



Young Preacher of the Year Guide

The 'Young Preacher of the Year' competition is all about preaching. Of course. But there are as many different ways to preach as there are people who preach. This competition is all about how the preacher is able to communicate God's word in such a way as to bring insight, encouragement and an understanding of both the Biblical text and contemporary culture. We are looking for young people who not only have something to say, but also something worth listening to!

The competition centres on one sermon that we would like you to write and to preach. We would like to see a small sample of the sermon in the first round, and – if you are shortlisted for the final – we will hear the whole sermon in the final.

Support

It is really important that every entrant has a sponsor to support them in the competition and we will need their name and contact details on your application form. This could be your vicar, youth worker, chaplain or even a family friend if they regularly preach in church. Their role is to help you prepare for the event (not to write your sermon for you!) If you can't find a sponsor then please get in touch with us as we may be able to help you find one.

Theme

The sermon needs to use one of the following texts:

- Exodus 33:17-23
- 1 John 3:1-3 (please note this is NOT John's gospel, but the first letter of John near the end of the New Testament)

Round 1

In this round we are asking for a part of a sermon that is between 2 and 5 minutes in length. We know that this will not be a complete sermon (it is too short!) but we would still like you to demonstrate some understanding of your chosen text, the context you live in and something that the texts says to you or us today. You are free to choose either of the set texts (above), but since it is only 2-5 minutes, we would recommend sticking with just one. You don't need to read the text to us as part of the sermon – that would take up valuable time!

Once you have written your sermon, we are interested in you as a preacher too, so it is important that you don't simply email us the text, but that you preach it! The simplest way would be for you to ask a friend to hold a smartphone and to video you delivering the sermon extract. You can then email this video to us (.mp4 format preferred. Audio only .mp3 accepted). You don't need to record yourself in a church – you can record it wherever you feel comfortable. You will not be penalised for sound/picture quality etc, as long as we can see/hear you. Video entries in BSL are also acceptable.

Entries should be emailed (along with an application form- available to download from the website) to kate.darwent@cofeguildford.org.uk. If your video is too large to email you can use a file sharing website (such as wetransfer.com- if you find another file-sharing website please make sure you are comfortable with their privacy settings).

The closing date is 11 January 2019 at 12 noon. You will be contacted to both acknowledge your entry, and within 10 days of the closing date to let you know if you are through to the final.

The Final

The final will be held on at 2pm on 10 February 2019, in the Lady Chapel in Guildford Cathedral, Guildford. Successful applicants will be given further details, but you should ensure you are available at that time. You will be expected to deliver your complete 10-12 minute sermon on the same text(s). Finalist will be welcome to bring a small number of guests and there will be a reception following the final, and the winner will be announced then.

The Prize

The winner will win a trophy and the title 'Guildford Young Preacher of the year 2019' and you will be invited to deliver the sermon in the context of Evensong at the Cathedral on 3rd March 2019 at 6pm, with the congregation and invited guests.

Further information

If you have further questions, please see www.youngpreacheroftheyear.co.uk – all the information is online, including how to get in touch with us if you need to.

We look forward to seeing your sermon!

Bishop Jo Wells
Bishop of Dorking

Dean Dianna Gwilliams
Dean of Guildford

David Welch
Guildford Diocesan Youth Adviser