

Canons Garth, Helmsley, York. YO62 5AQ ☐

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November 2008

Dear Reader,

Enclosed is a rota for readings at the 9.30 Sunday Eucharist (and on some other occasions) during the next year. If there is a problem with any particular Sunday, please arrange a swap with someone else on the list, or contact Mrs Val Moorby (☐ 770759)

The lesson is to be read immediately after the collect for the day. Please be at the lectern by the end of the Gloria (or Kyries in Lent and Advent) so that you are ready to begin as soon as the collect ends.

The Lesson should be announced:

A Reading from the Book of x / Epistle to the x

At the end, please say *This is the word of the Lord.*

The Revised Common Lectionary (Year B) sets out in full the reading for the day, employing what it deems the best version for that particular lesson. This year, for the Sundays after Trinity, we are following a semi-continuous pattern of Old Testament Readings, where the story unfolds Sunday by Sunday.

In my experience, the best example of modern translations is the Revised English Bible, and I would prefer the reading to be from this.

You are sharing with the congregation an immense treasure which has stood the test of time. People have suffered martyrs' deaths in order to make the Bible accessible in our own tongue; how does your commitment in sharing God's word match theirs? Your reading is nothing less than a massive responsibility, one for which you need to employ all the talents at your disposal. When rehearsing the reading some useful approaches are:

1. What is the key sentence in this reading, and how do I stress this?
2. What does this reading mean for me?
3. Are there any points where a slight pause would increase the dramatic effect?
4. If the reading includes any quotations, how can I modulate my voice to reflect this?
5. What points in the reading require a raised voice or a soft voice?
6. If I was reading this for BBC's *Songs of Praise*, with its estimated audience of six million, how would I prepare? Why should my preparation be any the less when the audience is sixty, plus Almighty God!?

Val Moorby and I are always glad to discuss the reading with you, not as experts but as a fellow explorers. Such discussions often reveal surprising depths and twists to a lesson which then enhances the reading of it.

Once again, thank you very much indeed for continuing to help in this important way.

Yours sincerely,

David Wilbournne

Vicar

Val Moorby

Mrs Val Moorby Readers' Co-ordinator