Frederick Augustus Hervey (1730-1803), Bishop of Derry and 4th Earl of Bristol (hence, the Earl Bishop) was one of the most charismatic individuals to have ever lived in the North West of Ireland. He was not only a bishop but a scientist, geologist, politician, builder, art collector, traveller and a powerful proponent of religious equality.

St Columcille founded a church at Tamlaghtard in the 6th century. No trace of the original church exists but a church, now in ruins, was built on its foundations in medieval times. The Protestant community was worshipping here when the Earl Bishop arrived in 1768 but he erected a new church, St Cadan’s, in 1773 for his parishioners and bequeathed the original church to the Roman Catholic community. The Roman Catholics made use of it until 1826, when the present Church of Ireland. He was not only a bishop but a scientist, geologist, politician, builder, art collector, traveller and a powerful proponent of religious equality.

Tradition connects St Aidan, some say St Cadan, with St Columcille’s original church. The graves of St Aidan and of Denis O’Hampsey (1695-1807) stand alongside the ruins of the medieval church. Denis O’Hampsey’s harp bears the inscription: ‘In the time of Noah I was green, Until Seventeen hundred and two I was found Since his flood I had not been seen, That Queen of Musick you may call me.’

Places of interest in the area:

- McPoyle thatched cottage
- Minearny Base Line Tower, Magilligan
- St Aidan’s Chapel/Tamlaghtard
- Bishop’s Road from Downhill to Limavady; and the site of Duncrun Abbey established around AD 450 by St Patrick.

In 1824, Thomas Colby selected the flat eastern shore of Lough Foyle to establish a baseline for the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. A series of Base Line Towers were established, including Magilligan and Ballykelly, and the Ordnance Survey of Ireland began continuous mapping of an entire country was completed by 1846. Using a process of triangulation the first large-scale mapping of an entire country was completed by 1846.