

Faith in Research 2018: The science of congregation studies

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ANGLICAN CATHEDRALS IN MODERN LIFE

The Science of Cathedral Studies

Edited by Leslie J. Francis



**Insights from the psychology of
religion for the science of
congregations studies:
The case of Southwark Cathedral**

Structure

- Abstract
- Introduction
- Results
- Conclusion

ABSTRACT

Abstract

The Francis Psychological Type Scales and the quest scale from the New Indices of Religious Orientation were completed by 511 participants in services at Southwark Cathedral in South London in order to test two hypotheses concerning the psychological profile of the congregation and the connection with quest religiosity.

Abstract

Both hypotheses were supported by the data. First, compared with the profile of Anglican church congregations reported in earlier research, this cathedral congregation attracted a significantly higher proportion of intuitive types and a significantly lower proportion of SJ Epimethean temperament types.

Abstract

Second, intuitive types recorded significantly higher scores on quest religiosity, and SJ Epimethean types recorded significantly lower scores on quest religiosity. The implications of these findings are discussed for emphases in preaching styles and ministry styles within the cathedral.

INTRODUCTION

Structure

- Psychological type theory
- Temperament theory
- Religious orientation theory
- Psychological type and religious motivation
- Research question

Psychological type theory

Psychological type theory

- Carl Jung
- MBTI
- FPTS

Four constructs

- Orientations
- Perceiving functions
- Judging functions
- Attitudes

Congregation studies

- Francis, Robbins, Williams, and Williams (2007)
- N = 185
- Francis, Robbins, and Craig (2011)
- N = 3,302

Orientations

- Extraversion
- Introversion
- Bias toward introversion

Introversion

Here are people who prefer an individual and reflective emphasis in church life, rather than a social and active emphasis. Congregations shaped by a preference for introversion may unintentionally exclude some extraverts.

Perceiving functions

- Sensing
- Intuition
- Bias toward sensing

Sensing

Here are people who prefer the traditional and conventional approaches to church life, rather than the innovative and novel. They prefer maintaining what has already stood the test of time, rather than speculating about new perspectives that may shape the future. Congregations shaped by a preference for sensing may unintentionally exclude some intuitive types.

Judging functions

- Thinking
- Feeling
- Bias toward feeling

Feeling

Here are people who prefer to promote harmony rather than tackle tough decisions. They prefer promoting a Gospel shaped by the God of mercy, rather than a Gospel shaped by the God of justice. Congregations shaped by a preference for feeling may unintentionally exclude some thinking types.

Attitudes

- Judging
- Perceiving
- Bias toward judging

Judging

Here are people who prefer to worship in a church that is tightly structured and adheres to a regular pattern and discipline. They are unlikely to encourage spontaneity and unpredictability in church life.

Congregations shaped by a preference for judging may unintentionally exclude some perceiving types.

Francis and Robbins (2012)

- Not fitting in and getting out
- N = 1,867
- Index of Satisfaction with Congregational Life

Rank satisfaction

- Lowest score
- ENTP

Temperament theory

Temperament theory

- Keirsey and Bates (1978)
- KTS
- FPTTS
- Oswald and Kroeger (1988)

Four temperaments

- SJ Temperament
- SP Temperament
- NT Temperament
- NF Temperament

SJ temperament

The most traditional of all congregations, longing for stability and continuity. They embrace a simple and straightforward faith, involving down-to-earth rules for the Christian life. They wish to protect and conserve traditions inherited from the past.

SP temperament

The most fun loving of all congregations, longing to be engaged in activities. They have little need for or interest in the abstract, the theoretical, and the non-practical aspects of theology and church life.

NT temperament

The most academically and intellectually grounded of all congregations, motivated by the search for meaning, for truth, and for possibilities. As individuals they are visionaries who enjoy the academic study and analysis of the faith.

NF temperament

The most idealistic and romantic of all congregations, attracted to helping others and to dealing with human suffering. They want to meet the needs of others and to find personal affirmation in so doing.

Congregational temperaments

- SP 8%
- NT 8%
- NF 12%
- SJ 72%

Francis, Clymo, and Robbins (2014)

Fresh Expressions: Reaching those psychological types conventional forms of church find it hard to reach

- SJ falls from 72% to 50%

Walker (2012)

O come all ye thinking types: The wider appeal of cathedral carol services

- SJ falls from 72% to 66%

Religious orientation theory

Religious orientation theory

- Allport and Ross (1967)
- Batson and Ventis (1982)
- Francis (2007)
- NIRO

Three orientations

- Intrinsic
- Extrinsic
- Quest

Intrinsic orientation

- Regards faith as a supreme value in its own right . . .
. . . A religious sentiment of this sort floods the whole life with motivations and meaning.

Extrinsic orientation

- Points to a type of religion that is strictly utilitarian: useful for the self in granting safety, social standing, solace, and endorsement for one's chosen way of life.

Quest orientation

- An individual who approaches religion in this way recognizes that he or she does not know, and probably never will know, the final truth about such matters.

Components of quest

- Readiness to face existential questions without reducing their complexity;
- Self-criticism and perception of religious doubt as positive;
- Openness to change.

Psychological type and religious motivation

Connections explored by

- Francis and Ross (2000)
- Ross and Francis (2010)
- Walker (2015)

Walker (2015)

- FPTTS
- NIRO
- N = 390 attendees at cathedral carol services
- Higher scores among intuitives
- Lower scores among SJs.

RESEARCH QUESTION

Southwark Cathedral



Research question 1

The first aim is to compare the psychological type profile of congregations at Southwark Cathedral with the psychological type profile of Anglican church congregations published by Francis, Robbins and Craig (2011).

Research question 2

The second aim is to test the association between psychological type (and temperament) and the quest orientation of religiosity.

METHOD

Procedure

- People attending services
- Anonymity and confidentiality
- All services 2 Sundays, a year apart
- N = 511

Participants

- 235 men and 276 women
- 107 in 20s or 30s
- 168 in 40s or 50s
- 142 in 60s
- 94 in 70s or 80s

RESULTS

Psychological type

- More intuitives in cathedral
- 44% compared with 20%

Temperament

- Fewer SJ temperament in cathedral
- 52% compared with 72%

Quest and type

- Significantly higher scores among intuitive types

Quest and temperament

- Significantly lower mean scores among SJ temperament.

CONCLUSION

Southwark Cathedral



Conclusion 1

- Different types of churches attract different types of people
- Francis, Robbins, and Craig (2011)
- Francis, Clymo, and Robbins (2014)
- Walker (2012)
- Now Southwark Cathedral

Conclusion 2

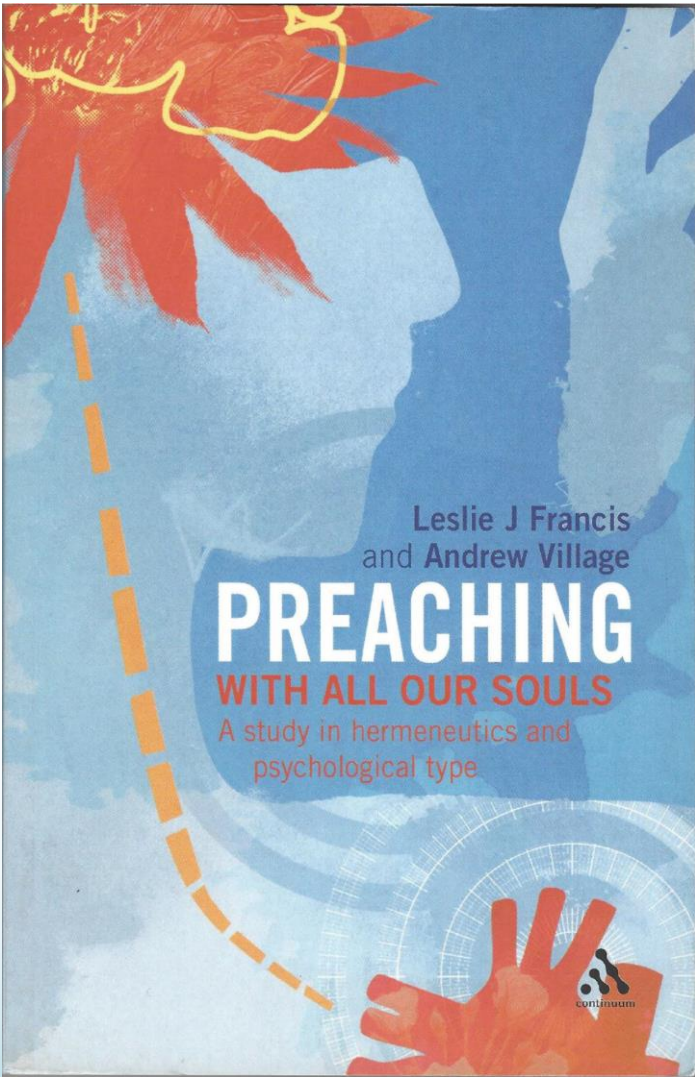
- Psychological type and temperament predict religious motivation
- Ross and Francis (2010)
- Walker (2015)
- New Southwark Cathedral study

Implications for ecclesiology

- Foster diversity
- Multiplex Church
- Ecumenical collaboration

Implications for ministry

- Theology of individual difference
- Experience in type awareness
- SIFT hermeneutics



Leslie J Francis
and Andrew Village

PREACHING WITH ALL OUR SOULS

A study in hermeneutics and
psychological type

continuum

Implications for Southwark Cathedral 1

- More intuitive types
- Openness and quest orientation
- Preaching
- Liturgy
- Social life

Implications for Southwark Cathedral 2

- Fewer SJ types
- More flexibility
- More spontaneity
- More experimentation
- Willingness to disappoint SJ expectation

Implications for further research

- What is the profile of other cathedral congregations?

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