

## **THE PLACE AND FUNCTIONS OF A LOCAL PREACHER (1964)**

1. When a Local Preacher is publicly recognised as such he openly avows his belief that he has been 'inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to preach the truth revealed in the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God, and to make known the glorious Gospel of Salvation through Jesus Christ'. The proclamation of God's Word is his primary function, and requires wholehearted devotion to study and prayer for its effective fulfilment.

2. He is not concerned with preaching only, but also with the preparation and conduct of worship. There has been a revival of worship in many parts of the Church, and the Local Preacher has a large part to play in fostering and expressing this. He will need to give attention to the insights concerning worship which have been granted anew to the Church, as well as to fill the established modes of Methodist worship with the richest possible meaning.

3. A Local Preacher is committed to being available in all normal circumstances for appointments in his own Circuit, to attendance at the Local Preachers' Meeting and to acceptance of its discipline. If he fails at any of these points he impoverishes his preaching, and damages the fellowship of Local Preachers throughout the Connexion.

4. A Local Preacher needs to have his roots in the life of the local Church, and to receive there the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, even though it is necessary for him to be absent from time to time, and in some cases very frequently, from worship in the Society to which he belongs.

These matters all belong to the work of a Local Preacher as it is laid down in the Standing Orders of the Church. Two others also need his careful attention:

5. Many Local Preachers are Class Leaders too, and in that capacity have a definite pastoral task. But even when they are not, the opportunity may occur for them to help the Minister and the Class Leaders in caring for people, especially in small Societies where pastoral care is not close at hand. In any case, a pastoral attitude of mind is an essential mark of the preacher.

6. The task and influence of a Local Preacher extend far beyond the bounds of Sunday worship in Church. Because of his special knowledge and experience, his fellow-Christians look to him for a lead in offering a Christian witness at their place of work and in other spheres of social activity. He can commend the Gospel and the Church as effectively there as in the pulpit.

*(Agenda 1964, pp. 16f)*

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A further report on Local Preachers is to found in Volume 2, pp. 347-349).