**Reframing Interdisciplinary Dialogue Between Science and Theology:**

**Overcoming Misunderstandings Through Novel Applications of Shared Concepts.**

**by Mark Gallagher**

**Abstract**

**Keywords:** misunderstanding, language, metaphor, creativity, imagination, beauty, salt, light, symbol, liturgy, science, faith

This dissertation asserts that for beneficial dialogue to continue between science and faith, how dialogue is carried out must be re-addressed. Science publishes in the language of the technician, while it is lived in the lab as an art, undergirded by beauty, creativity and imagination. These concepts undergird theology and faith development as well as scientific research. Misunderstanding is often because of dialogue occurring on a false equivalency, with theology dialoguing with the technician not the scientific researcher. As the theologian uses and studies language, while the scientist primarily uses language, the theologian must initiate the use of a generous hermeneutic in interdisciplinary discussions. While science does not study language, it is misrepresented when it is viewed as having an inferior language. In order to formulate creative and elegant solutions, creative language such as use of metaphor is essential to the discipline.

Based on these foundations, a scientific located reading of the Bible is applied to two overlapping metaphors from the Bible and terms science, salt and light before examining how salt and light show creativity, imagination and beauty within Anglican liturgy and symbol. In a world of modern science, use of these concepts can be further implemented to enhance worship to aid congregational understanding that science and theology are in fact not in dialectical opposition. Through understanding these core concepts, clerics can engage science as a useful verbal and symbolic tool in both homiletic practice and enhancing worship and sacred spaces.

This dissertation has been based primarily on in-depth engagement with both scientific and theological literature. Based on this literature research, in-depth qualitative questionnaires were distributed to clerics in the Church of Ireland and academic scientists.