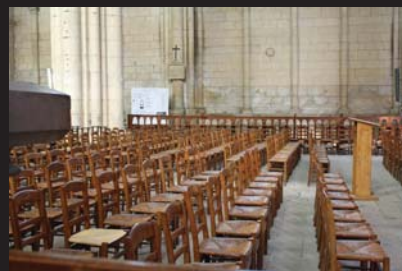


## Whose sermon is it anyway? Preaching on Civic Occasions

- Consider what makes a civic occasion
- Examine competing demands
- Consider audience and purpose
- Critically examine means of engaging congregation

## Who is the sermon for?



## What do we mean by a 'civic occasion?'



**NB. Gold chains and uniforms  
are always a give away.**

## What do I want the sermon to do?

- ✓ Be hospitable and welcoming to all comers.
- ✓ Speak truthfully and with integrity
- ✓ Respect the biblical text
- ✓ Connect the horizons of the biblical text with the theme of the day

## Competing interests slugging it out.

Who is the  
sermon for?



What do I  
want the  
sermon to do?

Select a text  
or run with the  
lectionary?

Respect the text  
or weld external  
theme onto it?

## What do I want the sermon to do?

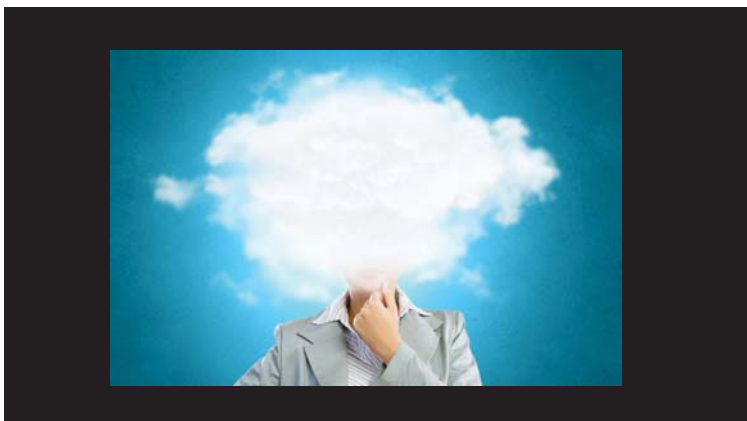
- ✓ Achieve the 'nod of recognition'
- ✓ Engage my hearers – hold them throughout.
- ✓ Perhaps evoke laughter - note caveats!
- ✓ Communicate the love of God.

Common Worship  
Services and Prayers for the Church of England  
Lectionary Advent 2018 to the eve of Advent 2019



## Engaging the Hearer

Images  
Instances  
Illustrations  
Visuals  
Vocal intonation  
and pace  
Structure  
Rhetorical Skill





## Remembrance – landmines!!

- Arms production and sales
- My own conflicted feelings
- Genuine hope,  
or pie in the sky?



## Remembrance Day



## Opportunities

- ✓ Community Cohesion
- ✓ Shop window
- ✓ Point out God

## Remembrance –landmines!!

- Glamorising war,
- Being sentimental about brutality,
- Claiming God's on our side.



## Preparation Process

Earthed in local soil



## Preaching on civic occasions – Whose sermon is it anyway?

The sermon needs to: connect, be hospitable  
speak into the local, handle scripture wisely,  
make careful use of rhetoric, point to the love of  
God.