

Photographs taken by pupils and James McDowell

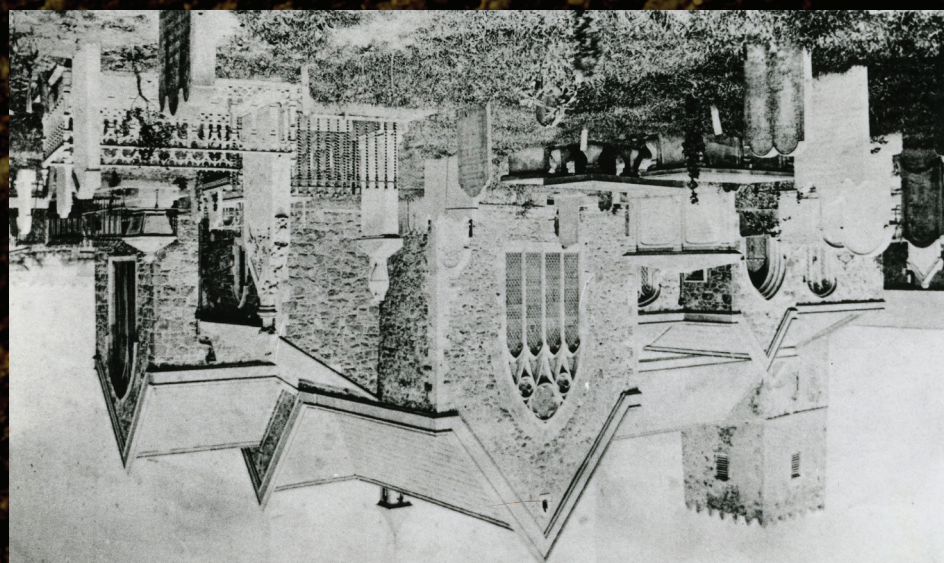
The project has been generously funded by The Honourable The Irish Society. Thanks to the Coleraine Branch of the North of Ireland Family History Society for their help.

If you want to have a go at doing some rubbings of the gravestones, like we did, just ask for one of our packs. It contains instructions, top tips and all the materials that you need.

For you to find out more!

St Patrick's Church and Coleraine Museum asked pupils from Ballysally Primary School, D.H. Christie Memorial School, St Malachy's Primary School and Sandelford School to become history detectives and help us to investigate the gravestones, memorials and stained glass windows. We discovered some really interesting people and created this trail for you to find out more!

About the Project



St Patrick's Church, Coleraine, before the restoration of 1883 - 1885. Coleraine Museum Collection.

St Patrick's Church is one of the oldest buildings in Coleraine. In fact, archaeologists discovered a Medieval Church underneath the floor of the current Church. This means that it is at least 700 years old! You can see what the archaeologists discovered under the glass paneling inside the Church. However, we actually think the very first Church dates back to when St Patrick was travelling around Ireland. This would make the Church nearly 1600 years old! Now, that is old.

With over 1600 years of history at our fingertips there are loads of stories to be found in the stained glass windows and in the gravestones and memorials inside and outside the Church.

St Patrick's Church – Just how old is it?



St. Patrick's Graveyard Trail

History Detective

For further information contact:

Coleraine Museum
Email: cms@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk
Tel: 028 7034 7234
Web: www.niarchive.org/coleraine/
Find us on Facebook: Coleraine Museum

St Patrick's Church Parish Office
Email: admin@stpats.co.uk
Tel: 02870344213
Website: www.stpats.co.uk



Causeway Coast and Glens
Borough Council



St Patrick's

We are going to start inside the Church.

1. Find the The World War One Memorial Window at the west end of the church. It contains signs and symbols of war and peace, death and victory. Which do you think represent each?

a. Peace

b. Death

c. War

d. Victory

2. Which symbol would you use for “hope”? This was what the country longed for at the end of the war? Draw it in this box.

3. Next, find the World War Two Memorial Window. It shows that in this particular conflict everyone from the British Isles was affected in some way. How did the creator of this window show;

a. War in the air?

b. War at Sea?

c. War on Land?

d. The service personnel who fought in the battles?

e. The civilians whose lives were affected?

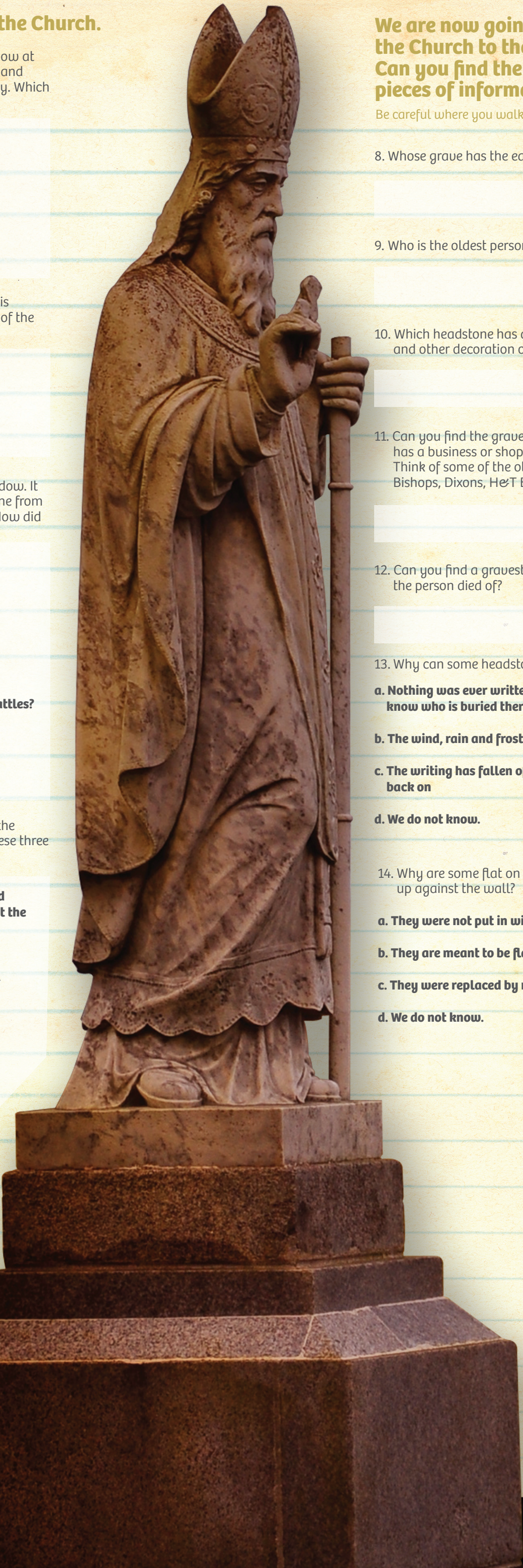
4. Some families have a tradition of service in the armed forces. Look around the church for these three individuals all with the same family name.

a. I served in the Peninsular (1807 – 1814) and Napoleonic Wars (1799 – 1815) and I died at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. Who was I?

b. I was wounded at the Battle of Sebastapol during the Crimean War (1853 – 1856). Who was I?

c. On the 30 November 1889, I was killed in India. Who was I?

7. There are also memorials that are not related to the military. What can you find out about the events that took place on September 1 1875, that involving a Coleraine Inst. Schoolboy and what bravery did Hugh Neil show on Boxing Day 1879?



We are now going to go outside the Church to the graveyard. Can you find the following pieces of information?

Be careful where you walk as the ground is uneven!

8. Whose grave has the earliest date?

9. Who is the oldest person buried in the churchyard?

10. Which headstone has a large amount of carving and other decoration on it?

11. Can you find the gravestone of a family who has a business or shop still in the town today? Think of some of the oldest shops in the town, e.g. Bishops, Dixons, He/T Bellas.

12. Can you find a gravestone which tells you what the person died of?

13. Why can some headstones not be read any longer?

a. Nothing was ever written on them and we do not know who is buried there

b. The wind, rain and frost have eroded the writing.

c. The writing has fallen off and has not been stuck back on

d. We do not know.

14. Why are some flat on the ground or propped up against the wall?

a. They were not put in with a proper foundation.

b. They are meant to be flat.

c. They were replaced by newer headstones

d. We do not know.