

TITLE:

WHAT RELEVANCE DOES LITURGICAL PRACTICE HOLD FOR THE
EMERGING 'FRESH EXPRESSIONS' OF CHURCH WITHIN THE CHURCH OF
IRELAND?

AUTHOR:

COLIN ANDREW McCONAGHIE

Abstract

The aim of this research is to examine the relevance of liturgical practice to 'fresh expressions' of within the Church of Ireland.

The dissertation begins with an introductory chapter outlining the reasons why I chose this topic and why I believe it is important for the Church of Ireland. Following the introduction, chapter 1 presents an overview of 'fresh expressions'. The chapter will give an insight into what 'fresh expressions' of church are followed by a history of the movement. There will be a focus on opposition to 'fresh expressions' and finally an exegetical look at what the Bible says about 'fresh expressions'.

Chapter 2 follows a similar format; here the subject is liturgical practice. The focus will be primarily on the Church of Ireland and the *Book of Common Prayer* (2004). There will be an exegetical exploration into liturgy and worship in the Scriptures.

Chapter 3 sees a return to 'fresh expressions', examining the development of the movement. This chapter will examine how the rise of 'fresh expressions' in the Church of Ireland has impacted upon the Church of Ireland.

Chapter 4 offers case studies of the 'fresh expressions' that currently exist within the Church of Ireland.

Chapter 5 aims to analyse the findings of my research regarding current thinking within the Church of Ireland concerning the link between liturgy and 'fresh expressions'. Following interviews with members of the Liturgical Advisory Committee, the chapter presents the results of research questionnaires. The research is largely qualitative; there is an analysis of largely verbal data that will be interpreted to give an indication of current thinking. There is some quantitative analysis of specific questions that seek direct answers from the subject matter.

The conclusion seeks to summarise the findings of the research. There is an exploration of other possible areas of research stemming from this project before offering some possible ways forward on how liturgical practice and 'fresh expressions' can be mutually beneficial.