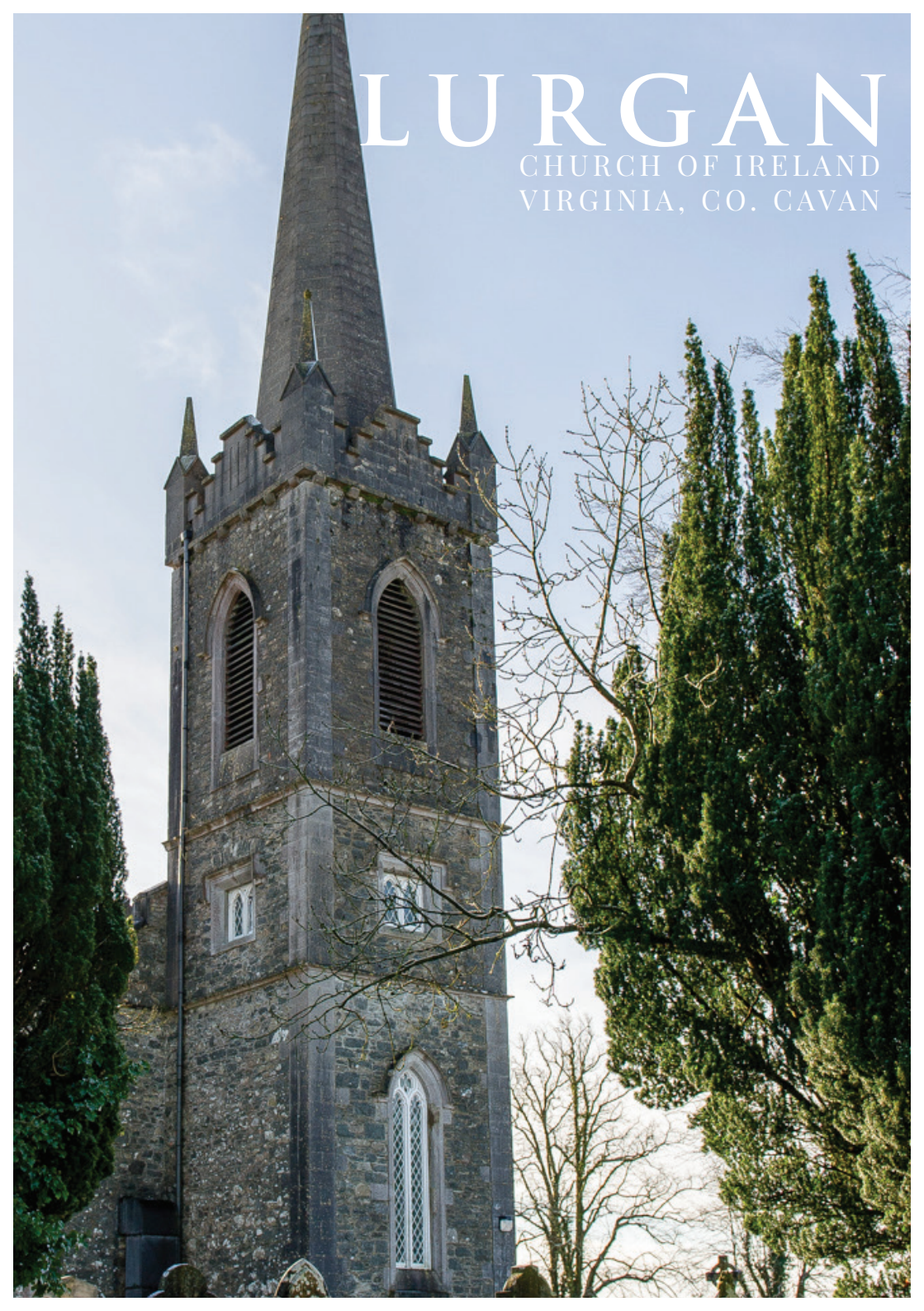


LURGAN

CHURCH OF IRELAND
VIRGINIA, CO. CAVAN



WELCOME

The Church of Ireland marriage ceremony begins with these words: “The scriptures set before us marriage as part of God’s creation and a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh.” They are a reminder that weddings are a very special occasion in the life of a church and a couple. It is a day to be savoured by all.



In partnering with the Virginia Park Lodge we are delighted that you are considering having your wedding day in our church and to seek God’s blessing as you begin your married life together. In choosing Lurgan Church of Ireland Church you are guaranteed a warm welcome.

This booklet will give you a flavour of our church as well as some helpful and practical information as you plan your wedding day.

Lurgan Church of Ireland Church is a great location for a wedding with spacious grounds, plenty of photo opportunities and within walking distance of the shores of Lough Ramor and of the Virginia Park Lodge.

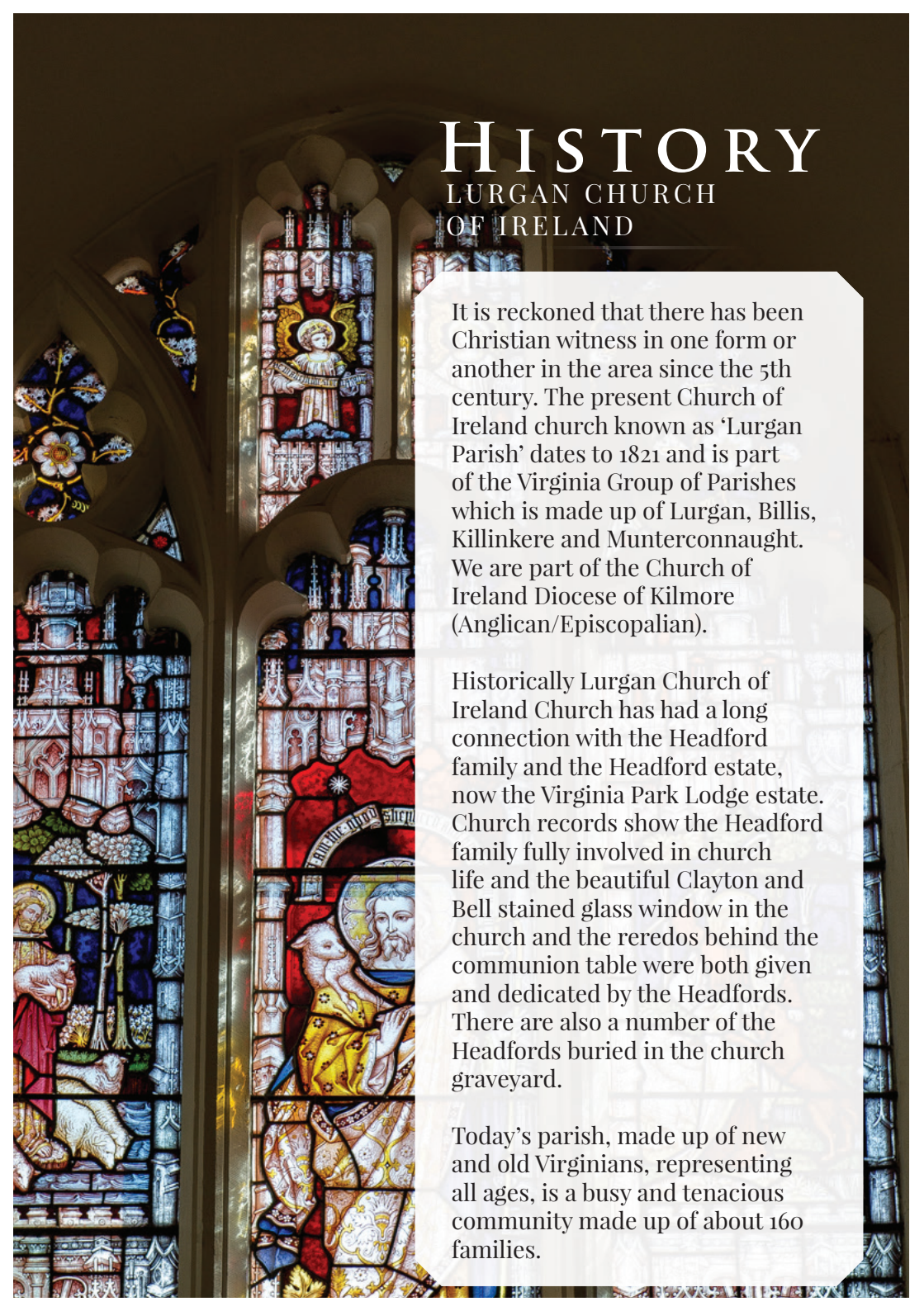
HISTORY

LURGAN CHURCH OF IRELAND

It is reckoned that there has been Christian witness in one form or another in the area since the 5th century. The present Church of Ireland church known as ‘Lurgan Parish’ dates to 1821 and is part of the Virginia Group of Parishes which is made up of Lurgan, Billis, Killinkere and Munterconnaught. We are part of the Church of Ireland Diocese of Kilmore (Anglican/Episcopalian).

Historically Lurgan Church of Ireland Church has had a long connection with the Headford family and the Headford estate, now the Virginia Park Lodge estate. Church records show the Headford family fully involved in church life and the beautiful Clayton and Bell stained glass window in the church and the reredos behind the communion table were both given and dedicated by the Headfords. There are also a number of the Headfords buried in the church graveyard.

Today’s parish, made up of new and old Virginians, representing all ages, is a busy and tenacious community made up of about 160 families.



RECTOR

The Venerable Craig McCauley has been the Rector of the Virginia Group of Parishes since 2004 and the Archdeacon of Kilmore since 2010. He is married and has 2 children. His passion is building authentic local church communities centred on the person of Jesus Christ. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family as well as watching football - Liverpool FC and rugby - Leinster and Ireland.



WEDDINGS

Each wedding is special and unique to the couple. While there are set aspects to the ceremony there is plenty of room to add personal touches to the occasion as well as to the church building. We are happy to spend time and talk through your wedding day in order to make it memorable. The ceremonies range from the very traditional to the more informal and everything in between.

The whole experience of planning our wedding was tremendously enjoyable, and Craig was really supportive and encouraging with our choices of words and music. We mixed traditional and modern elements and it really was one of the best days of our lives.

Jim and Becky Wiggins (@englishmum)

Beautiful surroundings to welcome you towards your big moment into a warm and vibrant church with a wedding officiant second to none. We literally couldn't have asked for more. A joyful occasion.

John and Lindsay Henry (Virginia)





FAQ

Who can use Lurgan Church of Ireland Church for a wedding?

The Church of Ireland position is that one party to the marriage has to be a member of the Church of Ireland, or a church in communion with it. There is no specific religious requirement for the second party to the marriage; all are welcome, provided they are content to be married according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Ireland.

Wedding Blessing

If a couple have already had a civil ceremony they can also have a blessing ceremony in the church.

Can divorcees marry in the church?

Yes. Legislation to permit the remarriage of divorcees in church was passed by the General Synod of the Church of Ireland in 1996. While stressing that the lifelong nature of Christian marriage remains the ideal, the Church of Ireland seeks to show compassion and understanding to those whose marriages have broken down. Clergy are first required to seek the bishop's opinion and permission before agreeing to celebrate any such marriage.

FAQ

Same-sex weddings/blessings

While we respect the many different types of relationship in modern Ireland, under church law and from biblical teaching it will not be possible to have a same-sex wedding or blessing in the church.

Can my own minister/priest take the service?

By special permission of the Bishop any ordained and licenced Church of Ireland minister can officiate as main solemniser. Unfortunately clergy of other denominations are not able to act as main solemniser, however if Venerable Craig officiates at the wedding any ordained minister from any other denomination (e.g. Presbyterian, Methodist, and Roman Catholic) invited by the couple may take part with prior agreement. If Venerable Craig is not available another local Church of Ireland minister will officiate.

More information on the Church of Ireland understanding of Christian Marriage can be found here: <http://ireland.anglican.org/information/210>

FAQ

How much notice do we have to give?

For a marriage to be legal in the Republic of Ireland the parties to the proposed marriage must give a minimum of 3 months notification to a registrar in person of their intention to marry and by prior appointment only. More information about applying for the licence, location of registrars and other relevant details can be found at: <http://www.civilregistrationservice.ie/>

Church Details

The church is located right in the heart of the town of Virginia and across the road from the Virginia Park Lodge. GPS Co-Ordinates: 53°50'10.8"N 7°05'12.8"W

For invitations, booklets and directions we suggest you use the name 'Virginia Church of Ireland' to avoid confusion with Lurgan Roman Catholic Parish.

Capacity

The church can hold approximately 200 people.

F A Q

Can you help us plan the wedding ceremony?

Absolutely. Venerable Craig will be happy to meet and discuss everything with you (as often as you need!) We are also happy to suggest hymns and bible readings and any other helpful parts of the wedding ceremony. A sample wedding service can be downloaded here:
www.virginia.kilmore.anglican.org/weddings.html

Can we marry any day of the week or time of year?

There's no legal reason why you can't marry on any date of the year, but some days are especially busy for the church such as Sundays. There will however be no weddings on Christmas Day, St. Stephen's Day, Good Friday or Easter Sunday, otherwise talk to us.

Can we write our own vows in a church wedding?

Legally, no part of the wedding vows can be changed but there is plenty of room during the service for personalising the ceremony.

Flowers

You are free to decorate the church as you wish and we will facilitate any florist who wishes to come into the church prior to the wedding day.

Music

Music and hymns add joy to your wedding. You are free to provide you own music, musicians and singers. If you wish us to provide an organist we can do so for you. A donation of €100 is suggested. If you would like any piece of music played through the sound system in the church we can do that also with prior agreement as long as it is appropriate to be used in a church building.

F A Q

Wedding Booklets

The church doesn't provide wedding booklets but we can send you a word document of the Wedding Service which you can use to produce your own wedding booklets.

Pre-Marriage Course

It is not a condition of getting married that you attend a pre-marriage course but doing so is useful.

Rehearsal

It is normal to have a rehearsal in the church a day or so beforehand. This is an opportunity to go through the ceremony as well as settle a few nerves!

Parking

There is no problem parking a large number of cars in the church grounds.

Disabled Facilities / Toilet Facilities

Both the church and the church hall are fully wheelchair accessible. There are also appropriate disabled and regular toilet facilities in the hall next to the church.

Cost

The vestry has set a fee of €750 for use of the church. This goes fully towards church funds. 50% must be paid within 7 days of booking (refundable less €50 administration charge) with remaining balance paid not later than 1 month before date of wedding. Cheques should be made payable to Virginia Parish Church. Arrangements can be made if you would like to transfer monies via electronic transfer. All Payments must be in euros.

Apply for a wedding

If you wish to make contact, ask any other questions or see if a particular date is available then you can fill in the online form on the parish website:
www.virginia.kilmore.anglican.org/booking-form.html



LURGAN

CHURCH OF IRELAND

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