

PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME

Saturday 25th August 2007

12 noon

Solemn Eucharist at **St David's Church, Llanthony.**

1.30pm

Assemble **outside St David's Church** for Pilgrimage Walk.

3.30pm

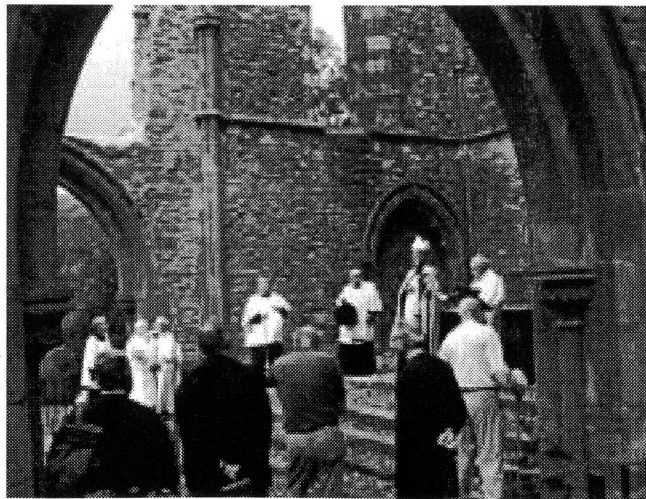
Ecumenical Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary at **St Mary's Church, Capel-y-ffin** with address by the Very Rev. L.A. Black ssc.

This service is followed by the Procession to **The Monastery and Abbey Church** with stations at the **Wayside Calvary** and at the **Statue of Our Lady of Llanthony.**

Car parking is available in the official Car park at Llanthony Priory for the Eucharist at S. David's and in the field at Chapel Farm, Capel-y-ffin by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Watkins, for the afternoon event.

The usual pilgrimage walk will take place in the afternoon. Stout footwear is essential and weather-proof clothing is suggested.

n.b. The Father Ignatius Memorial Society is on the web:
www.fatherignatius.com



Inside the Abbey Church, Pilgrimage 2006

Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BŶD



JESUS



ONLY



PAX

The Father
Ignatius
Memorial
Trust Charity Commissioners'
Registration No. 253225

NEWSLETTER

No. 35, SUMMER 2007

now with website at:
www.fatherignatius.com

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Mr Douglas Lyne
Hon Archivist
Mrs Elizabeth Hackett Pain
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Mr Andrew Downey (MOC)
Mr Stanley Knill
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The Venerable Fr Martin Williams
The Revd Richard Williams
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Mr Michael Woodward
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A Pilgrimage Association?

I HAVE BEEN ASKED MANY TIMES BY VARIOUS LLANTHONY pilgrims, 'Is there a society or an association we can join?' The answer has always had to be 'No, the pilgrimage is run by a trust and the only members are the trustees.'

I personally have long felt that it would be a good thing to have an association that pilgrims and other interested persons may join. For one thing it would give more of a sense of belonging to those who come year after year to the pilgrimage.

Like the Trust, it would be ecumenical and it would, I hope, be concerned with prayerful invocation of our Blessed Lady under the title 'Our Lady of Llanthony' which would take place all the year round, not just at the end of August.

Recently the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust has begun to address this whole issue by setting up a working party to look into the possibility of forming a Pilgrimage Association in connection with the Llanthony Pilgrimage.

The working party has met under the chairmanship of the Venerable Martin Williams, the former Archdeacon of Margam, and has already submitted some of its findings to the trustees in advance of our next meeting which takes place in the late autumn.

When the trustees have had time to absorb and possibly act on the report of the working party you should hear more about this venture, if venture it is to be.

In the meantime please help us with your prayers and any comments you may wish to make to trustees as to the desirability of founding such an association.

Father Jeremy C. Dowding SSC

From the Chairman...

The Vicarage, Mill Lane,
Thorpe-le-Soken,
Clacton-on-Sea,
Essex

CO16 0ED

Feast of Saint Benedict, 11th July 2007

GLOBAL WARMING hasn't so far lived up to its reputation this summer but I can recall a number of wet and miserable summers which led to beautiful August Bank Holidays, so don't give up hope of a lovely day for the pilgrimage which is on 25th August, when Bishop David will be with us to preside at the Mass again, and our guest preacher in the afternoon will be coming all the way from the north of Scotland. He is the Very Reverend Len Black, ssc, who has the dual title of Rector of St Michael and All Angels, Inverness and Dean/Provost of Moray and Ross.

I look forward very much to hearing what Fr Len has to say which will no doubt include some references to Fr Ignatius' time as a catechist in Inverness.

Ignatius in Scotland

Those who have studied the various biographies of Fr Ignatius will be aware of the time spent by the young Joseph Leycester Lyne in Scotland. When at the age of

nineteen, Joseph left the educational establishment of Mr Wright at Spalding, his father, who was very much against his High Church leanings, refused to support him in his desire to train for holy orders.

It was one Dr Eden, a relative of Mrs Lyne, who came to his rescue on this occasion and arranged for him to go to the Scottish Theological College at Glenalmond. Dr Eden was the Bishop of Moray and Ross. His fees were paid by a lady well-wisher.

Young Lyne was not in all ways a good student, and although he was very dedicated in the study of Theology, he was not interested in scholarship, generally, and so, consequently, did not do very well academically but was, nonetheless, praised by the Warden, Dr Hannah and the tutor Professor William Bright for his holiness of life if not for his academic aptitude.

When Joseph Leycester Lyne left Glenalmond at the age of twenty-one, he was still two years too young to be ordained deacon, the canonical age being twenty-three. It was Dr Eden who again came to his rescue, appointing him Catechist to a Mission Church at Inverness.

The following short passage from Donald Attwater's *Father Ignatius of*

Llanthony may help set the scene for our pilgrimage preacher:

Part of his duty was to catechize a girl's school, and he very soon got into trouble for what the people called 'popery' and he called 'adhering to the rule and doctrine of the Prayer Book,' and for loudly insisting on the necessity for the Presbyterians to join the Episcopal Church. After complaints following a catechetical instruction on the feast of the Annunciation, he was interviewed by the bishop and told that he was too 'injudicious' to be retained in that post. Thereupon he accepted the invitation of a friend to sojourn with her in Glen Urquhart, where was an unministered church on her estate. Of this he took charge, organized a parish, got the Free Kirk Session on his track by filling the church with Presbyterians, and alienated by his zeal the more stodgy Episcopalians, who began to go to the Free Kirk. Dr Eden withdrew his preaching license, and young Lyne returned to his home in London.

Like so many of his attempts to serve God, this one ended in what must have felt like abject failure. But when a vocation is genuine it cannot be quashed and he was to persevere to the end of his life and in doing so brought very many

souls to God. The fact that at the age of twenty-one he could be both accused of popery and fill a church with Presbyterians speaks volumes about this very unusual man of God.

I suppose the Prayer Book referred to was the Scottish Prayer Book with which I am not very familiar, though I found the Scottish Prayer Book of 1637 on the internet and it seemed to me to have, at least, a rather more satisfactory Prayer of Consecration than the English Prayer Books of 1552, 1559 and 1662. Like many other Anglo-Catholics, I have come across a tendency on the part of some Anglicans to ignore or downplay those parts of the Prayer Book that most delight Anglo-Catholics, such as the Ornaments Rubric and the definite existence of an order for sacramental Confession, albeit in the Visitation of the Sick (English & Scottish Books). In the 1850s when the young Lyne was filling his church with Presbyterians, it didn't take very much to make some people cry 'popery'.

Anglican and Roman Catholic ecumenism wasn't on the agenda in the days of Father Ignatius. Officially it is on the agenda today, but after the heady days of ARCIC, there now must come the realisation that things are not going as well as seemed to be the case

before the ordination of women and other liberal issues brought major and seemingly irrevocable changes to the Anglican churches. From the Vatican we have recently witnessed an apparent hardening of attitude towards Anglicans among other denominations. I find this very sad as I have always hoped and prayed that that there would one day be reunion between Canterbury and the Apostolic See. However, I cannot say I am surprised, given the widening gap between the two communions, a widening caused mainly by the notion of liberal Anglicans that everything is up for grabs and that nothing is safe from change for the sake of social and political correctness.

Our pilgrimage has always been an ecumenical one and has attracted mainly Roman and Anglican Catholics. It is my prayer that this will continue and be strengthened in the years ahead and that Our Blessed Mother, Mary Most Holy, Our Lady of Llanthony will be with us and pray for us in our endeavours to stand upon common ground where possible and to share a genuine love in all things holy and good.

I do hope you can join us on 25th August and look forward to seeing many friends, new and old for a happy and holy pilgrimage.

Father Jeremy C. Dowding SSC



Father Jeremy in action during the 2006 Pilgrimage

Abergavenny Museum Exhibition

FROM 14TH JUNE UNTIL 29TH November 2006, Abergavenny Museum hosted an exhibition about Father Ignatius entitled: 'The Monk of Llanthony: The Life of Father Ignatius.' Many documents, photographs and objects from the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust Archive were displayed.

The exhibition looked at various aspects of the life of Father Ignatius. This included his early life and schooling and his entry into the Holy Orders; his life in East Anglia; his reasons for coming to the Llanthony Valley; the building of the Abbey Church at Capel-y-Ffin and the life and work of the community. Ignatius was a talented preacher, an aspect of his life which the displays also looked at. In addition the exhibition looked at life at the Monastery after the death of Ignatius. The text from one of the display panels has been reproduced in this edition of the newsletter.

The museum was extremely pleased by the way the exhibition was received. In total 10, 814 people visited the museum whilst it was on; many of whom came specifically to see the exhibition. Our front of house staff commented on the amount of people that actually stopped to read

the text in detail—reading exhibition text is not always a popular pastime with museum visitors!

Comments in our visitor book relating to the exhibition included:

Delighted to have come today—reignited my interest in Ignatius...

Great to see Father Ignatius at last...

Good to see all the Ignatius material gathered together...

Look after the rhubarb leaf...

Fabulous Ignatius exhibition!

We were also pleased that we were able to keep the exhibition up for longer than the initially proposed 3 months.

In conjunction with the exhibition, two tours of the Llanthony Valley took place in August and September. Participants visited both Llanthony Abbey and the Monastery at Capel-y-Ffin and were run by Adventa. These were very well attended and enjoyed by all.

Abergavenny Museum is currently refurbishing one of its galleries, following the award of a grant from the Welsh Assembly Government. This has been received as we are a participant in the Sharing the Treasures Scheme. This is a partnership project with Amgueddfa Cymru: The National Museum of Wales. The refurbishment will allow us to improve the security and environmental conditions within the gallery to enable us to

borrow items of national importance. This project will result in an exhibition about the artistic community at Capel-y-Ffin which flourished from the 1920s onwards. If you are interested in finding out more about this exhibition which

will look at life at Capel-y-Ffin, following the period of Father Ignatius, please contact Abergavenny Museum for further details. (01873 854282).

Rachael Rogers, Curator

A Panel from the Exhibition

PANEL 6

After Ignatius

FATHER IGNATIUS, died aged 71 on Friday 16th October 1908, following a series of strokes. He was at the house of his sister, Harriet, in Camberley. His body was brought back to Llanthony, the hearse being drawn up the valley by a team of white horses. He was buried at the monastery on Thursday 23rd October.

In his final years, Ignatius was concerned that Llanthony should remain a monastery, even a Roman Catholic one. Ignatius wanted the monastery to pass to the Roman Catholic Abbot of Buckfast. However, this intention had not been expressed in proper legal form. Father Asaph Harris took over as head of the community and with Mother Tudfil he kept the monastery going for a year. However they had little money and the community became dependant on the Anglican Benedictine community on the Island of Caldey. Of the Llanthony community only Father Asaph transferred to the Caldey.

In 1913, following difficulties with the Anglican authorities, the monks of Caldey, sought admission to the Roman Catholic Church and the community transferred to Prinknash Abbey, Gloucestershire. On 13th July, Mass was said at Llanthony Tertja for the first time by a Catholic priest. In 1946 the Prinknash Abbey community restored the thirteenth century Priory of Pluscarden near Elgin in Scotland. It was here that Father Asaph died in 1959.

It was difficult for the monks to know what to do with the monastery at Capel-y-ffin. It was looked after by a brother as caretaker and various communities looking for solitude came to view the property: many went away daunted.

'After Ignatius' ...continued on page 10

Canon Ivor Llewelyn Davies, R.I.P.

AN OBITUARY

The following appreciation of our much loved Trustee who died in 2005 was first published in *Way on High*, the magazine of the parishes of Hay-on-Wye and Llanigon with Capel-y-ffin, in August of that year.

IT IS WITH SADNESS that we report the death of Canon Ivor Davies, Vicar of Hay group of parishes 1970–1987, who passed away at his home in Church Stretton on 24th June 2005. Those who knew him, hold affectionate memories of the seventeen years he spent with us in Hay. Apart from his wise sermons, we remember the happy social occasions that took place at the vicarage (now George House), where he and his wife Ilona welcomed us to strawberry and wine parties with country dancing on the lawn, fancy dress parties in the cellar, suppers and Girls' Friendly Society Coffee Evenings, etc.

The following address was given by the former Archdeacon of Brecon, the Venerable Wynford Rees, at the funeral service at St Eigon's Church, Llanigon, where Canon Davies was laid to rest on Friday 1st July 2005.



LORD, MAKE ME TO KNOW MINE END AND **the number of my days that I may learn how short my time is. Psalm 139 v 5.** If those words cannot truthfully be attributed to Canon Ivor Davies then the plea expressed therein was strengthened by the experience of Ivor and his family during those closing weeks of his life. Ivor was a person I had known for but half a century. Even so that tall, friendly yet remote figure with a wry sense of humour, remained enigmatic to a degree to many of us outside the family, to the very end of his journey through life.

He used to enjoy the Circular Letter to the Retired Clerics, and he even questioned if I had been apprenticed to the Family News Page of the Western Mail! He would often phone to express his appreciation, especially of those who had written recalling their experiences in life. When I heard some months ago that he was unwell and in hospital I telephoned, only to be answered by Ivor himself. I listened carefully and with anxiety as he unfolded the

prognosis of his illness. 'Wynford' he said, 'you and I are sitting on a time-bomb each and we must support each other.' He had been given a short time to live so we needed to talk.

That opportunity came as his health deteriorated in the loving care of Ilona and family. He called on me and we discussed the immediate future and enjoyed our reminiscences together. It was on this occasion that he reminded me that I was always ready to quote the Psalms, even when we were discussing the Quota. That day we recalled verse after verse in our efforts to assuage our restlessness. Now for Ivor and the family it was a season of waiting—made harder as each day dawned. **Lord make me to know mine end and the number of my days that I may learn how short my time is.** Those were certainly our thoughts if not our words.

But this was Ivor who was born in 1923 and brought up in Swansea but nurtured in the Parish of Bishopston. He was educated privately and proceeded to UCW Swansea from whence he was called up for War Service in 1942. Ivor enlisted in the Welch Regiment and saw active service in Europe and Africa. We discussed at length his service in Kenya. After the war, he married Ilona and returned to graduate at Swansea before reading

Theology at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. It was after his children John and Catherine were born that he became an Assistant Curate at Knighton—later reading Theology at Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge. His first Incumbency was Talybont-on-Usk for eleven years and then from 1970 to 1987, he was Vicar of Hay-on-Wye with Llanigon and Capel-y-ffin—followed by a few years as Vicar of Knighton as a conclusion to his active ministry.

In 1977 both Ivor and I were invited to become Honorary Canons of the Cathedral and later as Canons, required to reside there from time to time. In 1989 Ivor decided to retire as Vicar of Knighton and Canon Treasurer of the Cathedral. He and Ilona soon settled happily in their new home in Church Stretton.

However, as we gather to thank God for Ivor's life and ministry, simply to read of his experiences and his contribution from Crockford's alone, would do a great injustice to the man. Who would have thought that this one-time keen hockey player would be so committed to the Lewis Carroll Society that he was asked to preach at the unveiling of a memorial to Lewis Carroll in Westminster Abbey in 1982? This committed Trustee of the Father Ignatius Society was also President of of the Clergy

Correspondence Chess Club.

This sometimes remote, always dignified priest and friend could reduce a solemn meeting to peals of laughter with but a short pithy comment or phrase. For all this, we cannot forget how, with the typical courage of the man, he faced the agony of those closing months and weeks as he, in turn, watched those who waited with him. Truly the Psalmist summed it

up: **I waited patiently for the Lord: and he inclined unto me and heard my calling.** At last his waiting came to an end. God inclined unto him and heard his calling. With our sympathy and understanding for the agony that Ilona, John and Catherine have experienced in the waiting, let our prayer be: **Well done good and faithful servant. May his soul rest in peace and rise in glory.**

June Pugh

'After Ignatius' ...continued from page 7

In 1924 it was taken over by an artistic community from Ditchling in Sussex run by the stone carver Eric Gill, and Hilary Pepler, a private press printer. Some of Gill's friends visited, including Donald Attwater who wrote a biography about Father Ignatius. The monastery remained within the Gill family until 1985.

Today

Today the Monastery is privately owned and not open to visitors. However the work of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust continues and a pilgrimage is held every August. This event is a good opportunity to view the church, statue and wayside calvary. It is also possible to see a bow window at the end of the west wing, as you approach the monastery. This was Father Ignatius's room. For further details of the work of the trust please visit www.fatherignatius.com.

Although Father Ignatius is often described as eccentric, his preaching was very powerful. A century later he might have done much to draw the Churches together. He saw how the Catholic and Evangelical parties in the Church of England could be united 'in a beautiful, living and satisfactory whole'. His motto 'Jesus Only' attracted many people of all denominations, as it still does at the annual pilgrimage, when the words of his hymn are sung:

In all my heart and will, O Jesus,
Be altogether King,
Make me a loyal subject, Jesus,
To Thee in everything.

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Progress on The Abbey Church...an Update

WORK ON THE STABILISATION of the structure ended shortly before last year's Pilgrimage, some eight month's late. Unfortunately due to lack of co-operation by the contractor the formalities relating to the Contract remain to be completed. Until the Contract is actually finalised nothing further can be done in respect of making a further application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and completing the outstanding works as originally envisaged.

As previously reported the Architect had informed the Trust that he and his Structural Engineer had agreed with the contractor that the upper parts of the east and north walls could not be demolished for safety reasons, in case it resulted in a progressive collapse although at that time, due to the contractor's slow progress, the reinforced concrete strengthening of the lower section of the east wall had not been completed. However the Architect and his Structural Engineer have declined

to provide the Trust with a statement, for insurance purposes, that they consider the structure as it stands is safe. A further consideration was that such demolition may have caused the structure to be reduced too much to satisfy the HLF, requiring rectification which could have resulted in the strictly monitored budgetary restraints to have been exceeded.

As this Contract remains incomplete nothing further has been done to consider and decide on the best way of completing the necessary work to the Abbey Church and finding the necessary funds to do so, although the Cadw Conservation Surveyor has informed the Architect that he was impressed with the work and would support a further grant application. As soon as the Final Certificate has been issued the further action necessary to fulfil these objectives will be commenced.

Stanley Knill