



Library Update



Hello and welcome to the December 2007 issue of the Mathew Hale Public Library Newsletter.

We have had successful launches of the book "Please No More Boring Sermons" in Townsville, Melbourne and Adelaide.

I am happy to report that in North Queensland 40 copies of the book were sold at the Book Launch and afterwards. People seem to be finding the book very helpful in terms of practical ministry. This is particularly so as it contains in essence a short course on preaching as well as a number of other articles and some model sermons.

The book has also been reviewed in a number of newspapers. In this issue is a copy of the review of the book from The Melbourne Anglican.

It is soon to be reviewed for Focus, the Brisbane Anglican newspaper.

On October 30, Dr Stewart Gill, gave a very interesting talk at the

library about the use of illustrations in the sermons of Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox and Bishop Latimer.

You will also note in this newsletter details of the upcoming program for 2008. Please note these events in your diary.

Cataloging of the collection in the library is still continuing. Many thanks to Sue Lockeridge and Robyn Lake for their great contributions in this regard. We have received a number of wonderful gifts of books to the library during the year. Thank you also for your support of the work of the library.

May you have a good Christmas season.

Best Regards,

Dr Keith Weller
Honorary Warden

Review: Please! No More Boring Sermons

I began reading this book during a week when I was preaching on the last chapters of Genesis. I was hoping that if I read it quickly

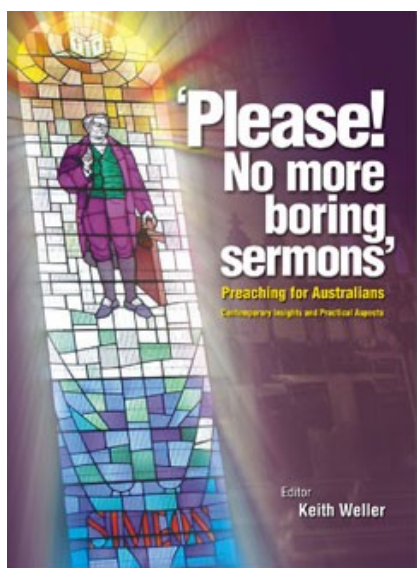
enough perhaps my sermon the following Sunday would be more interesting or at least not too "boring." I entered the book looking for practical help on how to be a more engaging preacher. I was happy to admit some people might find my sermons "boring" and I wanted to pick up what ever clever tips the book offered.

This short paperback is a collection of eleven essays and re-edited seminar presentations followed by seven sample sermons. As such it shares the patchiness of all edited collections and the reader will find some essays or sermons more helpful than others. The contributors are largely past and present staff of Ridley College (Peter Adam, David Williams, Adrian Lane, Robin Payne and Richard Condie), plus five others: former Archbishops Harry Goodhew and Keith Rayner, John Chapman, John Dickson and Michael Gourlay.

The main essays are like a summary version of a good general course on preaching. The authors cover the theology and necessity of preaching; how to prepare individual sermons and sermon series; the relationship between liturgy and preaching;

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**Note that the library is currently open only for advertised events and every Tuesday from 3.00 to 6.00pm.*



what we can learn from narrative preaching and why it is important to preach on Old Testament narratives; what to consider when preaching at occasional services and evangelistic events. For me the most thought provoking was Adrian Lane's essay on the "sound" of a sermon, a reminder that a sermon is essentially an oral-aural interaction, not a written text.

The seven sample sermons are a curious mix. There are two expository sermons and five topical/occasional sermons. As the weight of the earlier essays leans towards expository preaching it is intriguing there aren't more examples of such sermons. Some readers will particularly enjoy the topical sermons on Tyndale, Cranmer and the BCP. Robin

Payne also gives an example of a narrative Old Testament sermon as part of her essay.

This book will appeal to all those who struggle with the responsibility of preaching and are willing to keep learning. You won't necessarily find shortcuts to becoming a "less boring" preacher this Sunday but you will find encouragement to develop good preaching and preparation habits. If I understand the authors, "boring" sermons are more likely to emerge where this poor theology, shoddy preparation and insufficient attention to different congregations and contexts. As Harry Goodhew says, "... the last thing a sermon should be is boring. Its elements: truth, understanding and insight, personality, passion and purpose, ought to ensure its relevance and interest. If it is tedious there has been a failure somewhere along the line."

Peter McPherson
(this review first appeared in the October 2007 edition of the Melbourne Anglican)

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ISBN: 9-780908-284719
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RRP: \$27.50

MHPL Online

While the library is currently only open each Tuesday from 3.00-6.00pm, the MHPL Website is available 24/7. Online you can view full details of upcoming events, search the catalogue, and listen to previous talks.

You can access the website, using the URL below.

Upcoming Events In 2008

22 April: 7.30pm

"Facilitating Small Groups"
Mr Adam Lowe

22 May: 7.30pm

"A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Bible"
Rev'd Richard Trist

25 July: 9.00am—2.00pm

Preaching Workshop
Canon Dr Peter Adam

11 November: 7.30pm

"A Reformation Tour"
Rev'd Rhys Bezzant

Please visit our website for further information on events.

Support the Library

The Mathew Hale Public Library relies completely on gifted financial support to continue its ongoing ministry. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation.

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