

HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT 2024

The year past saw the publication of several additions to the long list of books on aspects of Church of Ireland history. The Church's publishing house, Church of Ireland Publishing produced Michael O'Neill's *An architectural history of the Church of Ireland*, launched in both Dublin and Armagh. David Caron's *Michael Healy: 1873-1941 An Túr Gloine's stained glass pioneer* which is published by Four Courts Press includes much of interest to those concerned with the Church's built history and associated arts. Notable studies pertaining to the Church in specific locations included Séan Farrell's *Thomas Drew and the making of Victorian Belfast* (Syracuse University Press) and Seán Gannon's *History of Protestant Limerick 1912-1923* (Limerick City & County Council) including among its sources the archives of St Mary's Cathedral. Additionally a most beautifully-produced bicentenary history produced in hardback by Gandon Editions Oysterhaven, Kinsale, Co Cork and edited by parishioner Lesley Roberts charts the evolutionary story of *St Mary's Carrigalane, 1823-2023*.

The Church of Ireland also figured in several treatments of a biographical nature: Liam MacMathúna and Máire Nic An Bhaird (eds.) 'Douglas Hyde: Irish genealogy and international impact' in *Éigse*, ancillary vol. 3, and Mary McAuliffe and Harriet Wheeler (eds.) *The diaries of Kathleen Lynn: a life revealed through personal writing* (UCD Press) and Paul O'Brien's *Seán O'Casey: political activist and writer* (Cork University Press). Mention should also be made of a publication from 2022, *St James' Parish Church, Moy* (diocese of Armagh) by Shirley E. McKay.

Canon David Crooks' works on transcribing the registers of parishes in Derry and Raphoe has long been valued. Similarly noteworthy is the work of the 'Anglican Record Project', initiated by Mr Mark Williams 'for the transcription and indexing of registers and other documents/sources of genealogical interest of Anglican parishes in the British Isles'. Transcriptions provided by the Anglican Record Project relating to several Church of Ireland dioceses are available in the RCB Library in hard copy and online on this link <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/anglican-record-project/how-the-project-came-about>

At a time when so many titles are competing for the attention of reviewers and for space in scholarly journals, it is valuable that the Church of Ireland journal *Search*, edited by Rev Canon Ginnie Kennerley, with reviews editor Dr Raymond Refaussy, ensures that much important writing for the study of the Church's history receives attention, while providing opportunities for those who contribute reviews to assess the value of such writing.

All titles mentioned above are on the shelves of the RCB Library whose staff have, as always, been most helpful where this report is concerned.

Dr Kenneth Milne