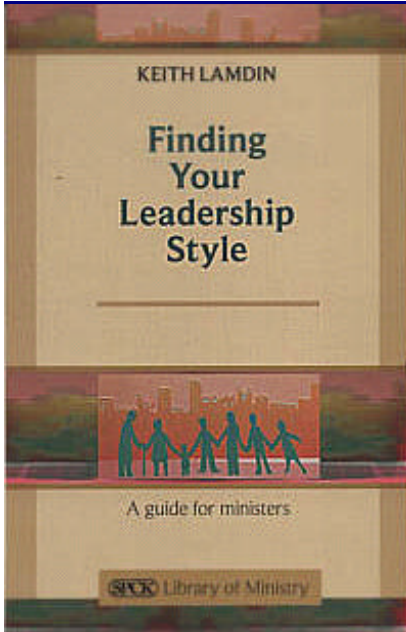


Church & Ministry: Theory & Resources



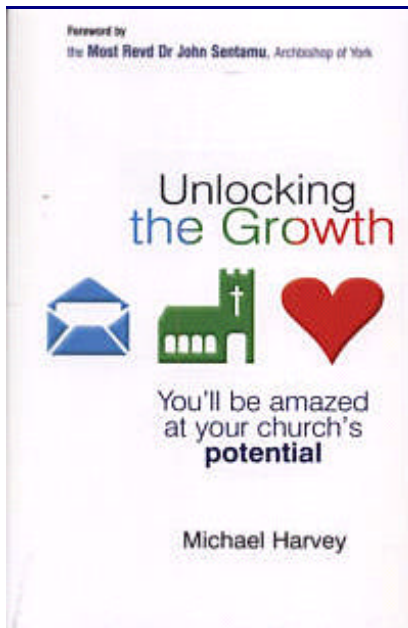
Finding Your Leadership Style: A Guide for Ministers

SPCK Library of Ministry

by Keith Lamdin
publ by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)
in Paperback
at £12.99 (978-0-281-06478-6) Apr 2012

This is a robust, rigorous and rich sweep of metaphors for Christian ministry. Lamdin speaks from a pool of trans-denominational ministry and leadership. This tracks wisdom from contrasting sources and comes as part of the growing reservoir of SPCK ministry specialisms, particularly nurturing leadership shape. Although a slim 115 page overview of different kinds of leadership styles, this is a useful aid for the curious and growing soul in resourcing the discernment of what specific emphasis of leadership is most fitting for them. There is a great platform of leadership introductions, with six modes of leadership explored, concluding with a chapter on the weightiness of leadership. - An unusual sweep of types of leadership such as monarch, warrior, servant, elder, contemplative and prophet are explored. These are useful if not altogether apt metaphors for inviting personal formation. Lamdin gives emphasis to the British churches tendency towards monarch warrior types with an expiration concern. A breadth and diversity of Ephesians Ch 5 types are surely needed in pastoral leadership roles and this title offers godly wisdom, experienced insight and scholarly research. Worthy of meaningful study time and thoughtful application.

Notes by [Johnny Douglas](#)



Unlocking the Growth

You'll Be Amazed at Your Church's Potential

by Michael Harvey

publ by Monarch imprint of Lion Hudson

in Paperback

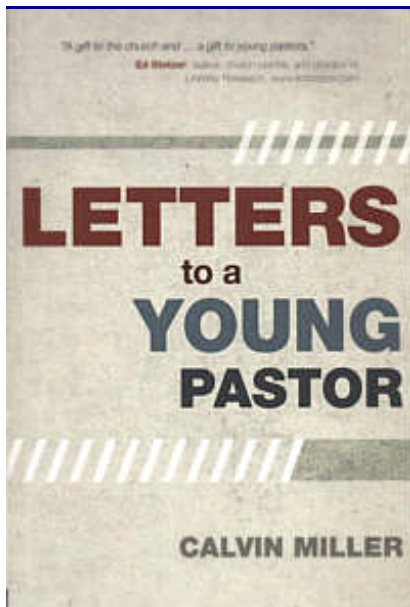
at £8.99

(978-0-857-21198-9)

23/03/2012

A Back to Church Sunday survey shows that after six months attenders do not become regulars. Harvey writes an inspiring, clear and compelling guide to renewing our church's capacity to engage and win people for Jesus in our communities. Each chapter is proactive or responsive to struggles, possibilities, blockages and more! This will undoubtedly become the go-to manual for church welcome and invitation ministries. It does feel American and pushy at times but subject to plenty of contextual application, and it offers so much for the flourishing and growth of all our church communities. It will require courage in application, but is entirely needful in every place across our nation. Helpful, outward-focussed & utterly action-orientated!

Notes by [Johnny Douglas](#)



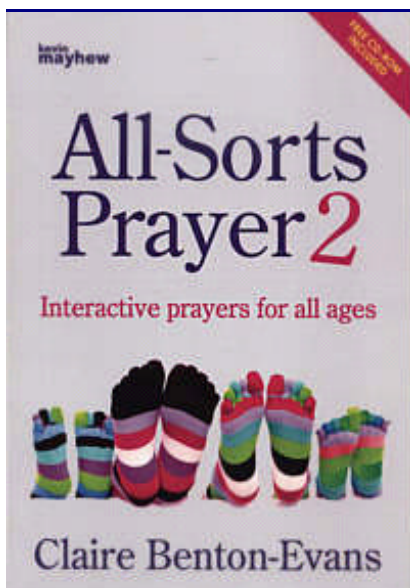
Letters To a Young Pastor

by Calvin Miller
publ by David C Cook/Kingsway
in Paperback
at £8.99 (978-0-781-40577-5) Oct 2011

Calvin Miller, the well-known pastor and author, has written this book to help young men starting out on their pastoral ministry. It consists of 35 letters covering a wide variety of subjects but directed solely to the American evangelical church scene. Do not expect to find a great deal of scripture quoted and do not expect to find theological precision. It is not that kind of book. -

Mr. Miller never hides the difficulties of the ministry. He keeps coming back to the fact that in America within 20 years of starting 80% of pastors have left the ministry. He wisely warns against looking to the mega churches as models for church growth and frankly discusses the sexual temptations a pastor will face. Mr Miller is candid in revealing his own mistakes and is also honest in saying that some problems just don't go away. In fact, this is the strength of this book. - However many will struggle with Mr. Miller's offbeat and humorous style. Quite often Mr Miller steps over the line in his effort to write in a down to earth way. Sometimes it is not clear whether he is serious in the advice he is giving. I found his negative attitude to difficult church officers and meetings unedifying. - However there is some wise advice hidden away in these letters. In spite of its imperfections I found the book fascinating to read and took away some helpful lessons.

Notes by Alan Hill



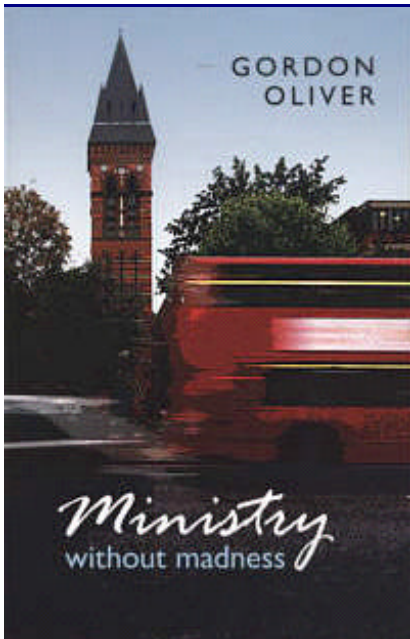
All-Sorts Prayer 2

Interactive prayers for All Ages: Free CD-ROM included

by Claire Benton-Evans
publ by Kevin Mayhew Publishers
in Paperback
at £16.99 (978-1-848-67432-5) 2011

Interactive prayers and creative resources here are served up with the potential for significant blessing for all of God's people. An imaginative, faithful and surprising work that covers core, seasonal and occasional resources. There are top class reference resources included in the appendices. There could have been more quantity in this text, because most users will have to 'pad' out the resources. The additional resources and CD-inclusion offer additional value and helpfulness in all-age worship. Great starter resources.... An amber light for those potentially difficult all-age worship services!

Notes by Johnny Douglas



Ministry Without Madness

by Gordon Oliver
publ by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)
in Paperback
at £9.99 (978-0-281-06364-2) Mar 2012

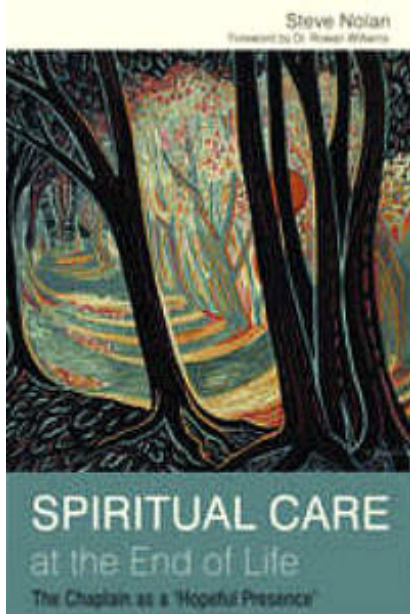
The ministry in the title is ordained ministry and the madness refers to the down side of being ordained in a time when Christianity and the Church are under pressure – depression, doubt, role confusion, overload, anxiety, stress, and burnout. These are the things that clergy are often reluctant to acknowledge – especially to those in authority over them - until it has all gone too far. The burden seems greater because in the past, ordained ministry has often brought high job satisfaction. -

Gordon Oliver explores a number of themes in chapters that have titles such as: Called to be holy, Called to be human, Called to serve, Called to lead, Called to rest and wait, Called to be fools. He does this in large part by telling stories or anecdotes drawn from his own experience as both a theological educator – principally at St John's College, Nottingham - and a parish priest in urban and rural settings. He is currently a Rector of two parishes in Kent. -

As he writes from an evangelical perspective, I was surprised there was not a little more on the particular pressures that evangelicals bring upon themselves if they place such an emphasis on church growth – and there is none, or little. All clergy need a theology of ordained ministry that enables them to find joy even if this is their lot. -

But clergy – and laity – of whatever persuasion will find a great deal of wisdom here in a book that is a delight to read.

Notes by [Alan Billings](#)



Spiritual Care at the End of Life

The Chaplain as a 'Hopeful Presence'

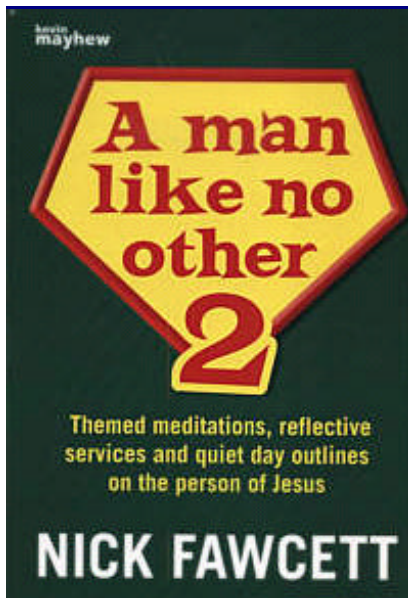
by Steve Nolan
publ by Jessica Kingsley Publishers from Gardners Books
in Paperback
at £17.99 (978-1-849-05199-6) Jan 2012

Steve Nolan's focus is the challenge of caring for people who know they are dying; specifically, how can a chaplain sustain the dying person so that they face the inevitable in a spirit of hope and peace? Given the current financial pressures on chaplaincy provision within the NHS and the creeping emphasis upon the measurability of outcomes this is far from being a question of aloof academic interest. -

Using stories drawn from his own experience as well as research, Nolan begins to develop a new theology of spiritual care, which he dubs as 'hopeful presence'. He identifies four stages in the relationship between the chaplain and the 'dying other' (one of several terms Nolan adopts in preference to patient). First is 'evocative presence' through which the chaplain absorbs the negative projected feelings of the patient. Successfully managed this leads on to 'accompanying presence' through which the chaplain simply dwells alongside the patient. This opens up the possibility of a 'comforting presence' through which the patient may discover a strength that sustains. Finally this leads to the chaplain providing a 'hopeful presence' through which the patient might come to a position of reconciliation and peace. -

Just occasionally one reads a book whose value extends far beyond its intended audience. This is one such book for the theology that Nolan espouses has potential application in many other chaplaincy fields including education, prison and military environments. His principles deserve wide study and reflection.

Notes by David Ford



A Man Like No Other Bk 2

Themed Meditations, Reflective Services and Quiet Day Outlines on the Person of J

by Nick Fawcett
publ by Kevin Mayhew Publishers
in Paperback
at £29.99 (978-1-848-67317-5)

09/09/2011

Another gem by Nick Fawcett! -

Clearly laid out with a contents page and excellent indices, including key themes, principle characters, and Bible passages. This makes the book very easy to use if you are looking for something for use at a particular service or time. -

The book is divided into two sections. Section one is meditations, written from the perspective of the characters who were there. These are grouped into themes which stimulate reflection, they are ideal as a sermon supplement, or a replacement in less formal all-age services. Each meditation starts with a Bible reading and ends with a prayer, which helps to focus the listener. -

Section two has reflective services for Christian festivals throughout the year and resources for quiet days. With prayers, comments, suggestions for hymns and readings as well as the thought provoking meditations. -

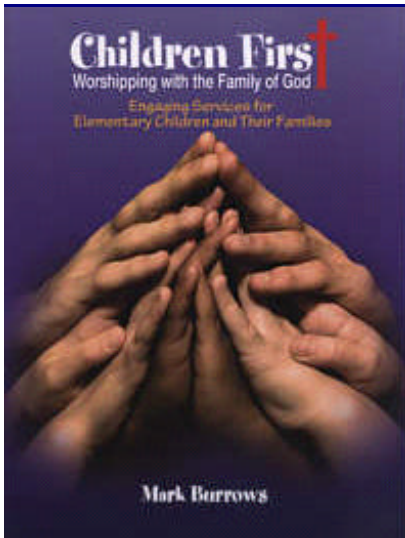
The services cover the major Christian festivals as well as reflective events such as Faith in action; Who are we to judge and The God who is always with us. -

The appendices make suggestions for accompanying music, visual resources and suggestions for leading a quiet day. -

I enjoy using this book, the referencing makes it very easy to find a particular topic, it is easy to read and follow. I have used Nick Fawcett meditations at many services and find these to be of the same high quality. They provide an excellent sermon substitute which is reflective and thought provoking. - -

Sue Jones, Green Lane Methodist Church, Leominster

Notes by [Guest reviewer](#)



Children First

Worshipping with the Family of God - Engaging Services for Elementary Children and

by Mark Burrows
publ by Abingdon Press from Alban Books
in A4 Paperback
at £12.99 (978-1-426-70775-9)

Sep 2010

Compiled by Mark Burrows, a composer and writer from a Methodist church in Texas, this book came in response to the feeling that children deserved more than just a few minutes devoted to their needs at a normal Sunday service. So - Children First - aims to create services that are meaningful and enjoyable for children, in the hope that worship will be such a positive experience that worship will continue to play a major part in their lives. -

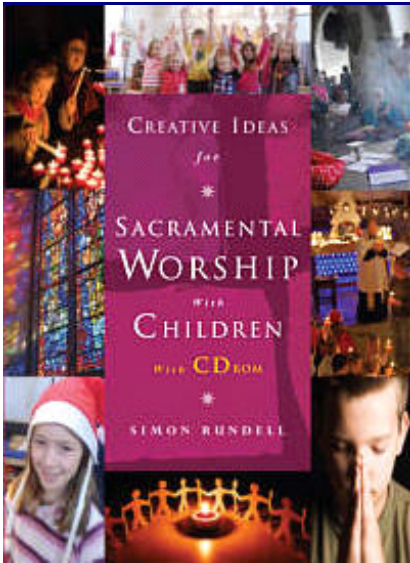
The core of the book consists of 12 acts of worship lasting 40 – 45 minutes, using some conventional themes such as peace and celebration, but also ones on peer pressure and on anger management. As a preface to the section on themed services Mark Burrows explores their key elements, such as the gathering, the singing, the use of puppets, time for reflection, the Bible story and teaching and the offertory. -

The role-plays, which are printed in full, make clever use of hand puppets and wooden spoon puppets, which are easily made. The book includes a CD comprising 33 tracks of songs used in the services, and sheet music of some of these. There is also a most valuable selection of responsive, unison and action prayers. -

There is inevitably a marked American context to the scripts, and several of the songs are unfamiliar. However the sound basis of the book transcends boundaries. It would be easy to do some re-writing using English scenarios and jargon. -

I see this book sparking off ideas and as a resource book not only for those planning family services on a Sunday, but for Sunday school teachers, Holiday Club organisers, and those running after-school family events such as Messy Church. I am sure that children would love to make their own wooden spoon puppets and engage in their own dramas! So here are 96 pages, music and CD to inspire you to create exciting, contemporary and enjoyable worship for all ages.

Notes by [Margaret Walker](#)



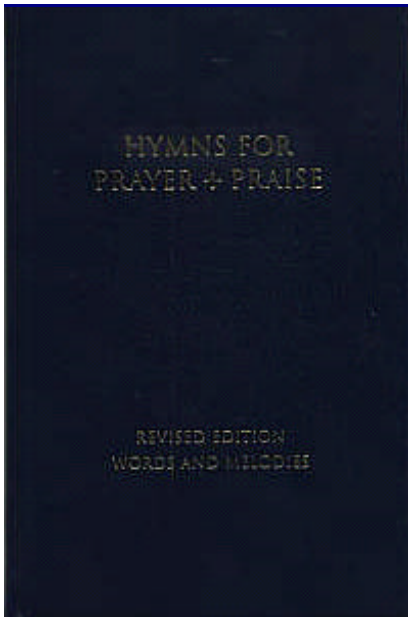
Creative Ideas for Sacramental Worship with Children

by Simon Rundell
publ by Canterbury Press imprint of Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd
in Paperback with CD ROM
at £19.99 (978-1-848-25092-5) 30/09/2011

At long last, a book that many of us have wished for but never put a name to. The difficulties of taking children forward from 'Bible Stories' to an involvement with the Church which means something to them and also brings them closer to the sacramental life is one which many have been wrestling with for years. Here now is a book full of ideas and suggestions about how to do this. Even areas where we already involve children e.g. Baptisms, Christingle etc are covered with new ideas on how to make improvements. -

The first part of the book outlines the situation in the Church today and leads on to look at some of the basic skills required and how these can be expanded to use methods and technology that children often understand better than many adults. This is then followed by ideas and suggestions for liturgy for use throughout the Church year. These are clearly laid out and explained with examples ready for use and can be used on their own or incorporated into existing sacramental worship. Also included are ideas which set our own (and children's) creativity flowing. - The inclusion of a CD Rom which allows the download of prayers, songs, short talks and complete liturgies with visuals and videos is a huge added bonus. - I thoroughly recommend this book.

Notes by [John Theaker](#)



Hymns for Prayer and Praise

Revised Edition Words and Melodies

Published for the Panel of Monastic Musicians

publ by Canterbury Press imprint of Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd

in Hardback

at £20.00

(978-1-848-25062-8)

30/11/2011

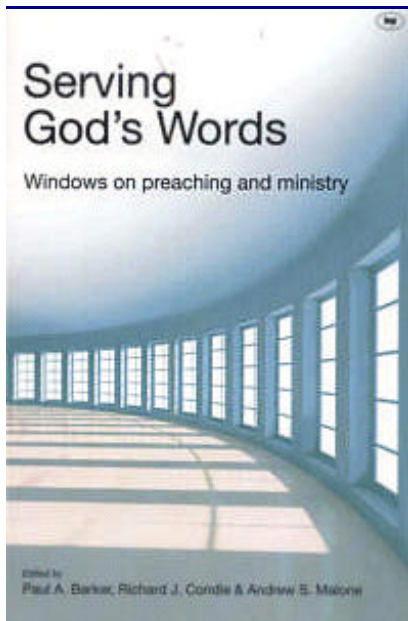
This is a hymnbook by the monastic community for the monastic community, and as such, should find application in both Anglican and Catholic houses throughout the English-speaking world. All the hymns are in English, written in traditional metrical forms, and the language is broadly contemporary. The hymns are arranged in four sections to cover the Daily Office, the Church Year, Saints' Days, and other special occasions. Each item has two tunes:- one plainsong melody and one metrical (for which the full music edition includes harmonies). In addition, there is a section of common melodies for those who wish to use the full range of hymns with a limited repertoire of tunes. -

The title means what it says: every item is a hymn. This book is the latest in a line of monastic hymnals which reaches back to the Middle Ages, and it continues that tradition without dilution or diversification. -

As for the question 'Is it useful outside of that tradition?', I've made a start, using in smaller gatherings to broaden my church's repertoire of evening hymns, and I can see myself turning to it during Lent and Holy Week too. - -

Full music ISBN 978-1-848-25063-5, £35

Notes by [Martin Brasier](#)



Serving God's Words

Windows on Preaching and Ministry

Edited by Paul A. Barker, Richard J. Condie and Andrew S Malone

publ by IVP(Inter Varsity Press)

in Paperback

at £11.99

(978-1-844-74547-0)

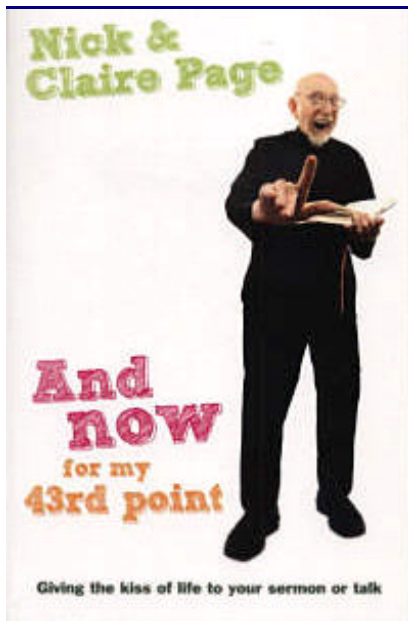
Nov 2011

This book is a - festschrift - that is a publication honouring a respected person and presented to them during their lifetime. The man in question is Canon Peter Adam, the Evangelical Anglican who is currently Principal of Ridley Melbourne College, Australia. The 12 chapters have been written by pastors and theologians from around the world. -

This is a book for preachers. It is subtitled - Windows on Preaching and Ministry - for good reason. Half of the book is made up of articles discussing how to preach from various books of the Bible. The other half is more general contributions on the subject of preaching. -

I particularly enjoyed the chapters on the 10 commandments, the judgement of God and Charles Simeon but there is food for thought all through the book. - The editors have done an excellent job in giving the book a cohesive feel. The articles complement each other even though written by different people. Those who love God's word and love preaching from God's word will enjoy reading this.

Notes by [Alan Hill](#)



And Now For My 43rd Point

Giving the Kiss of Life to Your Sermon or Talk

by Nick & Claire Page

publ by Authentic Media

in Paperback

at £7.99

(978-1-850-78998-7)

14/10/2011

This 150-page paperback is a joint effort by Nick Page, a creative consultant who has written over 60 books, and Claire, a director and drama teacher who coaches preachers in voice and communication at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. -

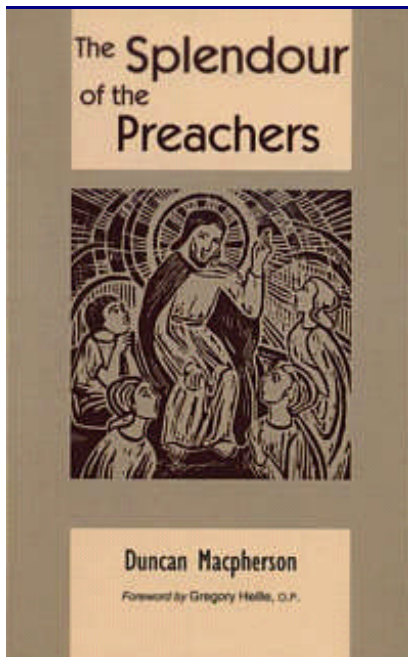
It offers innovative approaches to preaching the Gospel – weaning the most ardent preacher from his or her ‘monologue’ sermon, with its inevitable text, repeated text, three points (preferably beginning with the same letter of the alphabet), summing up, reprise and an eventual end some 20+ minutes later. -

Sometimes provocative – Is the sermon dead? – Did Jesus actually preach? – this book is thought-provoking, positive and a joy to read, with its blend of humour, illustrations and practicality. It covers common complaints about sermons and suggests remedies with hints on presentation, movement, speech and speed, as well as alternative therapies such as using art, drama, discussion and modern technology which involve the congregation in more active participation. -

Churchwardens and Council members – don’t all rush out to buy this book as a present for your minister or lay preacher! Be more diplomatic. Make sure your church bookstall, church library and religious bookshop have a copy. Recommend it to those who are training our future ministers. Hopefully they will read it themselves and put it on the reading list for their students. Then they and those who listen to their sermons will all benefit. -

And now for my 44th point – This book is highly recommended.

Notes by Margaret Walker

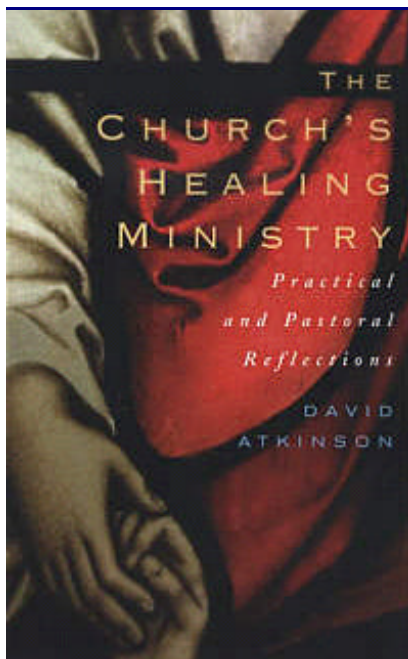


The Splendour of the Preachers

by Duncan Macpherson
publ by St Pauls Publishing from Redemptorist Publications
in Paperback
at £8.95 (978-0-854-39781-5) Jun 2011

This is a book for those who preach and those in training to be preachers, particularly in the preparation of homilies in church. Although the author is himself a Catholic, preachers of all Christian denominations will benefit. It is subtitled 'New Approaches to Liturgical Preaching' and includes guidelines not only for Sunday services, but also for weddings, baptisms and funerals. It is above all for those whose job it is to proclaim the Word. He deals first of all with the preacher's role and how to communicate effectively. He then looks at the ideal structure of a sermon, how to adjust the tone and content to suit age, gender and social class and how to interpret and explain the Word of God. A very useful part of the book is the inclusion of examples of several of the author's own preaching. He ends by saying that everyone is a preacher, that we are all called to be apostles. 'Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel' (St Paul).

Notes by [John Irvine](#)



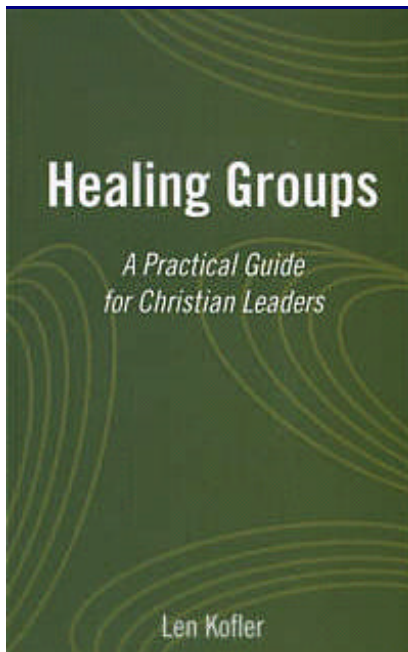
The Church's Healing Ministry

Practical and Pastoral Reflections

by David Atkinson
publ by Canterbury Press imprint of Hymns Ancient & Modern Ltd
in Paperback
at £14.99 (978-1-848-25077-2) 29/04/2011

This book presents healing as a practical and important part of any pastoral ministry. Atkinson defines the causes of ill health and offers possibilities of healing body, mind and spirit. Following Christ's example in the Church's healing ministry Christ's kingdom, is a community event, changes people's priorities and is linked to forgiveness. Chapters on the problem of pain, counselling, standing with the vulnerable and the kingdom of God illustrate the way healing is offered in the whole ministry of the Church and its liturgy. This easy to read, very straightforward and informative book is a must for all those interested in this subject.

Notes by [Celia Rees](#)



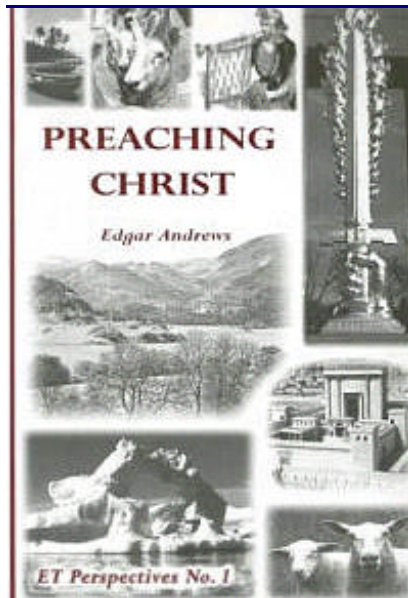
Healing Groups

A practical Guide for Christian Leaders

by Len Kofler
publ by St Pauls Publishing from Redemptorist Publications
in Paperback
at £11.95 (978-0-854-39799-0) Apr 2011

This book is a dense study, and not to be taken lightly. It gives an in depth account of the way groups work and how conflicts may arise. It offers suggestions for dealing with various situations, suggests ways of transformation and possible outcomes and gives the reader chances to consider how best to deal with a variety of situations. Details on what makes a good leader and how to be one are included. Although slanted towards the Christian leader it is a handbook any leader could benefit from.

Notes by [Celia Rees](#)



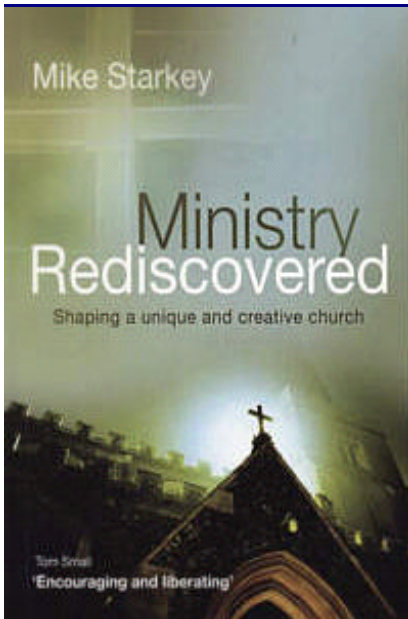
Preaching Christ

by Edgar Andrews
publ by EP (Evangelical Press)
in Paperback
at £4.95 (978-0-950-01291-9) Jul 2005

His conviction is made clear by the title that the 'only preaching that really counts is that which centres on the Person, work and glory of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God' (p5). He then unpacks what he means by preaching; what it means to preach Christ and that Christ can and should be preached from the Old Testament and the New Testament, to unbelievers and believers alike and basically every time you preach. -

We preach the atonement, God's grace, the unsearchable riches in Christ, repentance and faith (in Christ) and everything that is the full counsel of God, but at the heart of all if it is not linked to Christ it is likely to slip into moralism and empty religion. I found much encouragement here and a useful reminder that too much preaching can talk about Christianity but not Christ and I very much enjoyed reading this simple direct and helpful call to, whatever else I do, preach Christ. - The book began life as a series of articles in the - Evangelical Times - and so each chapter is short and easily read but contains much treasure. The whole book itself is only 80 pages long but if you were looking for something to get you started on the road to Christ centred preaching then this would be an excellent place to start, just don't be put off by the cover.

Notes by [Phil Whittall](#)



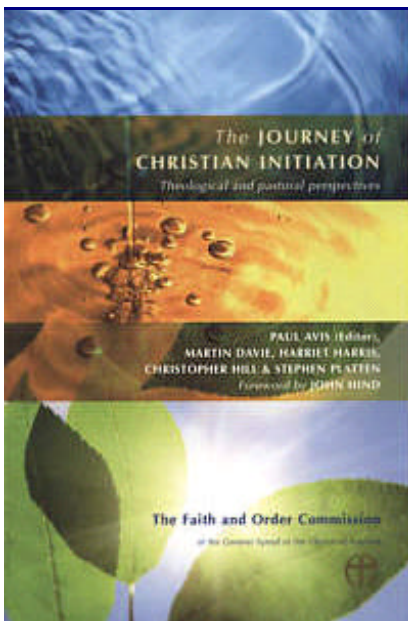
Ministry Rediscovered

Shaping a Unique and Creative Church

by Mike Starkey
publ by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)
in Paperback
at £7.99 (978-1-841-01616-0) 2011

This is a fluent and convincing appeal for non MacDonald's churches, but rather ones which are genuinely local, relevant, caught by their own vision not a pre-packaged hand-me-down. (Starkey rightly points out the irony that churches such as Willow Creek did of course begin like this, but deny their own DNA when they become 'franchised'). There is a deliberate echo in the title of Vincent Donovan's classic, - Christianity Rediscovered - – still an essential – alongside some very worthwhile reflection on Starkey's own wide experience. But his own principles – as he acknowledges – mean that no Ten Top Tips or pending programme can readily be offered. So this more a musing than a manual, though shot through with practical wisdom and theological common sense. Well worth a read to shake off the shackles of other people's stories and start living your own, and one to give to a minister you know who needs a breath of fresh air.....

Notes by David Thomson



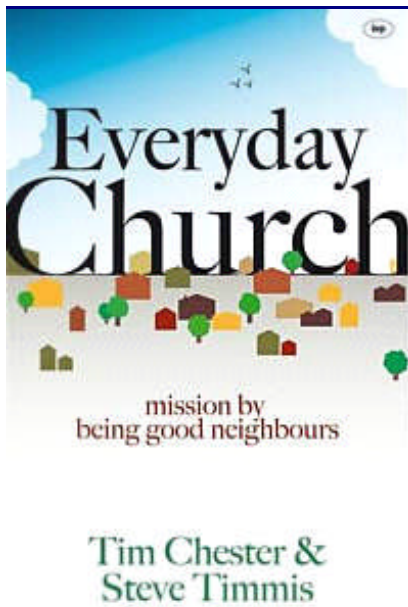
The Journey of Christian Initiation

Theological and Pastoral Perspectives

Editor Paul Avis
publ by Church House Publishing (CHP) part of Hymns Ancient & Modern
in Paperback
at £16.99 (978-0-715-14237-0) 2011

This contribution to the debate about Christian initiation in the Church of England, coming as it does from the recently founded Faith and Order Commission will be yet another step on a very long road. The word 'journey' in the title of this collection of essays by five different authors, rather gives the game away as to where the FAOC sees the debate going in the coming years. As Bishop Hind in his introduction points out, there is much emphasis here on the ecumenical dimensions of the issues discussed. One impression did stick in the mind, and that was that confirmation appears to be higher on the agenda than in recent years. Developments are to be expected.

Notes by Ian Gibbs



Everyday Church

Mission by Being Good Neighbours

by Tim Chester & Steve Timmis

publ by IVP(Inter Varsity Press)

in Paperback

at £9.99

(978-1-844-74520-3)

Jun 2011

A book which I would highly recommend to all Christians – church leaders and members alike. -

- Everyday Church - , based on 1 Peter is not your average commentary. -

Having lived in the UK for a number of years, we have attended a number of churches – mostly, meetings were formal; church on Sundays with a mid-week bible study and evangelism usually being events at the church. What Tim & Steve are suggesting in - Everyday Church - is that we re-look at how we do church, mission and evangelism. -

Firmly grounded in scripture Tim & Steve encourage a closer community within the church on an everyday level and not just with the church but with unbelievers too – meeting after work for a normal dinner, being part of each other's lives so as to encourage, rebuke, correct and grow together in Christ and where non-believers are concerned to show them Christ's love and share the gospel in a more natural way. -

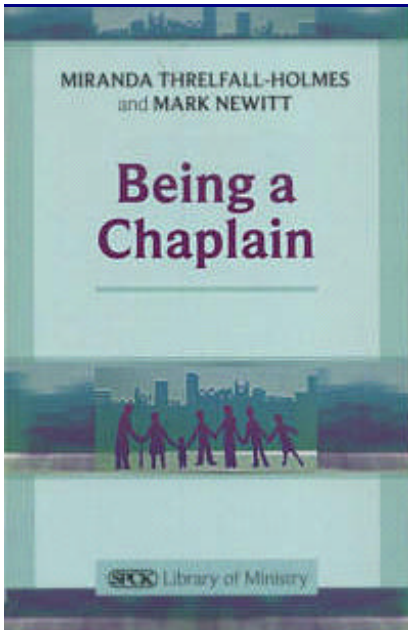
In a culture where work is taking up more time and relationships with neighbours and within communities are breaking down, it is essential that Christians build community and in so doing share Christ's love. -

Tim & Steve go on to discuss community, pastoral care, mission, evangelism and life and hope at the margins. -

In essence, it is an encouraging and challenging reminder to live the gospel as the early church did. -

My only advice – go get your copy now!

Notes by [Charmaine Hill](#)



Being a Chaplain

SPCK Library of Ministry

by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes & Mark Newitt
publ by SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge)
in Paperback
at £10.99 (978-0-281-06385-7) Jun 2011

Chaplaincy is a growing area of ministry within the Church and this book provides ample resource material for anyone considering a chaplaincy role, whether ordained or lay. -

The majority of the book consists of stories from chaplains working in a diverse range of settings primarily from the Armed Forces, Education, Health Care and the Prison Service. Other settings are included however, specifically Luton airport, Manchester United FC and a Community Arts project in the North East of England. The final section of the book offers some theological reflections on the nature of chaplaincy as a whole, which is a genuine challenge in the light of the diversity represented in the preceding accounts.

-
Some common themes emerge – the tension of working in secular institutions, resource pressures, the difficulty of identifying the ‘value add’ that chaplaincy brings, the sense that chaplains are sometimes overlooked or marginalized within the life of the mainstream church... -

What is clear throughout the book is that chaplaincy is a vibrant and deeply rewarding ministry, served by some very dedicated chaplains often working in conditions that are profoundly challenging to people of faith. So this is a hopeful and encouraging book, and surely must be required reading for every candidate for ministry. Let's hope it can also help the church to acknowledge the work of chaplains with more enthusiasm than sometimes appears the case.

Notes by [David Ford](#)