



Education grant awarded to Bangor Cathedral

Owen Edwards

From September to November 2011, the Churches Tourism Network Wales (CTNW), in partnership with Ecclesiastical Insurance and the Church in Wales, launched a brand-new initiative aimed at encouraging innovation, creativity and enterprise in churches and chapels in Wales. Called 'Encouraging Enterprising Churches', churches and chapels were invited to tender an application for a grant of up to £6000 for a project that was 'inspirational' and 'imaginative', and that would 'enhance the place of worship in the local and visitor community.' The judging panel comprised experts in property, building conservation, church administration and finance, and architecture. The panel members were:

- John Winton, National Director of CTNW
- Philip Dunseath, Area Surveyor for Ecclesiastical Insurance
- Alex Glanville, Head of Property, Representative Body of the Church in Wales
- Michelle Freeman, Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of Bangor

- Paul Loveluck, former CEO of Wales Tourist Board; CEO Countryside Council for Wales; President of National Museums and Galleries of Wales
- David Howell, PhD student and Lecturer, University of Wales, Newport

More than 50 churches and chapels from a number of Christian denominations in Wales submitted proposals. Of these, nine were shortlisted by the judging panel as particularly worthy of further investigation.

Encouraging enterprise at Bangor Cathedral

In collaboration with the St Mary's Centre, Bangor Cathedral submitted an entry, detailing its plans for enhancing and extending its ministry to families, schools and visitors. The proposed project would develop a welcoming area themed around Teddy Horsley, a well-known and well-loved character from a series of Christian children's books, authored by the Cathedral's own Canon Theologian, Leslie Francis. The project draws upon Teddy Horsley's established reputation and wide appeal to develop the mission and ministry of Bangor Cathedral within the city and diocese of Bangor, and to promote Bangor Cathedral as a tourist attraction, bringing in children and families from across Wales and further afield.

The proposal submitted by the Cathedral included the following areas for development among others:

- the transformation of the existing welcoming area into a Teddy Horsley story-telling and activity area;
- the development of the Teddy Horsley Visits Bangor Cathedral storybook (currently in press) into an interactive audio tour/trail;
- the creation of a Teddy Horsley website with free activities and resources for schools, visitors and families.

Winning the award

The judging panel approved of the proposed project and included it in their shortlist of nine churches and chapels. The panel then came to visit the cathedral and hear a presentation on how the project would be implemented. They were greeted by Teddy Horsley and his friend, Betsy Bear, at the north door of the cathedral, and were given a tour of the cathedral and the area where the proposed welcoming centre is to be located. Shortly after the judges' visit, the St Mary's Centre was informed of the panel's decision to award the project the sum of £1500.



**Very Revd Sue Jones and Owen Edwards with
Dan Clayton-Jones**

At the end of April 2012, the Dean of Bangor Cathedral, the Very Reverend Dr Sue Jones, and a representative of the St Mary's Centre, Mr Owen Edwards, attended a presentation ceremony in Cardiff, where they received a certificate from Mr Dan Clayton-Jones OBE, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Four other places of worship also received awards, in recognition of their vision and enterprise.