

**Press Release**  
**September 2013**

**Preacher draws on rail life for inspiration**  
*CrossCountry worker is a lay preacher in his spare time*

Local Lay Preacher Jonathan Drummond-Smith has explained how everyday situations he witnesses whilst working for a leading train company help to inspire his church sermons.

CrossCountry Retail Service Manager Jonathan, 62, from Torquay has been preaching to a congregation of 50 people at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Torquay since 1994. Previously, Jonathan ran a model railway shop and it wasn't until the birth of his son Ian that he decided to join the church.

After becoming a server at St Luke's he was accepted as a trainee Lay Reader and eventually gained his licence to preach, make pastoral visits and provide counselling to local residents. Jonathan says his training helps him to be a good listener and present a friendly face to his customers on board.

Equally, Jonathan finds inspiration for his sermons whilst doing his job for CrossCountry. One particular incident where he watched people saying goodbye to loved ones on a platform inspired one of his sermons at the church.

Jonathan said: "Every day I am on the look-out for something that can be used as a preaching aid. People's stories and conversations on the railways can trigger thoughts that I will later use to illustrate a theme when preaching."

**-ENDS-**

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**Notes to editors**

**CrossCountry**

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