



# The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust

Resources • Training • Grants

ICHTHUS SPRING 2022

## Meet our Sermon of the Year Judges

We're delighted to announce the makeup of our 2022 Judging Panel

### Chris Wright

Rev Dr Chris Wright is Global Ambassador and Ministry Director of Langham Partnership ([www.langham.org](http://www.langham.org)).

After ordained pastoral ministry in Tonbridge, Kent, he taught the Old Testament in India for five years (1983-88) and then at All Nations Christian College in England, where he was also Principal from 1993-2001. In 2001 he took over the leadership of the Langham ministries at the invitation of their founder, John Stott.

His books include commentaries on Exodus, Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, Lamentations and Ezekiel, *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*; *The Mission of God*; *The God I Don't Understand*; and *The Mission of God's People*.

Chris was chair of the Lausanne Theology Working Group. ([www.lausanne.org](http://www.lausanne.org)), from 2005 – 2011, and was the chief architect of *The Cape Town Commitment* – the statement of the Third Lausanne Congress in October 2010. He is an honorary Vice-President of Tearfund and IFES.



Chris and his wife Liz, who come originally from Belfast, Northern Ireland, have four adult children and eleven grandchildren, and live in London as members of All Souls Church, Langham Place, where Chris serves as an honorary curate. Chris enjoys a bit of light running in Regent's Park, birdwatching when possible and following Ireland's fortunes in the rugby Six Nations.

### What tips can you give to entrants addressing the theme of 'Welcome the Stranger'?

I will hope for sermons that recognise the prominence and importance of "the stranger / foreigner / outsider" in the biblical texts - in both O.T. and N.T. Israel traced their national epic back to having been aliens in Egypt, and were summoned never to forget what God did for them in that condition, and to reflect it in their attitudes and treatments of foreigners.

All Christians are "aliens and strangers" on earth in a sense. What does that say to our response to outsiders in our culture? I would look for some sensitive but sharp application of these themes to today's world, whether to national immigration policy, or simply care for "outsiders" of all kinds in local communities and cities, and indeed within our churches too. Somewhere I would be wanting to see the face of Jesus Christ shining through.

cont.../

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## Dotha Blackwood

**Born and educated in Jamaica, Dotha was converted in 1977.**

She worked with the Jamaica Citizens Bank Ltd and International Accelerated Missions Bible School (IAM) in Kingston, Jamaica as Director, whilst freelancing as a drummer.

In 1993, Dotha moved to England as Director of the International Accelerated Mission's (IAM) Bible School in London, where she was also Church Leader with New Life Assembly at Dalston from 1994 to 1997 before becoming an Associate Minister at the Dulwich church.

Dotha is a Graduate of Spurgeon's College, achieving a Master's Degree in Christian Doctrine after successfully completing her BD there. She is also a product of the Jamaica School of Music, where she studied, played and taught drums and other percussion instruments.

Over the years Dotha has been Minister of Music and a worship leader at various conferences; she led many worship seminars and was choir director of a 100-voice choir for ten years. She continues to exercise her gifts of worship leading, preaching and teaching at various conferences, retreats, churches and Christian gatherings all over the world. Her interests include playing the drums, singing, listening to music, walking, playing table-tennis, pool/snooker, preaching, teaching and listening to audio books.

In 2011 Dotha moved from the south coast where she was a Lecturer in Theology and Biblical Studies, and Director of Practical Training at Moorland's College for 12 years. Current research interests include Transformative Learning, Pentecostal Spirituality, Theological Education and Ministerial Formation, Practical Theology and Learning Organizations. She supports Arsenal Football Club.

### What tips can you give to entrants addressing the theme of 'Welcome the Stranger'?

One of the things I often say to folks thinking about sermon preparations, is that once they have identified the text from which they would be preaching, they should 'read themselves into



the text'. By this I mean, it is often so easy for us to think with contemporary eyes, and thousands of years of hearing and/or reading the texts that we forget that when the original readers/hearers first heard these texts they were fresh, brand new and therefore at times deeply disturbing. So, I say try and imagine yourself back there, hearing, for example, the story of the 'Good Samaritan' and then (having acquainted yourself with the nature of the relationships between the various parties mentioned) re-read it again with those lenses and put yourself in their shoes.

I also always encourage listening to different translations of the text, as this sometimes also highlights nuances that may have been missed in reading one's familiar translation. Once one has zeroed in on what Thomas Long calls the 'focus and the function' of the text and the sermon, one should always ask the 'so what?' question. What does any of this have to do with or say to me (i.e., our audience/s) today?

Once the sermon is then 'written', 'deliver the pizza!' We are just the pizza delivery boys and girls, and not responsible for the 'impacting' of the hearers - that's God's job.

## Tobi Olumjinmi - Head Judge

Tobi Olujinmi is the founder of **THE W TALK**, a multiplatform Entertainment & Faith Network which empowers Women to explore Faith via Entertainment.

As a Producer, Tobi is passionate about redefining inspirational stories within global entertainment. A regular on *BBC Daily Service* and *Pause for Thought*, she is a powerful communicator, preacher and speaker for both UK and international Christian events and contributor to Christian media.



Full details on how to enter Sermon of the Year can be found at [preachweb/sermonoftheyear](https://preachweb.com/sermonoftheyear)

Entries close at midnight on Sunday 6 March, 2022.



# LWPT

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- View useful videos by authors at [www.preachweb.org/biblemonth](http://www.preachweb.org/biblemonth)



## LWPT Membership gives you year-round resources!

### Preach Magazine every quarter

**Preach** is the magazine for Preachers, Readers, Worship Leaders and Student Preachers. It aims to help you develop your gifts of preaching and sermon writing. Ecumenical in outlook and Bible-based, it speaks in the context of current UK and world events. Each issue focuses on a theme - giving you sermon ideas and insight to connect with your congregation.

You'll find a broad range of perspectives - with contributors from different churches and varied backgrounds. We challenge your thinking and encourage you to look at things from many angles. In every issue you'll find a great mix of articles: long features, short reviews, resources and opinion pieces - support for reaching out to your congregation and community.

Published February, May, August and November.

### 4 issues of Ichthus newsletter

Published with **Preach** you'll receive 4 issues of LWPT's newsletter. Stay up-to-date with all that's happening in support of preachers.

### Every month - Preach eNews

A round-up of our best content including interviews and videos. Plus a listing of Christian events for the month ahead.

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# Grants update: Anthony Parkinson

## My name is Anthony Parkinson and I have recently completed my Graduate Diploma in Church Planting and Leadership with Westminster Theological Centre.

The course was a two-year part time course from which I successfully graduated. I chose the church planting stream as I was already involved in a church planting setting with a Christian rehab project where I served for many years after being saved myself and delivered from heroin addiction. Preaching Christ's message of hope has been key for me ever since as I can personally testify to its transforming power.

On my journey I have grown in my calling and my experience but studying at WTC really allowed me to add an academic dimension to what I was learning on the ground and to help me put my experience into words. I have found the study utterly transformational to my walk with Jesus, really helping me think and reflect on God's word for my context. I believe it had massively impacted my capacity to preach as well as I have covered all aspects of theology from biblical study and exegesis to systematics, politics, ethics, church history, missiology and ecclesiology. A broader knowledge along with my experience has helped me see many different perspectives in a new light.

The recent pandemic had a massive impact on our family as we moved right at the start of it to embark on a new ministry to lead a church where we didn't know anyone. That was especially hard due to the relational aspect of church leadership. In many ways it felt like my studies kept me sane as I had existing relationships at WTC and although it was online there was still a great sense

of community. I was also able to reflect deeply on the church and its role in times of crisis.

On the back of my success in my Graduate Diploma and some encouragement from WTC faculty including the principal, Dr Lucy Peppiatt, I have embarked on a journey into further study starting an MA in Kingdom Theology. As I write this, I am on my first residential. Studying God's word deeply in this way has ignited my passion

for knowledge, learning and the richness of the word. My position is unchanged and I require ongoing external support for my studies but it is also a great faith exercise as I grow in knowledge and get to exercise my faith and stretch it simultaneously.

Thank you so much for the grant given, it was utterly indispensable to enable my studies. Without it, along with the support of others, I would not have been able to pursue my studies. As a ministry family, like many others we survive on one income which barely makes ends

meet and to enable further activities, external support is always necessary. I am grateful to God that our needs are always met and LWPT has been a massive part of that in this last year. Your role as an enabler and a door opener for others is no small thing. I am deeply indebted to LWPT.

Manifold blessings, He is wonderful!

**Anthony Parkinson**

**Senior Leader**

**New Day Church, South Ribble**



**LWPT**

**Grants**

**We give vocational grants** to those needing financial help to pursue their vocation in ministry. Grants can be used towards course fees and materials for any recognised course that enables the applicant to explore or develop their preaching skills.

**Find out more at [lwpt.org.uk/vocational-grants](http://lwpt.org.uk/vocational-grants)**

# News Round Up

## Final call for Sermon of the Year 2022 Entries

There's still time to send us your entry to this year's Sermon of the Year. Entries close on Sunday 6 March.

Could your 1200-word sermon, on the theme of 'Welcome the Stranger', be this year's winner? There's only one way to find out – by taking part!

Full details on how to enter can be found at [www.preachweb/sermonoftheyear](http://www.preachweb/sermonoftheyear)



## Welcome to Our New Trustee

Hello. My name is Jane Lloyd and I am privileged to be a new Trustee of LWPT. I am a lifelong Methodist and worship in a rural setting with all the pleasures and challenges that brings.

As a consequence of my late husband's work I have lived in many different places, including overseas, and have engaged in different styles of worship within whichever community I found myself.

Yet when we settled in the place where I now live I was drawn back to Methodism. I now see that part of the reason for that is the centrality of preaching within our worship and I have been an active Local Preacher for over 20 years.

I have also been part of a team which has trained local preachers in a variety of ways and I feel passionately that it is through effective preaching that we can continue to bring God's word to his people and encourage them in their discipleship. I, therefore, look forward to playing my part as a Trustee to develop this work.



## Grief and Lament in Ministry Webinar

### How to help others cope with their loss

#### Thursday 3 March 2022

Please join us online for three focused sessions packed into one hour of information, engagement and fresh ideas for you and your area of ministry – be that a church, a house group or general discipleship at home, work and in church.

The sessions are hosted by Louisa Lockwood, Editor of **Preach** magazine with guest speakers:

**Cassius Francis** from the Wesleyan Holiness Church and Loss and Hope, speaking on preaching and leading about grief

**Katy Tutt**, Project Manager at Loss and Hope, speaking on resources and courses available

**Judith Brshaw** of Oundle Baptist Church and Bereavement Team leader and specialist, speaking on the practical application of a bereavement focus in churches.

Sign up for FREE at [preachweb.org/grief-and-lament](http://preachweb.org/grief-and-lament)



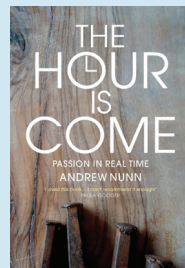
## Book Review by Paula Gooder\*

### The Hour is Come: Passion in Real Time

Andrew Nunn (SCM, 2021)

208pp, paperback RRP £12.99

Have you ever asked yourself, what day of the week the widow dropped her two coins into the temple treasury? Or when the disciples found the man carrying the water jar, who would show them the way to the upper room? In this fascinating book of devotional reflections, Andrew Nunn has put together the well-known events of the last week of Jesus' life in a fresh and fascinating way. It starts



with the Saturday before Palm Sunday and ends at Pentecost.

The reflections focus in on key hours in the last week of Jesus' life, then week by week through the weeks after Easter and ending, finally, with three reflections on Pentecost Sunday.

Although we can't be sure exactly when each event happened, looking at the events in detail and reflecting on when they might have happened brings a fresh insight to the story. In particular, it allows us to appreciate the growing tension as Jesus' death comes ever closer and the slow realisation, in the hearts of Jesus' disciples, of what the resurrection meant.

Each section is very short – no longer than two pages long – and includes a passage from the Bible, some help into reflection and a prayer. It is a wonderful resource with so much to think about and reflect on. It will be well worth praying with in the lead up to Easter and beyond.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who would like to take time to get into the details of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*\*Dr Paula Gooder is a writer and lecturer in Biblical Studies. She is currently the Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral in London.*

## Coming up in *Preach* - next issue

The summer '22 issue of **Preach** is about how we learn to find joy in our current lives and broken world. What is joy? What does God say to us about joy? How does the Holy Spirit bring about joy? What can we do to increase the presence of joy in ourselves and in our churches and communities?

Contributors include John Goldingay, Bible scholar and preacher, digging deep into 'joy'



in the Word; Ian Paul talking about the identity of the Holy Spirit; Baptist minister Richard Littledale on growth in gardening and preaching; Derek Pamment's insights into preaching as a police chaplain; plus insights from our regular columnists Tobi Olujinmi, Helen Paynter, James Catford, Dave Bookless and Krish Kandiah.

Please do get in touch by emailing your thoughts and experiences to Louisa Lockwood [editor@lwpt.org.uk](mailto:editor@lwpt.org.uk)

## New for 2022 - Bible Month Book of Isaiah

LWPT, in collaboration with **The Methodist Church**, has just published the latest edition of *Bible Month* on the *Book of Isaiah*.

The sixth in our series of 30-day study guides on books of the Bible, it aims to encourage individuals and churches to engage with a specific book of the Bible and develop biblical literacy within church communities.

Now in stock – for delivery within 3 working days. Find out more and order at [www.preachweb.org/biblemonth](http://www.preachweb.org/biblemonth)

30 Days with Isaiah includes beautiful illustrations, including Light to the World, below...



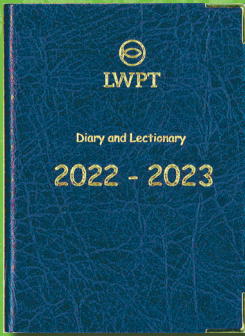
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