



LWPT

A Simple Dream: Keep Shaping The Shapers Of UK Congregations

IAN BUCHANAN

CEO of LWPT (LEADERS OF WORSHIP AND PREACHERS TRUST), Ian Buchanan, shares how LWPT resources and equips churches and leaders

Since joining The Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust (LWPT) I've seen some glorious developments. Before my time here, LWPT decided to take their Methodist passion of investing in emerging congregational leaders (the shapers) for the sake of that congregation, to all denominations.

Well, this appears to be our 'Kairos time'. Many other denominations across the UK are also waking up to the need to invest more training in their own emerging church-based leaders. They want to see the ongoing development of godly shepherds for the generations arriving and those yet to come through their doors.

We offer UK church-based Christians three simple ministries:

1. Bible-based communication skills development
2. Bible-based resources for congregations and leaders and
3. Tuition grants for Bible-based studies in UK learning institutions.

Think of an arrowhead with communication at the tip, resources in the left corner of the blade and tuition grants in the right corner.

We've always had a range of resources for Christians, but the newest ones often rise in the popularity ratings the fastest. Our webinars, workshops and now

the Christian leader's podcast and video 'The Word Shared' (stories, sermons and conversations with well-known church leaders) seem to be scratching where many are itching. For the latest LWPT developments, you can read the current issue of our online newsletter, Ichthus, and sign up for your own free copy each quarter at lwpt.org.uk/ichthus

One of the joys of this job is seeing emerging Christian leaders (house group leaders, counsellors, disciplers, evangelists, worship leaders and preachers – anyone who shapes God's people using God's word) effectively ministering in local churches. Recently, I spoke to one of those leaders whose congregation lives in one of the toughest neighbourhoods of one of the cities on our islands. He took my breath away. His daily ministry reaches people who are easily overlooked by government agencies. It's a daily challenge but his congregation love him because he cares for them, loves them and teaches them all that he has learnt.

I have seen new trustees join LWPT at the 'top table' when other trustees come to the end of their term. At our AGM this year we will be strengthening our ties to MET:Revive when your Vice-Chair, Rev Dr Gareth Higgs (Moorlands College) joins us. If you'd like to consider whether joining our trustees is for you, please email me for an application pack – ian.buchanan@lwpt.org.uk

We depend on individuals and churches to support us with their prayers, time and money, but we have also seen an encouraging growth in support from Christian trusts as well. The simplicity of the logic (shaping the shapers of congregations – local leaders) through those three distinct

ministries (that arrowhead) resonates with trusts too. A simple dream making a profound impact in UK churches via their leaders.

I'll be retiring from this role in May, with the unusual privilege of seeing my successor (Jonathan Law) take my place, and then I have a chance to help him find all the ropes needed to ensure that the good ship LWPT continues to catch the big winds. If this is a ministry that you would like to see shape even more leaders of UK congregations, please do consider becoming a LWPT Partner using the leaflet in this magazine. The 'Ripple Effect' of your support will change many lives.

See a short video of 'LWPT in a drop' with this QR code through your smartphone, or by going to: bit.ly/LWPT-Spring26

IAN BUCHANAN

Ian is the CEO at LWPT. His job and his personal ministry focusses on developing leaders in churches in the UK. He preaches in churches around Guildford.



**The Leaders of Worship
and Preachers Trust**