

## **LEAD ON – a Bible workshop series especially for the Methodist Church in Ireland**

### **FORWARD**

This new series of Bible Workshops has been commissioned by the ConneXions Steering Group, in the knowledge that many Methodist Churches throughout Ireland are in the process of piloting new leadership structures in Circuit Executives and Church Councils. During the next year or so, many other Circuits may be doing the same, so it seemed timely to prepare some material that might help both thought and action.

Lead on... is not just for those involved in leadership in the Church, but for everyone, because as one of the studies points out, all of us have leadership roles to play. We hope that you will find that this series helps everyone to develop an understanding of the nature of Christian leadership, and that it will help to prepare us all for the tasks of worship and witness to which God has called us.

One of the main emphases of ConneXions is the hope that we can develop the gift oriented ministry of all God's people. In the preparation of these Workshops, we have tried to recognise the different ways in which people learn, because our personalities are different. So there is material for the "doers" who learn by action; for those who are people oriented and learn from discussion whilst there is also material for the "thinkers" who want to give careful consideration to things.

So don't expect that everything here will suit you! Work as teams in which each player creates space for everyone else. In doing that, you begin to unlock one of the secrets of leadership. All types of personality, as well as different skills and gifts, are needed in a team if the goals are to be achieved. This is one of the simplest, yet most difficult things to achieve in Christian community. We expect people to identical personalities! Christ works with all of us, with our differing gifts and personalities to make us a harmonious Body of Christ in order to carry out his mission.

It is perhaps worth noting that each person in the Body has a different function (like steward or treasurer or worship leader), but the same person has a role to play as member of a team that discerns and guides the life of the Church.

The Steering Group is grateful to those who wrote the various sections of "Lead on...". In October 2004, twelve people responded to an invitation to work together, and were facilitated in a Writers' Evening by Rev David Bruce (Director of Scripture Union for UK and Ireland). We are grateful to David for his initial guidance and express warm thanks to the writers panel for their careful preparation and presentation of the material: Rev Dr Heather Morris, Rev Dr Peter Mercer, Rev Rosemary Lindsay, Mrs Val Mullally, Rev Diane Clutterbuck, Mrs Wendy Johnston, Rev Norman Brookes, Dr Maureen Edmondson and Rev Tom Clarke.

Val Mullally, Gillian Best, Julian Hamilton and Jude Rainey have prepared a version of this series especially for children which you'll find [here](#).

**INTRODUCTION – very important reading, especially for leaders of groups.**

We offer the following advice for those leading the studies and as guidance for using this booklet. It is intended that each person in the group should have a copy. All Methodist groups are free to photocopy material from this booklet, if necessary

1. Whilst the intention is to have a workshop last 45 minutes, you will discover that to get the best from some, you may have to take more time. Some will work best if they are taken over two sessions using all the optional materials. Watch out for suggestions about splitting up the material for different groups to do and then pool their answers.
2. You will get most out of the series if you spend some time preparing for the Workshop! (It is assumed leaders will always spend time preparing.) Read the Biblical material, especially where there is reference to background or context. Often it will make more sense if you can read chapters around those quoted or have a good commentary to hand.
3. **Blue boxes** represent instructions or guidelines about the section you are entering.
4. Most of the Studies refer to the use of a flip-chart (**F/C**). This need not be elaborate, but having a large sheet of paper (even plain wallpaper will do!) will be of great use. It can be useful if someone other than the Workshop leader actually does the writing.
5. Each workshop suggests questions for discussion. The groups can be either large or just two people chatting over the question. In some sessions it will be best to give different groups different questions to discuss in order to cover everything. Stay focussed on the question asked! Spaces are provided for members to note their own answers or those of the group.
6. Look ahead! Some workshops require members or leaders to make extra preparation, (e.g. Feel the Fear suggests that each person brings a matchbox full of things!) so check out well in advance.
7. Watch your timing. This is an important part of your preparation, and if ignored can lead to inconsistency through the workshops.

Now. Enjoy, be blessed, be challenged, be changed.

The Editors

*Val Mullally Julian Hamilton, Des Bain*

## **CONTENTS**

### 1. Ways that are upside/down

- reflecting on the nature of Jesus' leadership

### 2. Encouragement

- to challenge everyone to be an active encourager

### 3. Feel the fear – and do it anyway –

- feelings of fear are normal when we are faced with new challenges

### 4. The Integrity of leaders

- living with Christ at the centre

### 5. True to ourselves/true to God

- being honest about who we are

### 6. Help God's people to celebrate!

- it's OK to be OTT!

### 7. Delegation

- the Bible has a model for leading. We do it together

### 8. Accountability

- leading is a part of service and we account for how we do it

### 9. Visionary leadership

- it's about the past and the future.