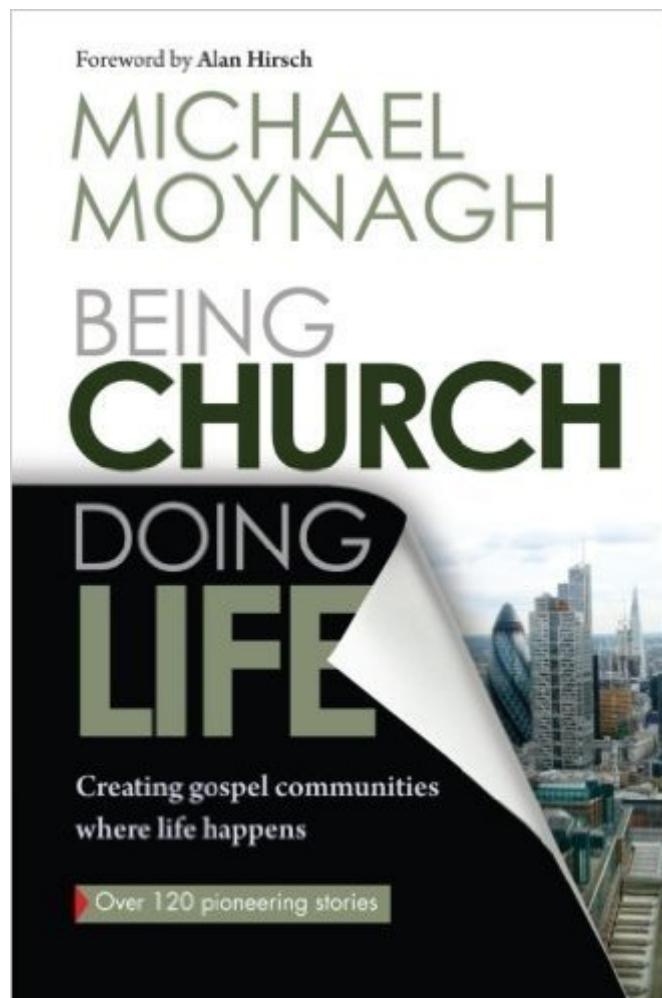


The book was found

# Being Church, Doing Life: Creating Gospel Communities Where Life Happens



## **Synopsis**

Church is now a fluid concept, no longer identifiable by buildings and congregations on Sunday mornings. There is an increasing interest in new forms of church that address the different ways to meet the needs of specific neighborhoods and people groups. In the UK, these new forms of church have been pioneered by the national Fresh Expressions movement, a remarkable initiative that has attracted widespread attention around the world. Author Michael Moynagh gathers his experience as a member of Fresh Expressions and distills it into practical and comprehensive advice on how to start and grow new churches "however small" in every context of life. Based on the work in his seminal textbook *Church for Every Context* (SCM), this inspiring introduction to contextual church emphasizes practical aspects, telling many of the great stories that have emerged through practitioners. It will enthuse and help church leaders and individuals to start and develop these communities, and advise them on how to help them grow to maturity and become sustainable.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Monarch Books; 1st New edition edition (July 29, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0857214934

ISBN-13: 978-0857214935

Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 5 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #534,173 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #379 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Growth #6884 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Spiritual Growth #115148 in Books > Religion & Spirituality

## **Customer Reviews**

I turned to this book looking for a text to help make pioneering leadership and organic church planting accessible to more people. It is ideal for this purpose. Michael Moynagh is a researcher and advocate for Fresh Expressions UK. His previous books analyse how the world is changing and how church is changing to be more relevant and holistic in a post-Christendom world. This latest volume continues these themes, but focusing on fostering grassroots witnessing communities in all sorts of spaces and places. The key theme of the book is how Christians can witness as a *oegospel* communities where life happens • rather than as gathered churches on the one hand or individual

Christians on the other. Moynagh encourages people to start with who they are, and their natural networks of who they do life with. Recent research on a quarter of the dioceses of the Church of England shows a fresh expressions of church • are 15% of the churches with 10% of attendance, mostly started in the last 10 years and growing. According to their leaders, a quarter are unchurched • background, a third are ex-churched • and two fifths are unchurched •. These communities have often started by listening to their context and beginning with serving people in need and gathering a community around this missional service, rather than starting a worship service to attract people. That is, they often begin with worship in action more than worship in song. The Fresh Expressions movement does not jettison tradition or advocate ignoring existing churches, but wants to see a variety of new churches offering different pathways and signposts for people to explore faith.

First there was missional. Then there was the emergent resurgent insurgence, organic church, liquid church, free range church, new monasticism, the new parish and the New Kids. We are always on the hunt for the latest way to be church in ways that engage neighborhoods and culture. Michael Moynagh conducts research at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford for Fresh Expressions UK. He is an advocate of the "fresh expressions"™ of church (UK speak for missional?). He examines "witnessing communities"™ in the UK and around the globe. With over 120 examples of Fresh Expression Witnessing Communities, his book, *Being Church and Doing Life*, explores the creative ways that Christians have sought to connect the gospel to everyday life. Moynagh's book is divided into three parts. Part one explores the reasons why have "communities in life"™ (i.e. churches that meet in pubs, laundry mats, etc.). Part two explores the "tools"™ necessary for developing witness communities (practices, disciplines, and approaches). Part three explores the tools (organization, leadership, networks and structures) for the wider church. Each section (and chapter) are full of stories of on the ground practitioners who are reaching out in creative ways. Alan Hirsch (Author of *The Forgotten Ways*, *The Shaping of Things to Come*). This is very much a book written with the missional impulse and a desire to participate in God's Kingdom coming. The stories of what other churches (witnessing communities) are doing is the best part of this book. It is always exciting to find out what churches are doing. This is an "idea book"™ for brainstorming what church could look like in my context. Of course these "witnessing communities"™ are highly contextualized so are not necessarily reproducible. Still I appreciate some clues to what's possible.

In *Being Church, Doing Life*, Michael Moynagh pursues the answer to this question: what does it look like when we separate church as a worshiping community • from church as a cultural activity? • Because let's face this up front: in many places, especially Moynagh's United Kingdom and my United States (the Southern part!), church is endemic to culture. It's just there. We have churches, we have churches everywhere. And there are cultural constructs connected to the idea. Yet decades of cultural evolution have resulted in a cultural church that is not quite the same as what a worshiping community would look like. So, how do we sort out the differences? By analyzing examples, primarily drawn from the UK but some from the US, Moynagh presents many non-traditional looks at worshiping community structured around the normal beats of life. These ideas are naturally inspiring, and should challenge us to think outside of the box. I like his concept of developing witnessing community alongside Christian community. This is a great slice into how I have been asking the question for several years: is the one hour we meet on Sunday morning intended to strengthen the believer or reach the nonbeliever? It is difficult to do both at the same time with any faithfulness or completion. Moynagh here emphasizes the development of the a reach out • aspect of community. I would suggest that this hinges on an assumption that people will move from reach-out community into Christian community where deeper questions and different problems are addressed; after all, some issues do not surface until one is actually trying to follow Jesus. In this, I think there is a clear risk that someone will take Moynagh's book as if it is the only path for all churches to follow.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Being Church, Doing Life: Creating Gospel Communities Where Life Happens Love Spirits: What Happens in Venice: Book One (What Happens in Venice: The Trinity Ghost Story 1) The Multi-Site Church Revolution: Being One Church in Many Locations (Leadership Network Innovation Series) Renegade Gospel [Large Print]: The Rebel Jesus (Rengade Gospel series) The Gospel According to Harry Potter: The Spiritual Journey of the World's Greatest Seeker (Gospel According to) Buzzing Communities: How to Build Bigger, Better, and More Active Online Communities The Healing Heart for Communities: Storytelling for Strong and Healthy Communities (Families) Learning by Doing: A Handbook for Professional Learning Communities at Work (Book & CD-ROM) The Naked Gospel: The Truth You May Never Hear in Church Remarriage after Divorce in Today's Church: 3 Views (Counterpoints: Church Life) Sustainable Transportation Planning: Tools for Creating Vibrant, Healthy, and Resilient Communities Sustainable Transportation Planning: Tools for Creating Vibrant, Healthy, and Resilient Communities (Wiley Series in Sustainable Design) Inclusionary Housing: Creating and Maintaining Equitable Communities (Policy Focus Reports) Vertical Church:

What Every Heart Longs for. What Every Church Can Be. What Would Jesus Deconstruct?: The Good News of Postmodernism for the Church (The Church and Postmodern Culture) CHURCH and SOCIETY IN TRINIDAD Part I & II:THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN TRINIDAD 1498-1863 The Catholic Church in Micronesia: Historical Essays on the Catholic Church in the Caroline-Marshall Islands The Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington, Del., From 1697 to 1773, With an Abstract of the English Records From 1773 to 1810 and Catalogue and Errata of the Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church The Early Church (The Penguin History of the Church) (v. 1) Church STILL Ain't A Showplace for Saints (Church Saints Book 2)

[Dmca](#)