

## HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT 2025

The Centre for the Study of Historical Irish Houses and Estates should be of interest to members of the Church of Ireland if only because of the association of the 'big house' with the Protestant (i.e. the Established Church of Ireland) Ascendancy. The publication of the Centre's conference papers covers a wide range of topics and includes most recently James Frazer's 'A persevering proclamation of gospel truth: the 3<sup>rd</sup> earl of Roden and evangelical Christianity at Tullymore Park and Dundalk House, c. 1830-70', in *The Country House in Ireland and Britain* (ed. Terence Dooley & Christopher Ridgway). An account of a contemporary aspect of Church life is covered in Mathew McCauley's 'Anglo-Catholicism in the Church of Ireland', one of several theses to be consulted in the RCB Library.

Among other titles that have come out in the past year have been the late Raymond Gillespie's *Reforming Galway: civic society, religious change and St Nicholas collegiate church, 1550-1750*, which, to quote from its jacket; 'explores a new way of looking at the reformation in Ireland'. WJR Wallace's *The Churchwardens' Accounts of the Parishes of St Bride, St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, Dublin, 1663-1702* complements his *The vestry Records of the Parishes of St Bride, St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, Dublin 1662-1742*, which appeared in 2011, and was launched (post--Covid) in 2024. Also published in 2024 was Conan Kennedy's *The church of St Andrew's in Suffolk Street, Dublin*. WEC Fleming's *The primatial residences of the See of Armagh from early times with notes on the primates of the medieval registers (1312-1543)*, complements his *Armagh Cathedral: the Beresford/Cottingham Restoration 1834-40 and Subsequent Improvements*. Miriam Moffitt's 'Sectarianism in Sligo in the era of Emancipation and Reform' appears in *Sligo: History and Society*, William Nolan and Kieran O'Connor (ed.), and William Nolan is also editor of *Louth: History and Society* which includes Kerly A. Miller's 'Protestants and Catholics in County Louth c. 1600-91'. Two western cathedrals, *Elphin Cathedral Monuments* [Alan Moran] and *St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, Co. Galway: Graveyard and Burial Records* {Patrick Butler} have appeared recently.

Historians have played a vital role in the considerable change that has come about in how in recent years the Church of Ireland's past is perceived by its members and others, but their work would not have come to a wider public had it not been for the many publishing houses, not least in Ireland, who have served them so well. Nor ought we to overlook the value to researchers of material produced from Church of Ireland sources: the *Journals* of the General Synod and the publications of the Liturgical Advisory Committee and APCK, diocesan and parish publications and the (indexed) files of the *Church of Ireland Gazette* and its predecessors. A current concern of historians, Church scholars among them, is the increasing replacement of 'hard' by 'digital' forms of communication, in some cases the latter lacking the permanence of the former.

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