

# Speaker Briefing



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONVENTION SPEAKERS

We are deeply grateful for your willingness to serve on the speaker team at Keswick Convention – thank you! We would like to set the context with the following information to help you prepare for the event.

We're happy to discuss any of the below if you'd like further clarity or simply have any questions!

## 1. Context

We thank God that Keswick audiences are hugely supportive of all speakers, and always receptive to God's Word. Speakers often comment that there is a remarkable warmth and openness. Although as speakers we feel our responsibility keenly, you can be sure of a welcoming and supportive environment. It is much like speaking to our home church congregation – you are amongst friends who long to hear the Word of the Lord and meet with him and be changed by him.

Above all therefore, we are looking for Bible teaching that is warmly faithful to the text, that goes through the heart, and exalts Jesus; drawing us all closer to him, to joyfully love and live for him in all of life.

You will recognise that we draw believers – and a speaking team – from a range of church backgrounds and denominations. Over 149 years, our founding text has been, "All one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28); seeking to unite around the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will therefore have legitimate, but differing views on matters of secondary importance that are not themselves salvation issues, but would ask you please to refrain from foregrounding these.

## 2. Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations

**The morning Bible Readings (11.30am – 12.45pm)** are an opportunity for one Bible teacher to work through and expound a Bible book or sequence of passages. This allows for more in-depth teaching, and we allocate 50 minutes for that task. We don't make a sharp distinction between teaching and preaching, but as above, want the morning Bible Readings to be applied to the heart throughout, so that our lives and affections are changed to want to become more like God's Son, to live for his glory in all of life, and serve his mission.

**The Evening Celebration (7.30pm – 9.00pm)** sermons are set in the context of worship and celebration, much like a Sunday service. We would ask speakers please to expound the passages which are allocated to them. Please also bear in mind that there will be a range of speakers across the evenings, and therefore be aware from your briefing notes how what you say may tie in with passages on other nights.

We are looking for faithful and clear exegesis that helps us see that God is good and the gospel is true; and therefore warms our hearts, stirs our emotions, challenges our wills, and encourages deep change. We are however not looking for application that is merely pietistic or individualistic, but that is engaged with others and the worlds where God has placed us. The speaker has 35 minutes (except on the Saturday and the Friday of each week when, there is 30 minutes).

## 3. Word-Centred

We see the preaching and exalting of Christ through the Word as the main priority for our ministry at Keswick. Please help us see what you have seen in the Bible and keep the passage at the centre of your preaching.

We do however expect a diversity of preaching styles because God gifts and shapes each speaker differently. Please be yourself. But please also be aware that we do not want to be personality-driven. Instead, "We wish to see Jesus" (John 12:21). So please help us see who God is and who we are from your Bible passage do that our affections and wills are drawn into line.

We normally use the 2011 **NIV** as our default text. We are happy if you would prefer to preach from the ESV. If so, please let us know in advance so that the correct version is read, and the graphics team can have the right text on screen.



Many people appreciate PowerPoints or some way of being able to **visualise the structure** of your talk. We are not thereby trying to change preaching into lectures. However, we would encourage you, if you are willing, to provide your points or a structure that can be displayed on the main screens. We can create PowerPoints for you if you want to just send us the text.

For Bible Readings and Evening Celebrations, we would advise that PowerPoints are kept to no more than a dozen slides per talk. If you would like to create slides, please see the PowerPoint templates provided on the Speaker portal and send these to us by 21<sup>st</sup> June.

When you're actually speaking, our tech team would handle these for you so that you don't have to multi-task. They will be displayed briefly before the camera reverts to focus on the speaker.

PowerPoints for seminar tracks should be handed to the tech team on the day of your presentation. Please bring these on a USB drive.

## 4. Theme, Title & Passage

We have tried to ensure that the Bible passage you have been asked to preach from has a title which matches the theme of that passage, reflecting the main thrust of the text as well as linking to the overall theme we are addressing. But we know that we do not always get this right. So the default position is: the Bible passage wins! If the title we proposed does not match what you believe should be proclaimed, please feel free to change this – but again, please let us know in advance.

## 5. Seminars and Lectures

**Seminars** are held on weekday mornings, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 9.30am-10.30am. Since the programme is tightly scheduled, speakers should work on the assumption that 50 minutes is available for their session with a few minutes for Q&A. Seminars attract c100-300 people.

The **Keswick Lecture** is on Wednesday morning, 9.30am-10.30am, and again 50 minutes is the target length. The Lecture attracts between 500-1,000 attendees each week.

You can find more information about tech and what is provided on the "Tech Support" document. Our tech team are always happy to help and give support if you want to touch base with anyone before the convention talks.



## 6. Relays, Streaming and Recording

The Bibles Readings, Evening Celebrations, main tent Seminars and Lectures are relayed to other venues on site and in Keswick. They are also live streamed via our YouTube channel. All talks and seminars are then available on catch-up.

Audio and Video recordings of all meetings will be available to buy on a USB and or free to download, as well as audio material available via our podcast and website Talks Library.

## 7. Preaching in Local Churches

We seek to support the local churches by providing Convention speakers for their Sunday services during the Convention period.

We would be grateful if you could prayerfully consider whether you would be willing and able to serve in this way and indicate via the on-line portal.

## 8. Podcast

The Keswick Convention Podcast is hosted by James Cary and Rachel Redeemed and normally features interviews with upcoming convention speakers. Recording for this will take place between February and May 2024. If you are willing to take part, please let us know by ticking the box on the first form on the portal. We will then be in touch to arrange a time for interview.

## 9. Lunchtime Planning Meetings

There will be a planning meeting each day at 1.00pm immediately after the morning Bible Readings for those involved in the Evening Celebrations (with the exception of Saturdays, when it will be at 2.00pm and Sundays, when it will be at 12.00pm). We ask please that you attend this lunchtime meeting on those days when you are preaching in the evening.

We will meet upstairs in the Admin Block at the front of the Packing Hall (through the Convention Reception).



## 10. Wider Ministry

Whilst with us, we would like you to feel (and be) part of our wider ministry team. In addition to generally being ready to serve conventioners; some ways you could do this include:

- Being available to assist our Prayer Team and help Conventioners as they seek to respond to the preached word; this means joining the team at the end of the Evening Celebrations.
- Taking an interest in/visiting the ministry of various other teams – Kids, Youth, 19-24s & Keswick Unconventional (creative arts in Week 3).
- Networking with other participants.

## 11. Dress Code

We do not have a dress code. Please wear what you are comfortable with.

From a 'technical' point of view on screen, solid bold colours work best. Some colours do not work so well on screen so please avoid black, white, small checks or stripes, or busy patterns. You are easier to listen to if you do not visibly distract your listeners!

And finally, please be assured of our prayers as a staff team, and of the prayers of many supporters for you as you prepare and serve the Convention in this way!

