

# The Irish Protestant Churches in the Twentieth Century

*Also by Alan Megahey*

HUMPHREY GIBBS, BELEAGUERED GOVERNOR: Southern Rhodesia, 1929–69

A HISTORY OF CRANLEIGH SCHOOL

# The Irish Protestant Churches in the Twentieth Century

Alan Megahey





First published in Great Britain 2000 by  
**MACMILLAN PRESS LTD**  
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS and London  
Companies and representatives throughout the world

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-349-40709-5      ISBN 978-0-230-28851-5 (eBook)

DOI 10.1057/9780230288515



First published in the United States of America 2000 by  
**ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, LLC,**  
Scholarly and Reference Division,  
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Megahey, Alan J.

The Irish Protestant churches in the twentieth century / Alan Megahey.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Protestant churches—Ireland—History—20th century. 2. Protestant churches—Northern Ireland—History—20th century. 3. Ireland—Church history—20th century. 4. Northern Ireland—Church history—20th century. 5. Church of Ireland—History—20th century. 6. Presbyterian Church in Ireland—History—20th century. I. Title.

BX4839 .M44 2000

280'.4'094150904—dc21

00-033340

© Alan J. Megahey 2000

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2000 978-0-333-73251-9

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP.

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01 00

IN MEMORY OF

my father

JACK MEGAHEY

Irish Protestant by birth

and

my father-in-law

FRED JEFFERY

Irish Protestant by adoption

*This page intentionally left blank*

# Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
Introduction	1
1 The Churches in 1900 – An Anatomy	5
A Protestant People	5
The Church of Ireland	7
The Presbyterian Church	12
The Smaller Churches	16
2 The Churches and Politics, 1900–1922	23
Home Rule and Rome Rule	23
Education Issues	31
The Impact of War	37
Partition, Civil War and Sectarian Violence	43
3 The Gospel and Society, 1900–1914	47
The Ills of Society	47
Church-related Organisations	55
The Orange Order – a brief note	64
4 Seeing and Believing, 1900–1965	68
Iconography and Hymnography	68
Preaching	81
Appearances	85
5 Confessional States, 1922–1965	91
The Churches in a Protestant State	91
The Churches in a Roman Catholic State	108
6 A Century at Home and Abroad	121
Ecumenism	121
Missionary Activity	131
Emigration	141

7	Changing Times 1960–1975	148
	New Perspectives	148
	The Northern Ireland Problem	157
8	Towards the New Millennium	170
	<i>Violence in Ireland</i>	170
	Sectarianism and Secularism	180
	<i>Notes</i>	187
	<i>Appendix</i> Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist Succession Lists	210
	<i>Select Bibliography</i>	215
	<i>Index</i>	228



# Preface

The Irish Protestant Churches are well served by dedicated archivists and librarians, and I would especially thank Dr Raymond Refaussé and his staff at the Representative Church Body Library of the Church of Ireland in Dublin, Mr Alan McMillan at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Church House, Belfast, and the Revd Robin Roddie in the Wesley Historical Society Archive, Belfast. They welcomed me and helped me with unfailing courtesy. The staff of the Queen's University Library (Special Collections) were very helpful, as were the staffs in the Cambridge University Library, the British Library, and the Public Record Office in Belfast. My thanks are due also to Professor George Boyce, the Revd Sydney Callaghan, Mr Jack Gamble, Professor Keith Jeffery, and at Macmillan to Mr Tim Farmiloe and Ms Aruna Vasudevan. Needless to say, they bear no responsibility for anything in this book; nor does my wife, whose help has been invaluable – all those evenings spent sorting and filing!

My apologies to those who are offended when I sometimes use 'Ulster' to mean Northern Ireland, or Anglican to mean Church of Ireland, or Catholic to mean Roman Catholic (and vice versa). The varied usage is determined by aesthetic rather than political or theological considerations.

I would like to record my gratitude to the Revd Dr Owen Chadwick (sometime Professor of Modern History at Cambridge and formerly Master of Selwyn College), and to the Revd Dr Edward Norman (sometime Dean of Peterhouse, Cambridge, and now Chancellor of York Minster). While they were not even aware that this book was being written, they have been immensely helpful to me for more than thirty-five years. I cannot hope to match their fluency, profundity and scholarship, but I have been enormously enriched both by their friendship and by their books.

The Dedication is more than a filial duty; it is a tribute to two people whose benign influence and deep commitment is rather inadequately described by the term 'Irish Protestant'. They touched many lives.

*A.J. Megahey*