



Projecting the Bible in Church

Churches are increasingly making use of projection facilities in Sunday worship, allowing hymns and sermon notes to be displayed along with photos of people to be prayed for, and so on. Some congregations also display the chosen Scripture reading on screen, so a few tips are offered here to help avoid some obvious pitfalls and to help enhance the congregation's experience of Bible reading.

- 1) **Bible reading in church is important** as it can also encourage worshippers to read Scripture regularly at home. It is important to help those who, increasingly, are confessing that they can't find Bible books and passages easily and therefore become embarrassed. Above all, we should be striving to create a love for Scripture.
- 2) **It is tempting to become reliant on technology** and to end up reading all Bible passages on-screen and relegating pew Bibles to the cupboard. Whether the Bible is to be on screen or not, it is helpful to make Bibles available for people to use if they prefer having all of the text in front of them.
- 3) **While projecting the text offers convenience** – for example, no need to print the text within the Order of Service – it does mean that the passage displayed loses context. It is not possible to know what occurs immediately before or after the actual passage being read. It is often important to make the context clear before commencing the reading.
- 4) Although worshippers will rely on the screen so that they can read along with the person actually reading the Scripture passage, it is important that:
 - **The reader** reads from a printed Bible to help phrasing and emphasis.
 - **The person operating the computer display** does not lag behind the reader but 'reads' along with them so that the words of the reader and the words on screens are synchronised.
- 5) **The availability of multiple Bible translations in English** within computer software means that a church need not be restricted to a particular style of text. In choosing the Scripture passage, some consideration should be given to the ease with which a passage can be assimilated. It may be that one translation offers a clearer and more accessible text than the usually preferred one. It should be remembered that some Bible passages may not be as readily understood when heard as opposed to when they are read by each worshipper from a printed page.
- 6) **Screen size and font size** can restrict the amount of Bible text that is visible at any one time. It is important to avoid situations where only parts of a verse are shown on a screen, risking a loss of understanding by the congregation.
- 7) **During the sermon**, worshippers often like to refer back to the text in a pew Bible to remind themselves of the actual words in the text. It is important when using a screen to display the specific verse being referred to, helping the listener to understand what is being taught.
- 8) **Whatever method is adopted for reading the Bible in your church, it should be done in a way that increases respect for the Word of God and encourages a willingness to read the Bible further in private or with friends.**