTIVELY

BREAK DOWN THE NEGATIVES

Watch for things that get in the road and distract from good communication.

AVOID the seven dangerous "D's":

Delivery which does not communicate

- e.g. lack of life
- lack of volume

Deviation from the main focus of the message - which can overload or confuse our hearers.

Delay - especially in finishing - going on too long!

Getting the right length is important - to fit the context of the people and the particular service.

Longer sermons are not automatically better, nor more spiritual, nor 'deeper teaching', nor necessarily appreciated, nor necessarily better at communicating the message.

The **whole service is the message** and
if we preach too long
we don't leave adequate time
for a response of prayer, worship, silence etc.

Disorder – badly ordered sermons are hard to listen to and difficult to follow.

Distraction - especially distractions provided by the preacher's mannerisms, words and examples. Consider also the distractions behind the preacher.

Debate. Content which debates issues can help people grasp the complexity of those issues – yet a sermon is not an academic paper. It is possible to leave listeners more confused than enlightened.

Depth. When depth is over the heads of the listeners they will struggle to breath in the life of the sermon. When a congregation is used to sermons including some good, understandable deeper thoughts, they will feel 'short changed' by a preacher who is offering nothing more than a few simple truths. In some situations the depth balance can be hard to get right. This is a constant difficulty for travelling preachers.

*.....just because people hear a message
does not mean they understand it
.....just because they understand it
does not mean they take it in
.....just because they take it in
does not mean they will remember to apply it*

Some sermons are similar to a tennis ball thrown against a wall – the ball bounces back without penetrating that which it is thrown at. Sermons can be the same – be 'thrown at' people and bounce off heart and mind because the message is not prepared so that it will stick and 'penetrate'.

ENHANCE THE POSITIVE COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES

Apply good "viewing techniques" to enhance the content.

VESSEL IMAGERY

The communicating vessel (the preacher) can enhance the message by positive body language.

- Face - that is bright and positive.
- Hands - that move appropriately - to illustrate and enhance, not with nervous mannerisms or distracting movements.
- Stance - that speaks of life and importance. Body language speaks.

VERBAL IMAGERY

- Put things simply and clearly - say what you mean.
- Painting pictures with words.
- Phrases that catch the memory.
- Understandable one-liners.
- Pictures that are helpful illustrations - as windows to knowing and applying the truth.
- Watch the length and applicability of the illustrations - do they fit the point?

"Don't punch people with a raw idea: shake their hands with an example"

James Rye

VISUAL IMAGERY

- Things we hold in our hands.
- Words, pictures and diagrams via Power Point.
- People pick up messages through a variety of senses (hearing, sight, touch...)
- Why should we as preachers restrict ourselves to one method of communicating?
- Visuals, including pictures on a screen, speak powerfully to all people – especially to those who are more right brained and who therefore receive messages more powerfully through visual communication.

".....Psychologist Albert Mehrabian discovered that 7% of any message about our feelings and attitudes comes from the words we use, around 38% from our voice, and a startling 55% from our facial expressions. In fact when our facial expressions or tone of voice conflicts with our words, the listener will typically put more weight on the non-verbal message".

*Glaser and Smalley
Reader's Digest*

*"Non-verbal messages are 16 times as strong as verbal ones.....
"We remember approximately 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, 30% of what we see, and 50% of what we see and hear"*

James Rye

SOME OTHER ISSUES

USING NOTES

Do not be afraid of notes. God can guide the writing of them.

Notes help us to think through and present things clearly.

The style we use to write our notes will be to produce a spoken text - not a reading text. This takes much practice. Practicing out loud and speaking aloud as we write will help us produce a 'speaking text'.

This affects the length and order of the sentences we use.

Once we have said it - we have said it. If people do not immediately follow our meaning, they cannot "re-read" our spoken words in the way they could go back over a point in a book.

Do not be bound to notes. God can guide in the presentation - but watch the danger of straying and time wasting.

Off the cuff remarks and pause-filling (mindless) phrases often get in the road of communication. Good notes help avoid both tendencies.

"When I preach without notes (a manuscript), I spend most my energy thinking about what I am going to say next"

the words of one experienced preacher

It is often plain boring listening to someone who is busy searching for words and therefore repeating what they have already said while they think of what they're going to say next.

PREPARATION

Know the time you have available for preparation. Spread the preparation time appropriately across all four preparation steps. Failing to do so may mean that a great "revelation" does not communicate, because not enough time was given to "restructure and refine" the message into a communicable form.

*Prepare as though everything depends on you
preach as though everything depends on God*

LENGTH

Today's Internet TV generation has:

- a higher expectation of quality, and
- a lower attention span.

If preaching more than 8-10 minutes look for creative ways to regain people's attention.

Know what your parish policy is regarding sermon length. Stick to that policy.

TOPIC

We may be told what to preach on. Stick to our brief, or tell the person responsible that we cannot do so.

Preach on issues relevant to our congregation - what they are facing today at home, and tomorrow at work.

Preach on **how to** "topics" and give **how to** expositions of Scripture - so that people can go and live it.

Themes and lectionary may give us some guidance.

Ultimately seek the Lord for theme, the focus, the aspects to open up, the aspects to leave untouched, and the way to handle those we will focus on. The Lord is the only one who knows exactly what the people need (and don't need) to hear.

IN CONCLUSION...(I MEAN IT)

(Not followed by "*.....finally....to finish with.....one last point.....and if I could just add*")

The Lord is the enabler

The Lord is The Focus

The Lord is The Ultimate Communicator

AND the Lord chooses to use people in the process of calling other people to himself and helping them follow him.

SO the Lord will use (even) us!

LET US play our part by providing the best **channel** (as a person) and the best **content** (our preparation can produce) and the best **communication** techniques we have at our disposal.

".....we will be engaged in a battle in which God himself will be fighting sometimes God will work through us and on other occasions he will speak in spite of us"

James Rye

APPENDIX 1: GUIDELINES FOR PREACHERS

The following is designed to help preachers with **sermon preparation**. It is suggested that you fill in the areas below - as a way of a personal preparation check on your sermon. You may like to discuss aspects with fellow preachers.

The twelve questions below are designed for personal reflection during our preparations to help us evaluate our sermon. This is an important part of our preparation.

COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

Aim: (One Sentence)

Summary: (one sentence)

Scriptures

- main passage =

- sub passages =

Result - As a Consequence of this Sermon:

1. The people should know:

2. They should be able to do:

3. They will know they can do this because:

We should be able to set out the "bones" of our sermon in some framework such as the following (although some styles of sermon have a different structure). Nevertheless our main points, stories, illustrations, etc. will be deliberately placed in our developing flow.

HEADINGS (A, B etc. - main headings)

(a, b etc. = sub points)

(Note: normally three sections will be enough)

INTRODUCTION

A _____

a _____

b _____

c _____

d _____

B _____

a _____

b _____

c _____

d _____

C _____

a _____

b _____

c _____

d _____

D _____

a _____

b _____

c _____

d _____

E _____

a _____

b _____

c _____

d _____

CONCLUSION

APPENDIX: 2 PRIOR TO PREACHING

THERE ARE QUESTIONS TO ASK

(by the preacher, of the preacher)

The twelve questions below are designed for personal reflection to help us as we prepare - reflecting on these issues is an important part of our sermon preparation.

1. Have I a clear **introduction**?
 2. Have I got the **content** right. Is it in order and under the relevant sections? Is it all true (scriptural etc.) or is some of it just my own ideas and not really founded scripturally?
 3. Am I referring to/quoting enough **scripture** or too much?
 4. Will it **communicate** with the people attending? How will the people be able to follow the flow of the sermon – remembering what they need to?
 - e.g. Multimedia Projector Transparencies?
 - e.g. Link words?
 5. Should anything be **left out** because it does not enhance or develop the main aim and theme?
 6. Does anything need **repeating** or **explaining** differently?
 7. Are the **illustrations** relevant?
 8. Does it have a and **spiritual reality**?
 9. Is it likely to: **uplift** and not weigh people down?
 10. Is it **practical**. Will it be remembered and acted upon?
 11. Is the **length** okay? What will happen if I ad lib and add to some of the sections? Extra pauses, words, sentences, paragraphs and comments **will** add (many) minutes to the length.
 12. Do I know how to **stop**?
-

APPENDIX 3 DO A PREACHER'S EVALUATION

After you have preached

Listen to a Tape of one of your sermons.

Ask the following questions (plus reflect in other areas you think appropriate).

Apply questions 1 and 2 to people who would have no idea, at the beginning of the sermon, about what you are going to preach on. They come to the issue unprepared. They would have done no prior thinking (you as preacher have).

1. Is the sermon clear? Can it be followed? Can they "see" what I am saying?
2. Does it make the point? Can they grasp what I think I am saying?
3. Does it suit the congregation I was preaching it to? (Youth, adults, newer Christians, Christians who have been following the Lord for years).
 - Would each group bother to listen?
4. Is it relevant? (Both the topic and the way it is handled?)
5. Are the words understandable? (Or have I slipped into Christian jargon and used such words as "incarnation" which have no meaning to a lot of people?)
6. Is the sermon bringing a new insight and/or a new way to say it and/or a new enthusiasm for living it?
7. Was everything I said necessary?
 - Did some comments raise issues that did not need to be raised?
 - Were there arguments and background points which are unnecessary and do not help people understand and apply the main points I was trying to make?
 - Were there a lot of throw away words while I "filled up time"?
 - Are there unnecessary words because the preparation had not included thinking through phrases and finding the clearest way to say something?
8. Did the sermon have a sense of life?
9. Was there a sense of encouragement alongside the challenge? Was it uplifting or deflating?
10. Has the sermon got "windows" into truth and Christian living? (Including such things as examples, illustrations, jokes, picturesque language etc.).
11. How did I receive and respond to comments given (or not given) by the congregation – especially those who will make honest comments and whose judgements I value and trust?
12. What improvements would I make next time?

REMEMBER: *We are called to communicate the Gospel in ways that help people understand God and His life and be encouraged to live it. We are not presenting a theological treatise nor covering every issue of every topic, but seeking to communicate to the people the message we have endeavoured to receive from the Lord. Our role is vital.*

SOME BOOKS

"I Believe in Preaching"	John Stott
"The Craft of the Sermon"	Sangster
"Preaching and Preachers"	Martin Lloyd-Jones
"The Communicators Craft"	James Rye IVP
"Expository Preaching"	Haddon Robinson IVP

"But, and here I address preachers, don't ever preach a Scripture truth that is foreign to your own experience. Don't preach theoretical truth to a hungry congregation. As you study, pray that God will make the passage living and real in your own experience. Obey what God is saying to you and your sermons will have the authenticity of practice rather than the tentativeness of theory".

John White - "Flirting with the world"

TITLES IN THE SERIES:

Number 1 "Visitor Friendly Worship"

Number 2 "Worship - Who is it for?" – 2001 edition.

Number 3 "Leading Worship - The Prayers"

Number 4 "People Helping Skills"

Number 5 "Preaching and Teaching"

Number 6 "Stewardship - The Financial Area"

Number 8 "Healing - Prayer Ministry"

Number 9 "Informal Worship - Designing and Leading"

Number 10 "Incorporation - Helping Newcomers Into Membership"

Number 11 "Change - Introduce New Things Successfully"

Number 12 "Youth Ministry For the 21st Century"

Number 13 "Handling Hurts in the Church"

Number 14 "Managing Conflict in the Church"

Number 15 "Every Member Ministry – Making It Work"

Number 16 "Criticism – How Do We Respond?"

Please note that Number 7 on Planning is not available in the Electronic Series.
