

Abstract

‘As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another’: Christian mentoring as an effective tool in developing disciples and leaders in the Church of Ireland

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In today’s increasingly pressurised society, and particularly for those who serve in ministry, the need for support is fundamental. It is also true that the development of personal Christian faith is critical. It is with this in mind that this work investigates how Christian mentoring can be used as an effective tool for growth in faith and leadership development. As part of this research, this study incorporates a review of relevant literature related to the practice of mentoring, as well as a consideration of biblical, theological and pastoral perspectives, by way of providing a comprehensive examination and understanding of the topic in question. In addressing this issue, this work carried out qualitative research through questionnaires and interviews. This gathered the necessary information required in learning of both mentors and mentees experiences regarding the subject of mentoring. Furthermore, this dissertation also seeks to highlight the need for inter-personal support, particularly for those in areas of ministry. It is my hope that this work raises the profile of Christian mentoring, in order that it might become part and practice of disciplining the next generation of leaders. This work also identifies areas for further research, and practical suggestions as to how the church can implement the practice of mentoring into the life of its community.