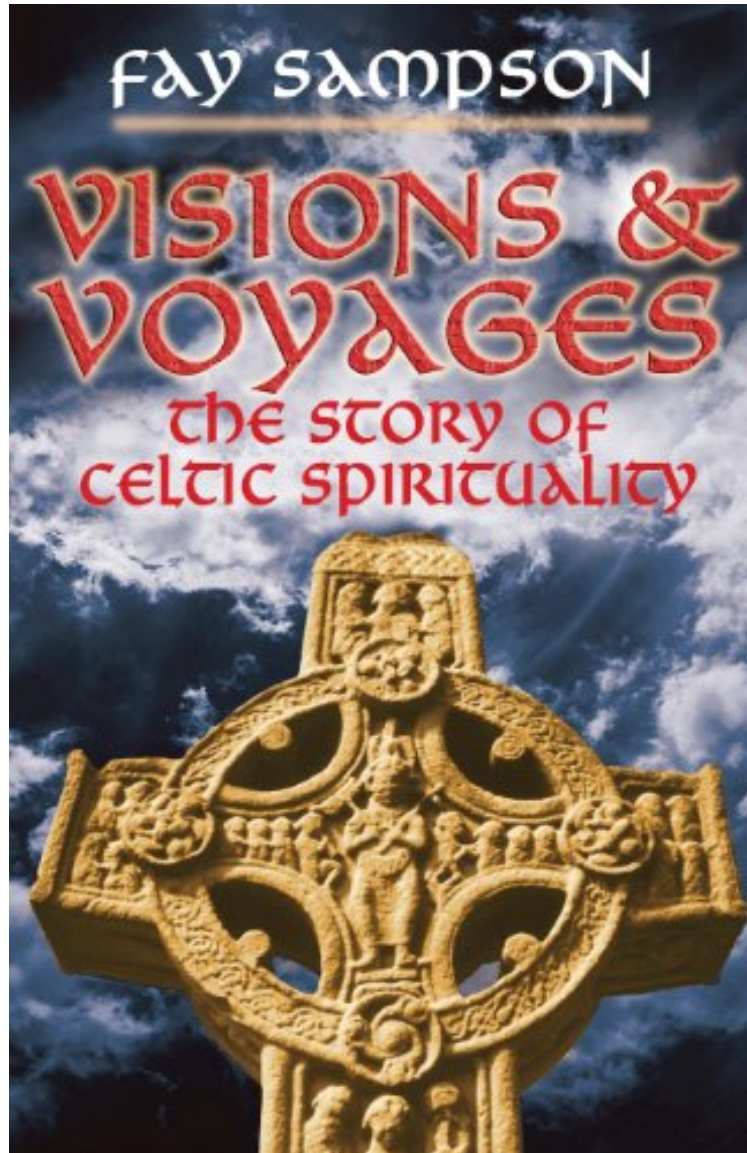


Visions Voyages: The Story of Celtic Spirituality

Fay Sampson

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Fay Sampson : Visions Voyages: The Story of Celtic Spirituality before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Visions Voyages: The Story of Celtic Spirituality:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent introduction into Celtic Spirituality By Eric R. Barr, loughderg@aol.com There are a lot of books out on this subject, but this one is one of the best. Sampson is an excellent, engaging writer. Into the midst of profound ideas, she injects the entertaining, fascinating stories of the Celtic saints and those associated with them. What emerges is a tale of great beauty and deep meaning--a new light on

a worldwide faith. What sets her book apart from others is her refusal to pit a Celtic Church against a Roman or Continental Church. To the average reader this is no big deal, but so much that is written about Celtic Christianity these days deals more with polemic than with reality. She keeps us firmly based in reality and gives us a side of Christianity that should be valued, appreciated and practiced in our day and age. Great book, great read, great contribution!

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A fascinating and informative book
By Helen Hancox
This book covers Christianity in Britain from AD57 to 909 and beyond. It looks at the history and identity of the Celtic peoples of Britain, Ireland and continental Europe and how they embraced the Christian faith. Fay Sampson explores the growth and structure of the church whilst telling the stories of pioneering individuals such as Patrick, Brigid, Columba and David. She follows Rome's gradual absorption of the British and Irish abbeys and traditions and the effects of settlement by Angles, Saxons and Jutes. A chapter on the Synod of Whitby summarises how a difference of opinion on tonsure styles and the date of Easter altered the course of church history; something of which any contemporary Christian reader would do well to be reminded. This is a fascinating and informative book. Sampson includes an index, timeline, maps and a list of further reading. Some footnotes and references would also have been helpful. More careful editing and typesetting and a better cover design would have done her research and the subject justice.

This review by Auntie Charlotte
3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Interesting history book
By John Dekker
This book's subtitle is a little misleading, as the book has much more to do with the *history* of Celtic Christianity than its "spirituality". But it contains a whole lot of great stories and fascinating characters.

As the Roman Empire began to crumble, Celtic Christians began to embark more often on pilgrimages and quests. They found visionary islands on Skellig Michael, Iona, and Lindisfarne, yet their spirituality was largely concerned with politics and people. Brigid ruled a monastery for women and men, princesses and slaves, while Arthur was defending Celtic Britain against English invaders, and Aidan died protesting against his king. While some Celtic Christians did slam the monastery gates on the sinful world, most tramped into the hills to stand alongside ordinary people. Drawing on historical documents and a thoughtful examination of legends, this is an insightful resource that unveils the development of and tenets behind the various strands of Celtic Christianity.

About the Author
Fay Sampson is the winner of the Barco de Vapor Award. She is the author of numerous novels for children and adults, as well as *Runes on the Cross*.