

## Reading the Bible in worship at St Peter's

Prepare the reading in advance – decide how you will make it interesting – maybe mark up a paper copy with the pauses and emphases you plan to make.

Arrive in good time – do a microphone sound check with a Warden to set the correct volume for you.

### The reading:

Walk purposefully to the lectern/ reading place – show reassuring confidence

Adjust the microphone position if needed

Wait until the congregation is settled and quiet then look up and

Announce the reading in this format:

- A reading from Philippians Chapter 3 verses 1 to 10, page 2222 of the church bibles  
*or*
- Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew **Glory to you O Lord**

Look down and memorise the first phrase

look up at the congregation as you speak it (smiling if appropriate)

briefly pause (to capture their attention) as you look down at the text

continue with the reading, looking up as much as you can throughout.

At the end, pause briefly then say

- This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**  
*or*
- This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you O Christ.**

(If you choose to bow to the Cross/altar at the East end of the Church before/after the reading, you only do so when and if your path crosses the centre of the nave so that you are in line with the Cross. There is no need to do this at all unless you wish to.)

### Notes from Ginny Davis' training sessions

#### LOUD

- Speak to the back of the room
- Breathe from the diaphragm
- Don't rely on the microphone

#### SLOW

- Speak slowly

#### INTERESTING

- Speak to people (rather than deliver a reading)
- Tell the story as if it were for the first time
- Make eye contact
- Vary the pace and tone
- Use pauses and silence -
  - Before an important word
  - According to the punctuation
  - After the first word or phrase (look at people as you say the first word or phrase)
- Have confidence and conviction – practice the reading