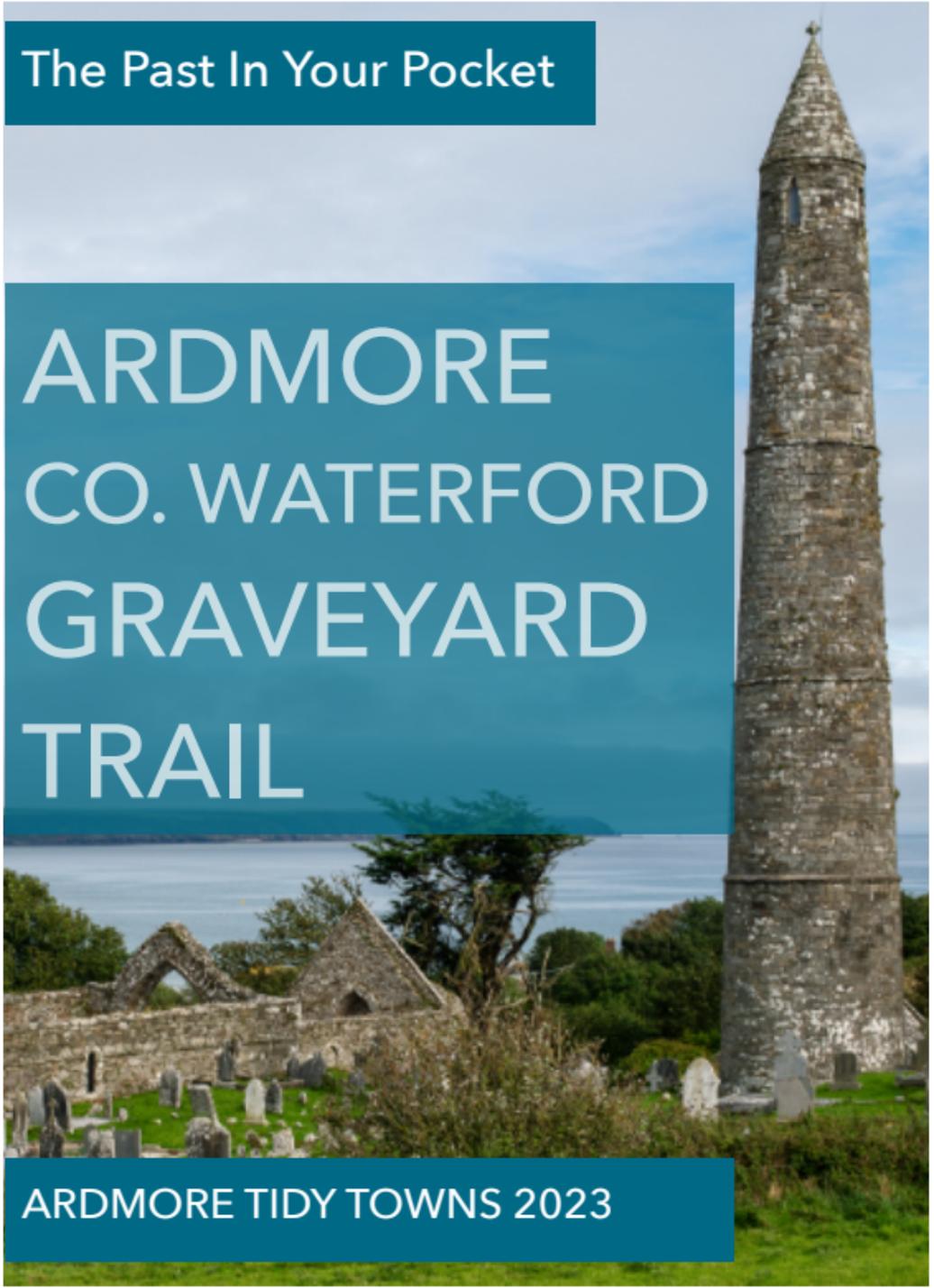


The Past In Your Pocket

# ARDMORE CO. WATERFORD GRAVEYARD TRAIL

ARDMORE TIDY TOWNS 2023



Ardmore Tidy Towns is a voluntary group engaging in the enhancement and maintenance of Ardmore village, Co. Waterford. This guide is a heritage project for Ardmore Tidy Towns and has been written by local archaeologists Martha Hannon and John Tierney. The guide is based on the work of local historians such as Tommy Mooney, James Quain and Siobhan Lincoln.

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Thanks to all who support Ardmore Tidy Towns.

# MAP



*Points of interest are sequenced by date*

In the following pages links can be activated using the QR codes or by clicking on the red boxes on those pages.

# 1. FIFTH CENTURY GRAVE



3D MODEL OF GRAVE



Probable original grave site for St. Declan of Ardmore. This is one of the oldest Christian graves in Ireland potentially dating to the 5th century AD. Situated within An Beannacháin, an 8th/9th century shrine chapel which was badly damaged and repaired after a 1641 Siege.

Traces of the oldest building are evident on the W side.

<https://qrco.de/be8rCH>

## 2. THE OLDEST MEMORIAL



OGHAM WEBSITE



One of three Ogam stones associated with the Early Medieval ecclesiastical site. The ogam spells Amadu which translates as the Latin word *Amatus* meaning Beloved. As Ogam stones are almost exclusively dedicated to males we take this stone to refer to the nearby burial of a man named Amatus/Beloved. Names in that era were very different to nowadays.

<https://qrco.de/be8zBA>

# 3. THE OLDEST CHURCH



Web story



The oldest stone church, dating to the 800s/900s AD, is evident when you examine the stones in the north wall of the chancel. The largest dressed stones are much larger than the stone used in later modifications. This chancel subsequently became the Church of Ireland church before St. Paul's was built in the 1820/30s, further down Chapel Hill.

<https://qrco.de/beAjle>

# 4. THE ROUND TOWER



WEBPAGE



The 12th century round tower measures approximately 29 m in height and 5 m in diameter externally at the base. The only door is located 4.2 m above ground level. Round towers were built without foundations which is one reason why the doors were placed at a higher level, so as not to weaken the structure. Round towers were built as part of a European fashion for bell towers.

<https://qrco.de/be98il>

# 5. THE WEST GABLE



WEBSITE



The Corpus of Romanesque Sculpture in Britain and Ireland has the best description of what is carved on the west gable (<https://www.crsbi.ac.uk/>).

We have also summarised the information in our website post. The panels mainly show scenes from the Old Testament and also, probably, some local clergy/bishops/saints.

<https://qrco.de/be90RI>

# 6. MASONS OF ARDMORE



Headstone Story



This headstone appears plain and unremarkable but in 2015 digital archaeologist Simon Dowling identified seven different figures carved on both sides of this grave marker.

The faint inscription is dedicated to PW and LW, masons of Ardmore, who died aged 50 and 24 respectively. The stone probably dates to the mid-1700s.

<https://qrco.de/be8tFK>

# 7. FUGES VAULT



WEBSITE STORY



Local historian Tommy Mooney tells us a team of German students cleaned up the interior of the cathedral in 1965/6. As part of that process the red sandstone Fuges graveslab was removed to reveal a burial vault beneath. Tommy and Jim Rooney examined the vault along with Jimmy Flynn (RIP) and Donal O'Brien (RIP). The vault is over 3m deep.

<https://qrco.de/be90ai>

# 8. FOX'S GRAVE



Gravestone



In 2016 local historian James Quain told us the story of John Fox's grave. Situated on the north side of the graveyard the gravestone inscription refers to John Fox who died in March 1877. Mr Fox was a missionary of the Protestant faith whose fluency in the Irish language made him notorious amongst local Catholics. Starting in the 1830s Fox lived through some hard times.

<https://qrco.de/beAiR9>

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**ARDMORE TIDY TOWNS**



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