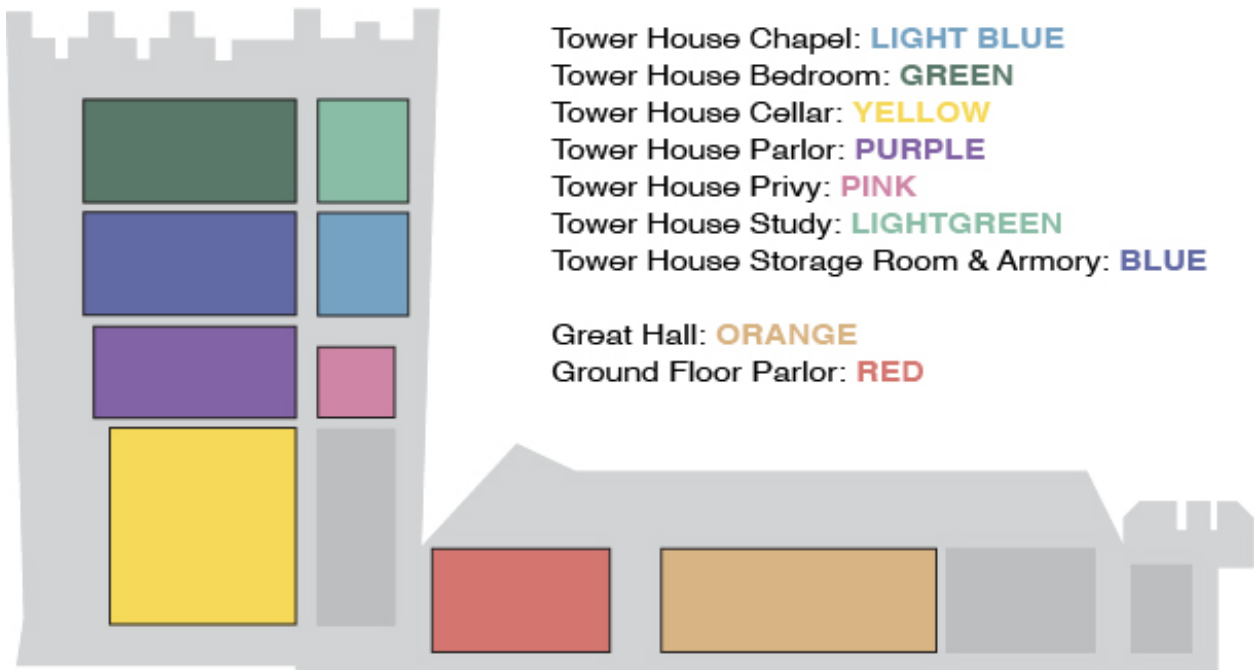
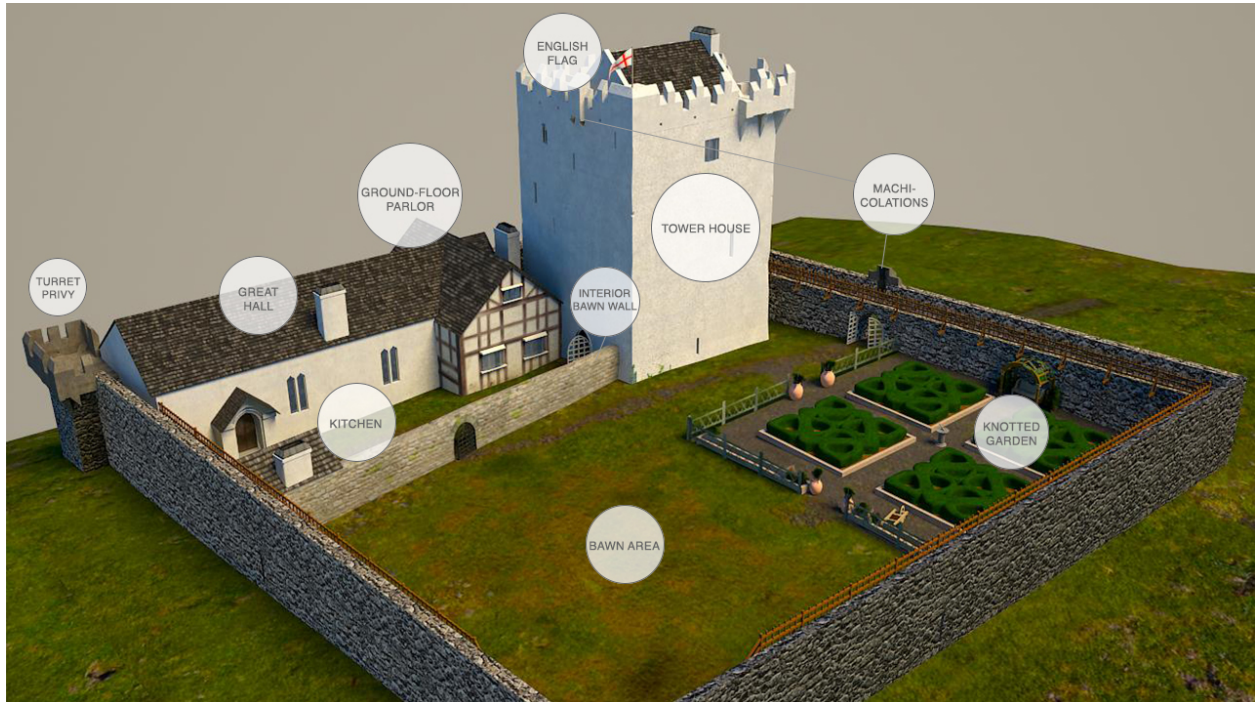


## Chapel Teacher Pack



### 1. Introduction: The Reformation in Ireland

The tour of the chapel provides an overview of religious change in Ireland during the sixteenth century. The imposition, enforcement and local reactions to the Protestant Reformation in Ireland were unlike elsewhere for a number of reasons, which include considerations like the Irish church's weak economic position, the absence of religious debates like those taking place in England and the Continent, and crown-community relations more generally. The first station, the cross, addresses the introduction of Reformation legislation in Ireland. The second station, the bible, explores issues of religious enforcement and evangelisation. The final station, the table with chalice, surveys native reactions to religious change and how, over time, religious practice became a statement of political values.

## **2. Extra textual context and sources**

### **The Cross: Religious Change**

Context exercise: Students should investigate the reasons why Reformation legislation passed so easily in Ireland in 1536 compared to England. Depending on class size, students can be divided into three groups, each focussing on one of the following: 1) religious explanations; 2) political explanations; 3) social and cultural explanations. Students can research these topics using internet resources and databases, like *Corpus of Electronic Texts*, and/or using some of the sources listed in the bibliography below.

The first group should explore the state of religion in Ireland by considering aspects of religious practice amongst Ireland's Gaelic and English communities, the condition of church finances and infrastructure, and the prevalence of religious debate. Politically, the aftermath of the Kildare Rebellion is important because, in suppressing the rebellion and executing or attainting Kildare's leading supporters, the administration had eliminated serious opposition within parliament. Social and cultural concerns at the time were embedded in the Old English community's political outlook. They believed that religious reform was a sign of greater crown interest in Ireland and a commitment to reform the lordship more generally.

### **2(a). Additional Resources**

Podcast link: Church of Ireland Historical Society, Reformation 500 podcast series:

<http://churchofirelandhist.org/reformation-500-conference/>

- In 2017, the Church of Ireland Historical Society held a conference marking the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. It has made a series of podcasts by leading scholars of the Reformations in Ireland available online. These lectures cover a wide variety of topics relating to the Reformations in Ireland.

## **3. Bibliography**

Karl S. Bottigheimer, 'The failure of the reformation in Ireland: *une question bien posee*', *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, xxxvi (1985), pp 196-206.

Brendan Bradshaw, *The dissolution of the religious orders in Ireland under Henry VIII* (Cambridge, 1974)

Brendan Bradshaw, "Sword, word and strategy in the Irish Reformation," *Historical Journal*, Vol. 21, No. 3 (1978), pp. 475-502.

Ciaran Brady, "Conservative subversives: the community of the Pale and the Dublin administration, 1556-86", in P. Corish (ed.), *Radicals, Rebels and Establishments* (Belfast, 1985), pp. 11-32.

Nicholas Canny, 'Why the reformation failed in Ireland: *une question mal posee*', *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, xxx (1979), pp 432-50.

Steven G. Ellis, 'Economic problems of the church: why the reformation failed in Ireland', *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, xli (1990), pp 239-63.

Steven G. Ellis, 'John Bale, bishop of Ossory, 1552-3', *Butler Society Journal*, ii, no. 3 (1984), pp 283-92.

Alan Ford, *The Protestant Reformation in Ireland, 1590-1640* (Dublin, 1997)

Henry A. Jefferies, "Why the Reformation failed in Ireland", *Irish Historical Studies*, xl (2016), pp 151-70.

Henry A. Jefferies, "The Church Among Two Nations: Armagh on the Eve of the Tudor Reformations," *History Ireland*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (1998), pp. 17-21.

James Murray, *Enforcing the English Reformation in Ireland* (Cambridge, 2009)

#### **4. Teaching Plan**

Below are some general questions designed to get students thinking about how religious change was implemented in Ireland and the obstacles reformers faced when doing so. There are also two student-led group exercises which encourage students to consider the complexities of the Reformation in Ireland.

##### General Discussion Questions

- 1) How and why is the history of the Reformation different in Ireland?
- 2) Why did the Reformation legislation pass so easily through the Irish parliament in 1536?

- 3) Why was the Reformation difficult to enforce in Ireland? In your opinion, which obstacle was the greatest, and why?
- 4) What political and social considerations determined reactions to religious change in Ireland?
- 5) How did the Reformation manifest itself in the physical appearance of churches and religious practice?

### Class Exercise #1

Listen to Prof. Alan Ford's podcast, "The Irish Reformation: success and failure" (25:18 mins) from the Church of Ireland Historical Society, Reformation 500 series (<http://churchofirelandhist.org/reformation-500-conference/>). Divide the class into debate groups: one group should build an argument for the success of the Reformation in Ireland; the other group should construct an argument for the failure of the Reformation. Each group should prepare counter points for the arguments they expect their opponents to make.

Students should be permitted to make use of other sources to build their cases, including primary materials. They may want to cite official correspondence by clerics like William Lyon, found in the State Papers, Ireland (they can search the *Calendars of State Papers, Ireland* online at <https://archive.org>)

Things to consider:

- 1) How did the Reformation succeed?
- 2) What constitutes "success"? Examples are needed.
- 3) How did the Reformation fail?
- 4) Why did it fail? Is there evidence that proves the Reformation failed in Ireland? Examples needed.
- 5) According to Ford, what challenges do Protestant historians face when writing about the Reformation in Ireland?
- 6) How does Ireland compare with other European countries during this period?
- 7) Should historians use international comparisons to better understand the Reformation in Ireland?

### Class Exercise #2

Working in groups, students can select a podcast of their choice from the Church of Ireland Historical Society, Reformation 500 podcasts. They should prepare a 5-minute presentation about the podcast explaining the topic, historiographical issues, and questions raised by the speaker. They should also prepare a list of their own questions (2-5 questions) to stimulate class discussion on the issues raised by the podcast. At all times, the differing experiences and views of Irish and Old English Catholics should be considered alongside those of New English Protestant reformers.