

**The New Wine movement and its significance
for mission in the Church of Ireland**

by

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Abstract

This dissertation introduces and describes the New Wine movement. In detailing how and why it started it explains important aspects of its theology and practice. It reports on its influence in Anglicanism, firstly, in England, and then, more significantly, for the purpose of this work, in Ireland. It is informed by biographical literature, personal interviews and completed questionnaires as well as the writers own experiences on placement in New Wine influenced parishes. Following on from this the reader is presented with an overview of some important moments in early Christianity in Ireland. In continuing with this backward glance, observations are made concerning the emergence of Anglicanism in Ireland and some comments are offered on specific milestones in its history. This unfolding story is told against the backdrop of Christendom and its all-pervasive influence in Irish society.

The outline set out above provides insight and perspective on historic events which have helped to create the contemporary missional context of the Church of Ireland and it articulates some fundamental issues with which the church is now grappling.

The accounts recalling the beginnings of the New Wine movement and the arrival of Anglicanism in Ireland are informed by church leaders, biblical scholars, church historians and theologians. The two biblical passages, referenced below, are of particular importance to this dissertation and help to focus the discussion.

The metaphor about new wine and new wineskins (Matthew 9: 16, 17).

The Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20).

Within the above framework a conversation emerges about discipleship, both from an historical vantage point and from one which addresses a present day set of missional circumstances. This in turn is punctuated by two themes. They are ‘movement’ and ‘institution’ and the interface, from a missional perspective, between them. This dissertation tells this story with analysis and in so doing it offers some suggestions about the significance of the movement to the institution.