

Bangor Christian Heritage projects 2015, in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery Fund.



During 2015 Ards and North Down Borough Council were fortunate to receive funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund with which to develop the Christian Heritage product in Bangor.

This involved the completion of a number of projects targeted at a number of groups including tourists and visitors, locals, schools and community groups.

Bangor Christian Heritage Trail and Mobile App



The Bangor Christian Heritage App, Free to download on Google Play or Apple Store

One of the most exciting projects saw the development of a 5km Christian Heritage Trail running from Castle Park to the North Down Coastal Path and back to the Park's Victorian Walled Garden via the town centre.

The trail takes in nine key sites along the route including, North Down Museum, Bangor Abbey, St Comgall's Church the beautiful North Down Coastal Path and Victorian Walled Garden. The walker is guided along the trail with the accompanying free "Bangor Christian Heritage Trail" mobile App which includes audio, text, offline map and imagery at each site. There is also a hard copy map and interpretational panel's en-route telling the history of the various locations. The App is available free from Google Play and App Store.

Alongside the development of this trail volunteers from the Friends of Columabnus Bangor undertook training in the provision of guided tours for both individual sites and the overall trail itself.

“The White Dove” - Columbanus comic



“The White Dove”, a comic telling the story of Bangor Abbey’s most famous Saint.

To help tell the story of the Saint to the next generation, “The White Dove”, a comic for primary school children, was produced and distributed to 8 and 9 year olds in local schools that study our local history as part of their curriculum.

The comic tells of the coming of Christianity to Ireland with Patrick and the foundation of the Abbey of Comgall and its most famous Saint, Columbanus along with his travels across Europe and through to his death in Bobbio, Italy.

This comic is to be translated into Italian and French so the children of those countries can learn from the same story.

Copies are available from North Down Museum or Bangor Visitor Information Centre.

Exhibitions



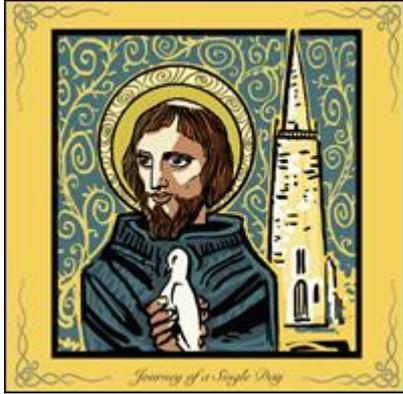
As part of a series of projects, made possible through the granting of Heritage Lottery Funding, two exhibitions were created.

The highlight, “The Bell Tolls For Thee” saw three single cast bronze bells, Bangor Bell, the Lough Lene Bell and the Cashel Bell, brought together for the first time since they were cast over 1,200 years ago.

In addition, the exhibition displayed various artefacts found during the 2011 excavation of Bangor Abbey.

A 6 panel pop-up exhibition was also produced and displayed at numerous locations across the borough and further afield including libraries, churches and tourist attractions. The exhibition tells the story of the areas Christian Heritage, Bangor Abbey and the Saints that left Bangor to spread the word across Europe. It has been taken on by the Friends of Columbanus Bangor for use as an outreach educational tool moving forward

Music and Film



“The Journey of a Single Day”, is a compilation of tracks from the lands that Columbanus once called home. From Ireland (north and south), France, Germany and Italy, the CD sees a mix of traditional, classical and choral pieces alongside poetry, (something close to the heart of Columbanus).

Short-films

Again thanks to The Heritage Lottery Fund we were able to produce a series of short 3 minutes films representing those who left their mark on the Abbey, from Saint Comgall to Saint Columbanus and Saint Malachy to Sir James Hamilton who rebuilt the Abbey. Each telling of their part in the development of the Christian Heritage story of Bangor and its Abbey.