

ABSTRACT

Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis—
“times change and we change with them.”

Mission Shaped Church has changed the shape of the Church of England. This dissertation is an investigation into whether the Church of Ireland has moved with the changing times, what signs of hope and new models are being developed for the future, or if its future continues to be shaped and moulded in the casts and containers of the past.

The phrase ‘unity in diversity’ has often been used to describe the breadth of Anglicanism. This dissertation will briefly outline Anglicanism as it stands in the Church of Ireland and through means of research will investigate if ‘fresh expressions’ of church and the existing ‘parish’ church model can be integrated and mutually enrich each other for increased missional effectiveness and if there is a real opportunity for a ‘mixed economy church’ within the Church of Ireland. Drawing upon the structures, history and traditions of the ‘inherited church’, this dissertation will seek to investigate a way that these two distinct forms of church can work alongside each other within the Church of Ireland.

This dissertation seeks to evaluate the thinking behind Fresh Expressions of Church in the UK, what elements we can learn from this initiative from the Church of England and Methodist Church, whilst retaining the denominational link to the Church of Ireland.