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**READER TRAINING – SERMON ASSESSMENT**

Name of Student: ........................................... Name of Assessor: …………………………………………………………

Date: ...............................................................

Place, Time & Type of Service: .....................................................................................................................

Subject or Passage: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**Language & Style**

**Content**

**Delivery**

**Points to watch or work on**

**NOTES FOR SERMON ASSESSORS**

The ministry of the Word is perhaps the most important aspect of Reader ministry. During Reader training it is important that Trainee Readers be given opportunity to preach, usually in their own parish, but occasionally in other contexts. Over the course of the (usually) three year training period it is hoped that each trainee will have nine sermons formally assessed (approx. one per term) by at least two different assessors and so benefit from a variety of feedback. In addition it is expected that they will receive guidance from their incumbent, encouragement from their home congregation and feedback from the vicar of their placement parish.

Sermon Assessors are asked to fill in an assessment form and return it as soon as possible after the sermon toyour area Coordinating Formational Mentor (CFM) with a copy to the student, LSoM administrator for your student record, incumbent and Warden of Readers via email. The questions below are for your guidance - do not feel you must follow them slavishly but please be mindful of them.

Please offer the Trainee Reader some feedback immediately after the sermon. 10 to 15 minutes will normally suffice and please major on the good points – be an encourager! Your written assessment should reflect your verbal comments, so you should talk through areas for improvement too. If a sermon is in your opinion particularly weak, don’t feel that you must comment on everything – just concentrate on what you perceive to be the one or two main points. There will be later opportunities to pick up other issues. If you think a student needs particular help with preaching, please let your CFM know.

Thank you for your contribution to Reader training.

**Language and Style**

* Did the sermon include words or phrases that could have been misunderstood?
* Was the language clear and simple?
* Were any necessary theological terms explained adequately?
* Was the style a spoken one or a written one? Was the sermon ‘preached’ or read?
* Was there a clear structure to the sermon? How effective was the introduction and conclusion?
* Was the length of the sermon appropriate to the subject and occasion?
* Were the illustrations helpful? If there was humour, was it appropriate or contrived?

**Content**

* What was the Good News in the sermon?
* Did the main point come across to you?
* How effective was the interpretation of Scripture?
* What application was there to daily life? Was it ‘earthed’?
* Were you challenged, enlightened, or engaged by the content?

**Delivery**

* Could the preacher be heard? Did he/she speak clearly?
* Was there eye contact with the congregation? Did the preacher engage the congregation?
* Was there variety in delivery? Could you tell that you had reached key moments in the sermon?
* Did the preacher display the right degree of confidence for the subject matter? Did the subject call for an acknowledgement of mystery or paradox?
* Were you bored or tired at any point?
* Did the preacher have any mannerisms you found distracting?
* How long, *exactly*, was the sermon? It would help students to know this since often the reality is very different from what they planned!