SECTION 1: THE INNER LIFE – RESOURCING YOUR LEADERSHIP

1. ONE THING
   • In the Name of Jesus, Henri Nouwen (DLT). A short, profound reflection on Christian leadership that beautifully challenges some common assumptions.

2. STAYING FRESH
   • For a more nuanced way of reflecting on what drains and energizes you take a look at this blog post on managing your energy.
   • Rest – a reflection on Psalm 23. Miriam Swaffield reflects on the place of rest in our busy world in this brief video.
   • How to Survive and Thrive as a Church Leader, Nick Cuthbert (Monarch). Short pithy chapters offer practical advice on keeping going for the long haul as a leader.

3. STAYING FAITHFUL
   • Zeal Without Burnout, Christopher Ash (Good Book Company). A short, honest book built on the premise “remember we are but dust”, with very practical principles to live by.
   • Jesus Driven Ministry, Ajith Fernando (IVP). An in-depth study of Jesus’ ministry in Mark’s gospel; particularly helpful as it is written from a non-Western perspective.
   • Strengthsfinder 2.0, Tom Rath (Gallup). The book includes a code to an online inventory that helps you identify your top five strengths.
   • www.strengthsfinder.com brings together various strengths-based resources.

4. LEADERS ARE LEARNERS
   Here are three different lists of leadership books to read:
   3. Lifeshack – 15 Best Leadership Books Every Young Leader Needs To Read.
      • Alternatively Google “best leadership books”. Or look at this blog post for insights into the reading habits of two billionaires.
      • Books for Life is a website set up by Krish Kandiah to promote reading. He interviews leading Christians on their top three favourite books and also offers a brief review of three latest releases in each video episode.

5. FINDING FUN
   • An interesting blog post on work and fun.
   • And in this blog post the author explores three different categories of fun (challenging, accommodating, and relaxing) and why all three are helpful.
SECTION 2: THE OUTER LIFE – BACK TO BASICS

6. THE LEADER’S CHARGE
   - For those leading churches: *Working the Angles*, Eugene Peterson (Eerdmans). Pastor, academic, and prolific author Peterson calls those involved in church ministry to focus on three things: prayer, reading the Scriptures, and giving spiritual direction.
   - For those leading in other spheres: *Good to Great*, Jim Collins (Random House), especially chapter 4. This is one of a number of excellent books by Collins, and focuses on insights learned from studying businesses that went from good to great over a sustained period.
   - There are a range of apps available to help record how you are spending your time, often a good way to take stock of your current leadership practice. I know many have found “Timesheet” particularly useful (Google Play, iTunes).

7. THE LEADER’S MOTIVATION
   - The Willow Creek Global Leadership Summit is an annual leadership gathering exploring a wide range of leadership topics. They also have a website with videos that capture some great insights.

8. THE LEADER’S PERSPECTIVE
   - Failure is something we may try to avoid, but it is a part of the experience of nearly all leaders, and it can either break us or define us. In this blog post Jonathan Wilson reflects on how failure can bring freedom to leaders.
   - And another perspective on failure.

9. THE LEADER AND TRUST
   - *Building Below the Waterline*, Gordon Macdonald (Hendrickson). Macdonald offers ideas on how to ensure the inner life is sturdy enough to sustain the outer life.
   - A summary of The Speed of Trust, Stephen Covey.

10. THE LEADER’S COURAGE
    - *Daring Greatly*, Brené Brown (Penguin). One of a trilogy of books on Brown’s core themes of vulnerability, courage, and shame. All are worth a read. To find out more visit www.brenébrown.com.

SECTION 3: THE INNER LIFE – BUILDING RESILIENCE

11. FIX YOUR EYES
    - *Don’t Lose Heart*, Graham Archer (Grove Leadership Series No. 16). Based on some research among church leaders and a study of 2 Corinthians 4, Archer explores what saps morale and what can be done about it.
    - *Encounters with Jesus*, Timothy Keller (Hodder and Stoughton). A great read to refocus us on Jesus.
    - See also *A Resilient Life*, Gordon MacDonald (Thomas Nelson).

12. MANAGE THE PACE
    - *Finding Rest When the Work is Never Done*, Patrick Klingaman (Charlot Victor). Sadly out of print but available on second hand book websites, it addresses the problem of a to do list that never ends.

13. SPOT THE SIGNS
    - Complete a stress survey online, for example www.stress.org.uk, where there is also a lot of helpful information on stress.
    - *Going the Distance*, Peter Brain (Good Book Company). Brain is a minister in Australia who researched why church leaders don’t go the distance. Lots of great insights, including chapters for those who are responsible for the well-being of church leaders (denominational heads and local church boards).
    - Here is a transcript of an honest and vulnerable talk given by Vaughan Roberts, a minister in Oxford, on leaders who last.
14. TIME TO LEAVE?
- Leaving Well, Andy Piggott (Grove Leadership Series No. 17). In his roles as CPAS Patronage Secretary and as an Archdeacon, Piggott has seen many people leave their roles, some well, some not so well. Read this short book to be the former not the latter.
- Succession Planning, John Fisher (Lead On article at www.cpas.org.uk/leadon)
- See Ian Paul’s blog post for perspectives on keeping going long-term in a role, and Martyn Taylor’s Long Obedience in the Same Direction and Should I Stay or Should I Go? (Lead On articles at www.cpas.org.uk/leadon).

15. APPROPRIATE VULNERABILITY
- Brené Brown’s excellent TED talk on the power of vulnerability or for a longer exploration.
- Vulnerability in Leadership, Emma Sykes (Grove Leadership Series No. 24).
- Engaging Gen Y, James Lawrence (Grove Leadership Series No. 8).

SECTION 4: THE OUTER LIFE – THE LEADER’S APPROACH

16. HIRED HAND OR WILLING WORKER
- Do you love people?, David Bunting (Lead On article at www.cpas.org.uk/leadon)
- In this blog post Stacey Reaouch reflects on how to love difficult people.

17. DEFINING REALITY
- Discerning Leadership, Graham Cray (Grove Leadership Series No. 1). Cray explores how we discern God’s direction in cooperation with God’s Spirit and God’s people, part of which is being clear about where we start from.
- Andy Stanley is the leader of North Point Ministries in Atlanta and is a well-known author and broadcaster on leadership. His leadership podcasts, which are freely available, cover a wide range of helpful topics. October and November 2016 are on discerning vision.
- There are a variety of community and church surveys that can be used to help “define reality”. Here is a guide to a community survey by a Church of Scotland congregation. Natural Church Development is an extensive process for surveying a church’s health. Search online for church or community surveys for more ideas.

18. SAYING THANK YOU
- Do you remember star charts? How about creating one for yourself? Print off a calendar. Buy some stars. Every time you thank someone (not just think it) put a star on that day. At the end of a month you will have a very visual way of seeing how you are doing. Take a look at Brian Doyle’s extreme version, saying thank you to someone every day for 365 days.
- Laura Trice talks for three minutes on why saying thank you is so important.
- First Break All the Rules, Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman (Simon and Schuster). Based on extensive research by Gallup, this book identifies what excellent leaders do to manage people well, and offers 12 questions as a basis for good people management.

19. LEADING AS A SERVANT AND DEBTOR
- The rule of Benedict has much on the place of the leader as servant and the importance of humility.
- Want to think more about servant leadership? Take a look at Greenleaf’s website.
- There is an excellent teaching series called “Stronger” available from Willow Creek.

20. PRAYING WITH PEOPLE
- See PCC Tonight (CPAS) for ideas on creative ways of praying within meetings.

SECTION 5: THE INNER LIFE – ESTABLISHING RHYTHMS

21. CHOOSING WHAT TO DO
- Watch Chris McChesney’s talk at the Willow Creek GLS 2016 on “Execution”, available from Willow Creek.
- There are numerous books on ordering our lives, here are a few I’ve found particularly helpful: Beyond Busyness, Stephen Cherry (Sacristy Press); Do It Tomorrow, Mark Forster ( Hodder); Busy Christian Living, Emma Ineson
(Continuum); The Busy Christian’s Guide to Busyness, Tim Chester (IVP); What’s Best Next, Matt Perman (Zondervan); Time for Everything, Matt Fuller (Good Book Company); Ordering Your Private World, Gordon MacDonald (Thomas Nelson). How about reading one a year over the next few years as a way of reflecting on ordering your life well? As a starting point, pick one to work through in the coming months.

22. STOPPING, PAUSING, REFLECTING
• Use the Examen as a basis for reflection.
• A longer process of reflection.
• You can download the Methodist covenant prayer along with a brief study guide.

23. BALANCE VERSUS BLEND
• Insight into Stress, Bev Shepherd (CWR). Shepherd explores the relationship between stress and pressure from a Christian perspective, with lots of practical suggestions on handling stress well.

24. BOUNDARIES
• Boundaries, Henry Cloud (Zondervan). The classic text on boundaries, and there are a variety of related books including Boundaries for Leaders.
• You can also listen to Cloud speaking about leadership and boundaries.

25. LEADERSHIP IS HARD
• Unleashing the Power of Rubber Bands, Nancy Ortberg (Tyndale). It covers a great range of leadership topics in an accessible style.
• Facing Disappointment, James Newcome (Grove Leadership Series No. 25). A searingly honest account of disappointment in the life of a senior leader and how to handle it well.

SECTION 6: THE OUTER LIFE – PRESSING AHEAD

26. RHETORIC VERSUS REALITY
• Thanks for the Feedback, Douglas Stone and Sheila Heen (Penguin). Here the authors speak about the main themes at a gathering of Google staff, and you can also read their article for the Harvard Business review on finding the coach in criticism.
• Ian Paul writes on how to give and receive feedback.

27. GROWING LEADERS
• The Growing Leaders suite of resources includes a ten session course for adults, an eight session course for teenagers, and three books: Growing Leaders, James Lawrence (BRF); Growing Young Leaders, Ruth Hassall (BRF); Ready to Lead, Ruth Hassall (BRF). For more information, see www.cpas.org.uk/growingleaders
• Growing Leaders from Diverse Cultures: Leadership in a Multicultural Church, Andy Jolley (Grove Leadership Series No. 21). Jolley shares insights from working in inner city Birmingham for many years.
• Ian Paul’s blog, subtitled “scholarship. serving. ministry.”, covers a wide variety of topics relevant to those in leadership and offers a breadth of scholarship that is both stimulating and provocative.

28. OPEN DOORS
• All The Places to Go, John Ortberg (Tyndale)
• A fascinating TED talk on the power of the body to influence how we approach some open doors, like interviews, tricky conversations, and tough situations. How might this help us in our leadership?

29. FIRE BULLETS, THEN CANNON BALLS
• Great by Choice, Jim Collins (Random House)
• Asking good questions is a key leadership skill, and when starting a new initiative the right questions will open things up and clarify the way ahead. Great Questions for Leading Well brings together a wide variety of helpful questions to ask.
30. CONVERSATIONS
• Crucial Conversations, Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, Switzler (McGraw Hill). You can see one of the authors, Joseph Grenny, speaking on crucial conversations.
• Transforming Conversation: How Jesus Talked to People, Rob Bewley (Grove Biblical Series No. 61).

31. BONUS DAY – MEETINGS MATTER
• Death by Meeting, Patrick Lencioni (John Wiley and Sons). Lencioni tells one of his classic leadership fables and then draws from it great ideas on what makes meetings go well.
• PCC Tonight, James Lawrence (CPAS)
• Leaders often spend lots of time in groups, and understanding group dynamics, how they work, and what to do if they aren’t working well, is well worth thinking through. This is a helpful article that introduces useful concepts in group dynamics with practical ideas about how to handle common issues.

SABBATICAL: FOR FURTHER READING

• Look at “Taking a Sabbatical”, a series of articles and resources on sabbaticals (Building Church Leaders).
• Google “clergy sabbaticals” for current diocesan advice (although this may contain elements of study leave).
• Look up Best Practices for a Ministry Sabbatical (Wheat Ridge Ministries), and Sabbath Keeping and Sabbatical Taking (Eastern North Dakota Synod Resource Center).

BLOGS

• Ian Paul’s blog, subtitled “scholarship. serving. ministry.”, covers a wide variety of topics relevant to those in leadership and offers a breadth of scholarship that is both stimulating and provocative.
• Chris Green’s blog draws on his background as a biblical scholar, his academic interest in leadership, and the realities of working all of it out as a minister of a church.

Also worth taking a look at:
• Jules Middleton’s blog that she started when she became a Christian in 2010 and which follows her journey through to ordination in 2016: www.pickingapplesofgold.com
• Leadership consultant to businesses and not for profits, Jonathan Wilson’s posts on leadership by soul: leadbysoul.com.
• The monthly posts from the Arrow Leadership Programme in North America: www.sharpeningleaders.com
• A blog focused on resourcing those involved with leadership amongst young people: www.youthworkhacks.com/blog

There are a wide and growing range of other Lead On articles like the ones contained in this book on the CPAS website: www.cpas.org.uk/leadon.