

been a famous Franciscan, but never a Dominican; more likely still, a Passionist or a Redemptorist, but hardly a Jesuit. "No one," pertinently wrote The Church Times after his death, "was less monastic, less capable of really entering into the spirit, living the life, following the rule of St Benedict and the Benedictines...at no time did he show himself capable of living and working with others. From his earliest days he was in conflict not only with his opponents and with authority, but also with those who were his friends.....He lived as he pleased, and called his life monastic. The obedience which he gave to none, and not even to the Rule, he exacted from others, even with rigour." Nevertheless, the real and permanent achievement of the life of Ignatius was as a religious. Every monk, friar and clerk regular in England to-day owes gratitude to him for all he did to familiarise the people of England and Wales with the forgotten, misjudged or vilified idea of monasticism..."When Cardinal Manning appeared, English people on the whole believed that a priest was untrustworthy: Manning gave England the vision of a good priest. When Ignatius appeared, English people believed, as a whole, that a monk must be mad or bad or both. He gave England the vision of a good and loving man, who was nevertheless a monk.... The path of all monks has been easier for the life and sacrifice of Ignatius. What Ignatius did for England with regard to the religious life was what Manning did with regard to the priesthood." So writes one of the best-known religious of the Anglican community to-day. After reading closely and in detail the events of nearly fifty years, I am disposed to believe that is not an overstatement.' So concludes Donald Attwater.

PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME - SATURDAY 29th AUGUST 1992

- 1130 am The Holy Eucharist at St David's Church, Llanthony.
- 1200 Roman Catholic Mass in the private chapel at
midday The Monastery, Capel-y-ffin.
- 2.30 pm Procession leaves Capel-y-ffin church for The Monastery where the sermon at Evensong will be given by the Right Reverend Daniel Mullins, Bishop of Menevia.

Refreshments will be available after the service at The Monastery by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Knill.

Please note that this date falls on the Late Summer Bank Holiday week-end. Car parking will be available both in the official car park at Llanthony for the morning service at St. David's Church and also in the camping field at Capel-y-ffin, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Lloyd of Chapel Farm. Visitors are asked not to attempt to park their cars at The Monastery itself, please, as this will cause difficulty, congestion and obstruct the pilgrimage procession arrangement.

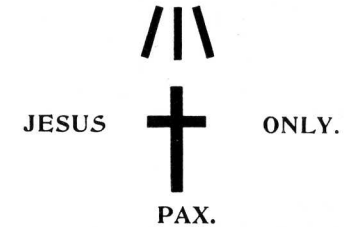
Please join us for the pilgrimage both at Llanthony and at Capel-y-ffin if you possibly can.

WILFRED DAVIES
Hon Secretary for the Trustees

THE FATHER IGNATIUS MEMORIAL TRUST
Charity Commissioners' Registration No. 253225



Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BYD.



NEWSLETTER NO. 20 - MARCH 1992

Trustees

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Revd Brocard Sewell O Carm | The Revd Canon Ivor Ll Davies |
| The Very Revd Canon Stanley Luff | The Revd Hugh Allen |
| The Revd Jeremy Dowding | The Revd Thomas Dunn |
| Mr Douglas Lyne Hon Archivist | Mrs Joan Wheeler |
| Mr William Jackson Hon Treasurer | Mr Stanley Knill |
| Mr Wilfred Davies | Hon Secretary |

Correspondence to:- Hon Secretary, The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust, Park House, 67 Park Street, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 5YD.
Tel:- 0873 853543

SUMMER SCHOOL AT BELMONT ABBEY Including day visitors, some twenty people attended this very successful event; eight of these were Anglican clergy and the programme was arranged by Canon Luff in conjunction with Dom Simon McGurk, Guestmaster at Belmont.

Belmont Abbey seems to have been the first monastery in Ignatius's experience. It had not long been founded when the young Revd Joseph Leycester Lyne stayed at Clehonger vicarage a mile or two away. Belmont was a unique monastery in two ways: Benedictines do not form a province with one house designated to receive novices; they do not strictly form an Order. Each house is autonomous and should have its own novitiate. But Belmont became a shared novitiate for several houses of the English Congregation. It also followed the mediaeval tradition of cathedrals with monasteries attached such as Canterbury and Durham and was made the Cathedral-Priory of the Catholic Diocese of Newport and Menevia, with the Bishop residing in the monastery. The 'young Puseyite', Ignatius, was observed praying prostrate in the church (to quote from the diary of a monk for December 17th 1861) and afterwards asked the Prior for a hair-shirt. One must doubt whether he got one! However, he did receive something much more significant - a copy of the Rule of St. Benedict.

It seemed appropriate therefore to make our first day one of monastic experience, so we proposed to attend the Conventual Mass and other offices. It so happened that an elderly monk had died and the funeral was to be held that day, so we attended the Requiem and interment in the monastery graveyard - all very impressive.

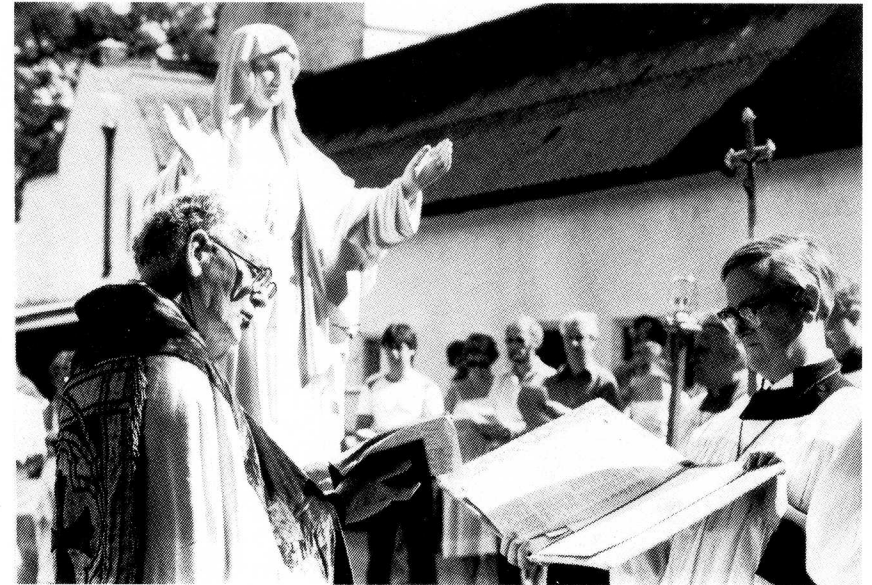
Canon Luff's talk gathered various threads of evidence to support his title 'The Spirituality of Father Ignatius'; his devotion to Scripture, the intense focus of his life, particularly after the mystical experience at Blackgang Chine, on 'Jesus Only', and the deep sense of sincerity and personal love of Our Lord that impressed so many. A Devil's Advocate could of course find fuel in the relative (only relative) 'unsuccess' of Ignatius's monastic career and would perhaps have taken a more satirical view.

An afternoon visit to the tiny church at Kilpeck in the bright sunshine proved more than entertaining. It is the outstanding example of the Herefordshire school of Romanesque, rather Viking in style. Canon Luff read a passage from 'Hawker's Daily Portion', marginally noted as having been read there at Kilpeck by Ignatius in 1904. He stayed several times at Kilpeck and it would be interesting to learn what the connection was.

The second day began with an Anglican Eucharist at Clehonger. Following this we drove to Capel-y-ffin and sang Vespers in The Monastery chapel, following as closely as possible the text prepared by Ignatius for the Feast he instituted to commemorate the Apparitions of 1880. Canon Ivor Davies then gave a scholarly review of other well-known appearances of the Blessed Virgin (mostly in France) and related them to the significance of the reported events at Capel-y-ffin. On the way back to Belmont we visited Kilvert's grave at Bredwardine and the grave of 'Little Davy' a few yards away. If you do not know the story of Little Davy it is worth looking up the famous Diary. It occurs at the very end of Kilvert's life. In the evening, Dom Simon, Belmont Guestmaster and an excellent host, showed us the treasures of the Abbey sacristy including some mediaeval vestments and a chalice with an inset diamond which once belonged to Marie Antoinette.

We must surely look forward to another Summer School. Suggestions for talks would be welcome indeed, together with volunteers to give them. Belmont, which is on the outskirts of Hereford, is comfortable, suitable and handy, but alternative suggestions for accommodation could be considered.

MALCOLM GOULD Some of our readers will not have heard of the death last year of Mr Malcolm Gould. This came as a great shock to us all. Although we knew he was ill, the severity of his illness was not realised until his transfer to the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre at Birmingham. The sadness which followed his death has touched many of us far and wide and his loss has been deeply felt both in Blaenavon and throughout the diocese. He had been a loyal supporter of the work of The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust for the past twenty years, one of our Trustees for the past eight years and latterly our Hon Treasurer. A traditional Anglo-Catholic and veteran member of The Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary, Malcolm had served for 27 years at St Peter's Church, Blaenavon, as organist and later as Treasurer and Churchwarden. At our last meeting, Trustees stood in silence to his memory as Canon Ivor Davies led a prayer in commemoration of his life and commitment to the work of the Church and the Trust.



The scene above is from a photograph taken on the forecourt of The Monastery during the annual pilgrimage about five years ago, when Canon Ivor Davies was the celebrant (on the left), with Malcolm Gould (on the right), serving. Malcolm played a key rôle as Master of Ceremonies in the organisation of each pilgrimage, arranging the music for the event and accompanying the psalms and hymns on the tiny portable organ keyboard.

HOME AGAIN TO WALES ! It was a pleasure to see the return of one of our trustees, The Revd Hugh Allen, to the Diocese of Monmouth after a brief period of duty in the Diocese of Southwark. Many of us attended his Induction on 24th October last year in the Parish Church of St Paul, Cwmtillery, as Vicar of the parishes of Cwmtillery and Six Bells. Fr Hugh has been a key figure in the administration of the affairs of the Trust and in the organisation of our annual pilgrimages for the past twenty years.

ANOTHER LOCAL APPOINTMENT Many will recall the appointment of Mr Jeremy Dowding to our Board of Trustees in March 1989. He has been a regular supporter of the annual pilgrimage to Llanthony and Capel-y-ffin for many years past and has recently spent two years training for the ministry in Oxford. It gave us great pleasure to be present at the 1991 Petertide Ordination in St Woolos' Cathedral, Newport, when he was made Deacon. The Revd J.C. Dowding is now serving as curate in the parish of St Stephen with Holy Trinity, Newport, and will continue his work for the Trust as Master of Ceremonies at our future annual events.



The Revd Jeremy Dowding (centre) in last year's pilgrimage procession at Capel-y-ffin.

PILGRIMAGE - 1991 Veteran pilgrims to Llanthony and Capel-y-ffin will recall occasions when they have been lashed with wind and rain - a challenge to stout hearts. On Saturday 31st August 1991 however even the most cautious might have been tempted to leave both umbrella and raincoat at home. The weather forecast was set fair and, indeed, the sun shone upon us all throughout the day. The Holy Eucharist at St David's in the morning was led by the parish priest, The Revd Thomas Dunn of Llanfihangel Crucorney. People then picnicked cheerfully in the bright air either at the tables at Llanthony Priory or in the Chapel Farm camping field at Capel-y-ffin.

The celebrant at Evensong last year was Canon Stanley Luff. Each year it is traditional for the celebrant at Capel-y-ffin to wear the cope that once belonged to Father Ignatius himself. At Evensong that afternoon the address was given by the Revd Jeremy Dowding. He drew attention to the importance of pilgrimage in our lives :- 'What is it that attracts us? What is it that brings us to this isolated spot year after year? Well, one thing that I find very attractive is that this is an ecumenical pilgrimage and it has become a focus of unity between Roman Catholics and Anglicans as well as other denominations. It is a small focus of unity but nonetheless, I feel, a very good one and I thank God for it.....' About 100 people came to the pilgrimage, a heart-warming number, and although tiny when compared to other similar events elsewhere it would be inappropriate and difficult in this remote and rural setting for very large numbers to gather.



Part of the 1991 Pilgrimage procession at Capel-y-ffin

THE ABBEY CHURCH Following the death of its founder, Fr Ignatius, in 1908 and the transfer of ownership of The Monastery at Capel-y-ffin to the community on Caldey Island, funds for the upkeep of the place dried up. The quadrangle of the cloister buildings passed into private hands and from then on was kept in reasonable repair. But the church containing the tomb of the founder stood apart, alone and neglected.

The Revd Frederick H. Mountney, Vicar of All Saints' Church, Hereford, was one of the founder members of The Fr Ignatius Memorial Trust in 1967. Preaching at The Church of St. John, Maddermarket, Norwich, on 16th October 1968, he said :- 'Ten years ago to-day at the little private chapel which Eric Gill set apart in the monastery at Capel-y-ffin, Monmouthshire, I celebrated a Requiem Mass on the 50th anniversary of the death of Fr Ignatius. On the previous evening I arrived at the monastery with my MC from All Saints' Church, Hereford, Mr Leonard Croker, and we were joined there by Mr Sam Gurney and Mr Ivor Bulmer Thomas.....Outside was the ruined monastic chapel, full of weeds and bits of broken masonry scattered over the grave of Joseph Leicester Lyne, the eccentric and unorthodox founder and abbot of the first Benedictine community in the Church of England since the Reformation.'

As a result of Fr Mountney's enthusiasm, supported by fellow trustees and volunteer team-work, a good deal has been achieved since those days. Repairs have been carried out following wall collapses from time to time. The tomb was re-tiled and is again due for re-tiling this year. One of our trustees is Mr Stanley Knill, the present owner of The Monastery and lands. The Church itself however remains the property of the Trust. As a career civil engineer, Stanley Knill's advice and practical help with our maintenance problems have been invaluable. Moreover, he has produced a detailed twelve-page

structural report on the ruin together with recommendations for work necessary to prevent it falling into further decline. Although no formal estimate from a contractor has yet been secured, Mr Knill finds the indications are that the cost of pointing, grouting, capping and tie-bolting would be not less than £41,000.

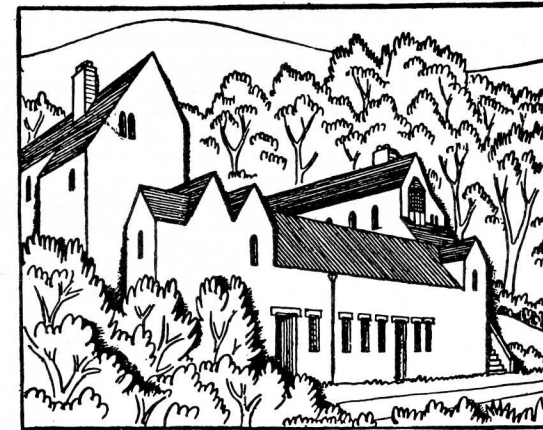
Our faithful and regular supporters will realise, we feel sure, that their kind donations in response to our Newsletters just enable us to meet our normal annual needs and to build up a small emergency reserve. The Trust never has sought a fixed annual subscription but simply leaves it to our friends to decide what they can contribute. And, indeed, this has been enough, over the years, to keep the Trust going as a very small but viable charity. However, the very large sum now needed to stabilise the remaining structure of the Abbey Church is far beyond the means of our normal income. Obviously, a major fund-raising campaign is needed. But how are we to raise that kind of sum to keep an old Abbey Church in a remote area of the Black Mountains from falling down, when there are so many other deeply-moving humanitarian causes competing for charitable help from us all? Trustees have considered levelling the walls down to a safe height, but even demolition, removal of rubble, together with capping, pointing and grouting etc of the remaining boundary walls would itself be very costly. The church was built in 1872. It is not an 'ancient monument' and was not very well constructed in the first place. But, even as a ruin, the Abbey Church still has pleasing architectural features, together with a special grace and beauty of its own. Many, we feel, would be deeply dismayed at any proposed drastic demolition job. Moreover, it is classified by the Welsh Office as a Grade II Listed Building.



The Abbey Church - Capel-y-ffin

The main effort of raising such a large sum of money would, we feel, have to be directed mainly to existing charities that already have appeals of this kind within their terms of reference for grant-aid. We would appreciate the practical help and advice of friends with this and will be seeking to recruit an energetic volunteer fund-raiser with the time and expertise to take on a project of this kind. Are there any volunteers out there, we wonder?

THE MONASTERY
AT
CAPEL-Y-FFIN



From a drawing of the Monastery by Eric Gill (1934)

A History and Guide
by S.G.A Luff

Canon of St. Joseph's Cathedral
Swansea

Published on behalf of
The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust
(A charity registered with the
Charity Commissioners-Registration Number 253225)

The Trust has just published the above little 12-page book. Copies can be purchased from Hon Secretary (Wilfred Davies - address on Page 1 of this Newsletter) for £1, but please add 20p to cover postage etc or multiples of 20p if more than one copy is required.

We feel this small publication is essential reading for anyone interested in the story of Llanthony. It also has a good selection of photographs some of which will be new to the reader. These include a reproduction of the only known picture of Fr Ignatius preaching to a large crowd. Unfortunately the quality of the old print is not very good but as a photographic record it is unique. It was taken by a 'Western Mail' photographer at the National Eisteddfod held at Newport, Gwent, in 1897.

A piece in 'The Western Mail' published the day before the Eisteddfod ran thus:-

'The Monk of Llanthony, Fr Ignatius, is at once a picturesque and impressive figure. He has already made a sensation in Newport and we doubt not that many inhabitants will avail themselves of the opportunity to hear him speak at the Gorsedd tomorrow. His personality and his position are alike unique. He is a deacon of the Church of England but a monk of the Order of St Benedict. Judged by nineteenth century ideals he is a strange mixture of unconventionality and rigid orthodoxy; and his theology is as mediaeval as his garb. He lashes the vices and follies of the age; trumpet-tongued he declares woe to his generation; with burning words he denounces the indifference of the day. He walks the streets with sandalled feet, his monkish robes of black girded with a knotted cord, his shaven head bare to the rain and the sun. Eloquence he has - the eloquence of word and gesture; words flow from his lips like water to the mill wheel; he has faith, fire and fascination and altogether he is one of the most remarkable men of the day.'

A NEW TRUSTEE A new trustee, yes, but already an old friend to many of us - The Revd Thomas Dunn of Llanfihangel Crucorney arrived to take over as parish priest there several years ago. His local churches include not only St Michael's at Crucorney but also St Martin's at Cwmyoy (the historic church with the leaning tower) and St David's at Llanthony. Fr Thomas was appointed a trustee at the Spring Meeting of our trustees this year. A strong believer in the importance of the pilgrimage principle in the life of the Church, he is keenly aware of the religious tradition and significance, not only of Capel-y-ffin but of the whole of the Llanthony Valley, with its 12th Century Priory and all the chapels and churches throughout its length. Fr Thomas will also take over as Hon Secretary of the Trust on 1st August this year. Trust correspondence thereafter should be addressed to him at The Vicarage, Llanfihangel Crucorney, Abergavenny, Gwent NP7 8DH. Telephone number:- 0873 890349. Wilfred Davies who has been Hon Sec since the Trust was founded twenty-five years ago will not be disappearing from the scene however, continuing to serve the Trust in the production and distribution of publications and newsletters.



The Revd Thomas Dunn (3rd from right) at an earlier pilgrimage.

TRUST ARCHIVES AND ARTEFACTS During the past twenty-five years, the Trust has accrued a significant amount of Ignatiana. Much of this material has been donated by friends of the Trust, anxious that items of interest they have had for many years may find a safe home in perpetuity and be available for study.

Trustees have for some time been concerned to find a suitable home with all the necessary facilities for secure and permanent custody of these items. Indeed, we are at present in touch with Monmouth Borough Council with a view to the archive being handed over by formal legal deed for future custody by the Castle Museum in Abergavenny. A draft deed will provide for the materials to be kept in purpose-built archival storage in the optimum conditions for safe custody of paper, books, photographs and artefacts. Given adequate notice, the archive would also be made permanently available for examination by students and other researchers at the discretion of the Curator. Certainly, Abergavenny would seem to be the most suitable centre for the archive. Its Castle, the nearest museum to Capel-y-ffin, is very suitably located for access by visitors and open to the public throughout the year.



Another interesting addition to the archive was received this year through the thoughtfulness of Mrs M. Winnington-Ingram, a long-time supporter of the work of the Trust. Her brother, Mr Michael Lyne, had been given two photograph albums and some books many years ago. These were now in the possession of Mrs J. Lyne, Mr Lyne's widow, who wanted to give them to the Trust for safe custody. These have now been acquired and constitute a very interesting and valuable addition to the archive. The albums seem to have been originally the property of Mr Alfred

Field, a dedicated mission worker for Father Ignatius. One of the albums contains the delightful photograph shown below of Mr Field and a colleague on street duty in London advertising a Lenten Mission Service by Father Ignatius at the Portman Rooms, Dorset Street.



(L to R) Mr Ernest L. Clarke and Mr Alfred Field, London, 1898

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE - 1992 The pilgrimage to Llanthony and Capel-y-ffin this year will be on SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST. This is the week-end of the Late Summer Bank Holiday and full details of timings etc can be found on the last page of this Newsletter. The charm of the day is that it all seems to come together with the minimum of fuss and organisation and leaves, one feels, a profound and lasting impression upon those of us who come, making us glad that we made the effort. It is almost a kind of extended family affair too, as Canon Stanley Luff said in his sermon at Capel-y-ffin in 1984 :- 'While I was walking in the procession at last year's pilgrimage a lady asked me, "What is this all about ? We are just on holiday and got caught up in it !" I hope that every year there are a few people who will "get caught up in it".....Years before I became a priest, I came this way twice on holiday. The first time I lodged at a house in Hay where, reputedly, John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, both lodged and preached. The dear old lady, whose guest I was, told me that though she was a non-conformist she had, as a child, walked over the mountain to

hear the Father preach and, since then, whenever she was in need, she would travel to Hereford to pray before Ignatius's statue of Our Lady in All Saints church - the one that has now returned here and is on the drive behind you.'

The preacher at our pilgrimage this year will be the Right Reverend Daniel Mullins, Bishop of Menevia. We are also hoping, once again, to have a band to accompany the procession and the hymns for the occasion. Many will recall the days when the Abergavenny Borough Band would play for the event bringing additional colour and zest to the day and giving musical leadership to our sometimes faltering voices as we climbed the hill.

ANOTHER NEW PUBLICATION The leaflet featured below has just recently been published by the Brecon Beacons National Park authority to replace an earlier and much smaller leaflet. It is a handsome publication consisting of six panels each 30cm x 14cm and produced in conjunction with The Fr Ignatius Memorial Trust; a good deal of the content is derived from Trust archive material. A copy can be obtained from any of the National Park Information Centres after they open about the second week in April this year or by post from the Brecon Beacons National Park Office, 7 Glamorgan Street, Brecon, Powys LD3 7DP enclosing a fee of 70p.

THE MONASTIC BUILDINGS AND ERGUGGLE

HERE BEGINS THE BOOK OF THE TALES OF CANTERBURY

Further reading

FR IGNATIUS AND HIS MONASTERY
LLANTHONY YFFIN & CAPEL YFFIN

How to get to Capel y Ffin

'FATHER IGNATIUS OF LLANTHONY' Donald Attwater lived and worked at The Monastery during the Gill period 1924 - 1928. His biography of Ignatius with this title was published in 1931 (Cassell & Co Ltd). In summing up the life and times of Ignatius he writes 'He would not have been a monk, a Carthusian or a Cistercian or a Benedictine of any of the observances.... He imposed a monk's life, cloistered and contemplative, on his monks, but found his own vocation in the life of a friar. Had he been a Catholic and could he have effaced himself sufficiently to undergo a successful novitiate, he might have