

PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME

Saturday 20th August 2011

11.30am

Solemn Eucharist at **St David's Church, Llanthony**. Fr Rex Matthias, Vicar of St Julian's, Newport

1.30pm

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

3.30pm

Assemble **outside St Mary's Church, Capel-y-ffin** to process to the **Wayside Calvary** and to the **Abbey Church** for the Ecumenical Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, + with address by the Abbot of Belmont, Rt Rev Paul Stonham OSB, followed by prayers at **the Statue of Our Lady of Llanthony**.

*There will be seating in the Abbey Church, but if the weather isn't suitable then the service will be held at 3.30pm at St Mary's Church, followed by the procession.

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.

Please note:

The next pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, August 18th, 2012

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



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ONLY



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*The Father
Ignatius
Memorial*

Trust Charity Commissioners'
Registration No. 253225

NEWSLETTER

No. 38, SUMMER 2011

website at:
www.fatherignatius.com

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Mr Andrew Knill
Hon Treasurer
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Hon Secretary
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The Venerable Fr Martin Williams
The Revd Richard Williams
Mr Michael Woodward

Hon Independent examiner of accounts
Mr Adrian Bruton IRRV

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Contents

- 2 THE PILGRIMAGE ASSOCIATION
Caroline Woollard
- 3 LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN:
Canon Jeremy Winston SSC
- 5 PILGRIMAGE 2010 PICTURES
Caroline Woollard
- 6 OBITUARY: WILF DAVIES
Hugh Allen
- 8 OBITUARY: WILL JACKSON
- 8 BREAKING NEWS: ILLUMINATED
MISSAL
- 10 OBITUARIES: DOUGLAS LYNE
Paul Moran & Hugh Allen
- 12 PILGRIMAGE 2011
Details of Programme
- 12 FATHER IGNATIUS AT WORK

The Pilgrimage Association

THE IDEA OF FORMING AN ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE ASSOCIATION has been well received.

The ecumenical Llanthony Pilgrimage Association seeks to further the spiritual ideas of Fr Ignatius in two ways—through the annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Llanthony at Capel-y-ffin, and by mutual support and prayer for those causes dear to his heart.

These include the evangelisation of our country, the renewal of community and monastic life in the Church and the reconciliation of divided Christians in the faith and practice of the undivided Church.

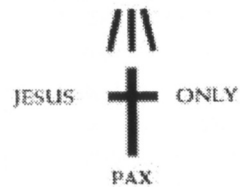
Membership of the Association is £6 per person annual (which also covers the joining fee for new members).

If you would like to know more, forms will be available at this year's pilgrimage, or contact:

The Membership Secretary,
The Llanthony Pilgrimage Association,
10 Llwynu Road,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire NP7 5TB
email: caroline@woollard.go-plus.net

Caroline Woollard
Association Membership Secretary

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From the Chairman...

The Vicarage,
Monk Street,
Abergavenny,
Monmouthshire

Feast of St Benedict, 11th July 2011

Dear Friends

Very many people make reference to the extraordinary quality of an environment which from ancient times has drawn people to contemplation and prayer. Strange as it may seem, even the headlong rush towards secularism cannot dampen the enthusiasm which the Honddu Valley inspires.

Some would consider it odd that people gather on what has often been a wet summer's day to recall those events in the past which have served as a touchstone between heaven and earth. For those first men who established a religious life there was the harshness of a medieval world racked by severe contrasts in weather and unstable political conditions. For Ignatius there was the ever-present cynicism and rejection of an established church which considered his aspirations to be largely those of a madman and firebrand. Certainly by our standards today Fr Ignatius appears odd, and the sense of compulsion which he brought to bear on those who joined him

often left people disillusioned and weakened. But whatever the human frailty and the accompanying failings, few would want to doubt that real sense of holiness which illuminated his life and opened doors and windows on heaven.

As we encounter very many difficulties in this 21st century, we might do well to find inspiration and comfort in the lives of those early religious, as well as that of Fr Ignatius himself.

The Christian church today is faced with very many problems both from within and outside. There are those who call for a more strategic approach to the church's mission, one which speaks of relevance and appropriateness. There are those who find remote religious sites to be impractical and inappropriate, preferring to concentrate resources on community based activities and the like. There are those who concentrate their efforts in addressing aspects of multiculturalism and political diversity.

Yet, whatever the sound intentions behind such activities, we would do well not to abandon a rich and timeless spiritual heritage expressed here in this valley. I am sure that I am not alone in rejecting any charge of escapism. On the contrary, it is in the embracing of a spiritual

...the Chairman continues

life that our grasp of reality becomes more effective. What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?

For the very many people who find the Llanthony Valley a spiritual magnet and for whom the vision and impetuosity of Fr Ignatius still hold appeal we would do well to turn aside and see these things which enhance and strengthen our Christian life and witness.

Whatever the draw of wondrous shrines such as Loreto and Walsingham, the apparitions at Capel y Ffin deserve more attention and contemplation than that of mere curios. They tell us of that extra-ordinary truth of our Christian faith where the immaculate holiness of a young woman greeted the angel's message of salvation. That incarnation is a daily demonstration in our own lives when we prayerfully seek to follow Christ as his disciples, when daily we seek to abandon selfishness and sin, when daily we abandon ourselves to divine providence, finding joy upon joy, revelation upon revelation and strength to go forward in the light of the Gospel.

Many of us who come to the Valley are beginning to see this heritage less as something ruinous

and charming and more as an opportunity to enthuse once again the wider Christian community with those simple Gospel truths. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this 21st century were to witness a renaissance in pilgrimage and in prayer through our endeavours assisted by the prayers of Our Lady of Llanthony? I am sure Fr Ignatius would approve.

Fr Jeremy Winston

It will also be a great deal of fun—walking through the wonderful Llanthony Valley with good companions can be nothing but a joy.

This year we hope, weather permitting, to have the afternoon service in the ruins of the Abbey Church itself.

Please spread the good news of the pilgrimage, encourage others to join us—and I look forward to seeing you all on the day.

Our Chairman, Canon Jeremy Winston, has been appointed Dean of Monmouth and Vicar of St Woolos—his installation (by invitation only) is on September 10th at St Woolos Cathedral, Stow Hill, Newport. St Woolos is a derivation from Gwynllyw, the 5th century Welsh saint who founded a community on the present site.

Pilgrimage 2010



Prayers at the statue of Our Lady of Llanthony

Andrew Downey leads the Procession

Obituary: Wilf Davies RIP

Former FIMT Chairman Hugh Allen has contributed the following tribute to Wilf Davies, who can justly be described as the co-founder of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust.

IN SEPTEMBER 1951 Wilfred Davies married Helen Pepler.

He was thirty-two, and had entered the RAF in 1939, after which he became an instructor in photo intelligence and received a permanent commission. She was twenty, eldest of the five children born to Eric Gill's daughter Betty and her first husband, David Whiteman Pepler. Wilf, or Dave, as he became known in the family, had grown up in industrial Tredegar; Helen had spent most of her childhood at the former monastery at Capel yffin, which at the time she was helping her mother to run as a slightly spartan guesthouse.

For the first decade of their married life the young couple moved according to the dictates of Wilf's service career, and had spells in the USA and Singapore as well as postings in this country.

In 1962 Wilf retired with the rank of Squadron Leader and the family came to live at the Monastery, where he embarked on his second career as Head Warden in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

After years of neglect the domestic buildings were in a poor state, and had few modern conveniences. With help from his brother-in-law Paul Pepler, Wilf set to work on a systematic programme of repair and

improvement, somehow also finding time to cultivate the former monastic kitchen garden (where vegetables paraded with military precision and not a weed was to be seen) and brew industrial quantities of beer. Alongside Helen's home-made wines, this nourishing beverage—in the kitchen he wore an apron emblazoned with the text *Beer is a Food*—lubricated the rich and varied social life which centred on their home. This involved members of their large extended family, friends of their five highly gregarious children, and an assortment of neighbours, visitors to the holiday flats in the former west cloister and odd individuals, some of them connected with the newly established Father Ignatius Memorial Trust.

The Trust was the joint brainchild of Wilf and Fr Brocard Sewell of the Roman Catholic Carmelite Order, an old family friend who was often in residence at the Monastery. From the start it was seen as an ecumenical enterprise, with the then vicar of All Saints, Hereford (the Revd F.H. Mountney) becoming the third of the three founding Trustees.

Its first task was to clear the mounds of accumulated rubble and fallen masonry from the ruined abbey church to make it a suitably dignified setting for Fr Ignatius's grave



Wilf Davies, with trusty trademark Landrover

and occasional acts of worship. Wilf's organising ability made light work of this, co-opting local Scouts and Guides, junior soldiers from Crickhowell and a youth club from London to do the donkey work, and commissioning local craftsmen to retille the tomb and enclose it with protective railings. After a long day patrolling and administering the National Park he would be at his desk knocking out letters on Trust business on his ancient office typewriter. Somewhere I still have his acknowledgement of my 10/- donation to the initial appeal in 1967; this raised the then impressive total of £160.

In 1972 we celebrated the abbey church centenary with a procession and outdoor service, which in succeeding years became the pattern

for the revived annual pilgrimage. Here again Wilf took the organisation in his stride, finding people to help with the catering and the music (the Abergavenny Town Band) and to mount an exhibition of 'Ignatiana' in the south cloister, getting hold of tables and chairs, tea urns and pot plants, and refusing to be fazed by the niceties (or not very niceties) of ecclesiastical protocol (things could be quite prickly in those unecumenical days). In 1984 Wilf retired from the National Park. The following year he and Helen moved to Abergavenny, where he devoted his still considerable energies to new responsibilities with Oxfam. In his seventies he acquired a wetsuit and took up all weather swimming and diving, having always been keen on outdoor pursuits.

He continued to act as Secretary to the Trust until 1993 and as Editor of this Newsletter until 1999, when he turned eighty.

In later years he accepted increasing frailty with grace and gentle good humour.

For the last eighteen months of his life he was cared for devotedly by the staff of Cantref Residential Home,

with daily visits from Helen and their large and loving family. He died on 23 March 2011, and was buried in Llanfoist Cemetery after a well attended service at the Catholic church of Our Lady and St Michael in Abergavenny.

*Well done,
thou good and faithful servant;
enter thou into the joy of thy Lord*

BREAKING NEWS! A splendid illuminated Missal, *The Illuminated Order of Holy Communion*, has been acquired from private hands. It was Created by Mother Tudful who spent many years at Capel y ffin. More details about the Missal will feature in the next Newsletter, and on the website in due course.

Obituary: Will Jackson RIP

Will Jackson was a faithful friend of the FIMT and a Trustee for many years.

WILL WAS BORN in Abergavenny. He went to Castle Street Infants School, later to Hereford Road Boys School and then in 1937 he started at the Grammar School.

As a young man, Will was a member of the Home Guard. Bryn Seaboume recalls a tale about Will and his brother Jim early in WW2. It was a terrible night near Pandy. Will and Jim were cycling through rain, thunder and lightning. Will had just finished his railway shift. There were two or three terrifying explosions nearby. All part of the storm, thought the brothers. Next day father broke the big local news. 'Bombs in Pandy last night.' The boys seemed unimpressed, but grinned to each other. (This did nothing for dad's



temper). They shared the secret of their very narrow escape, and perhaps enjoyed being ahead of father for once, with the latest news.

In 1949 Will married Evelyn. Ten years later they had their daughter Sallie and then two years later to the day, their son Paul was born. The couple separated in 1966 and Will eventually sold the family home in Windsor Road. He moved to what had originally been his grandmother's home, a smallholding with approximately 6 acres of land. The cottage is 1.5 miles off the main road and has to be negotiated over a stony track. Will used motorbikes and various Landrovers to gain access. He was often snowed in during the winter months, sometimes up to the bedroom window-sills, but Will could always be found outside in all weather conditions.

Sailing was one of Will's passions, starting at Llangorse Lake in a 20 footer. At other times Will served on larger vessels, as steward/cook and general hand. Trips included Ilfracombe, Lynmouth, Ireland, Cork and a lot of sailing in the Bristol Channel. Indeed Will was a member of both Lydney and Chepstow Yacht Clubs.

Will got hold of a former ship's lifeboat, 'Port Campbell', which had already been converted to sport sailing. He worked on updating it for over 18 months. When Will asked for crew, Nigel was invited by a friend and met his daughter Sallie

on board. Love blossomed and they got married in September 1990.

In 1989, Will went with Sallie for a check up at the Heath in Cardiff, only to be told by the consultant that unless he had a triple by-pass and valve replacement he had about 12 months to live. He was told the operation would give him a few more years... Fortunately he lived another 21 years! He was also given a pacemaker which required many replacement batteries, as he kept wearing them out, this became a family joke.

Will's constant companion for 17 years was a black and white terrier called Judy. When she was a puppy he put her in his pocket during his job as a handyman at Longtown. During his time there he was also a member of the Longtown Mountain Rescue Team. his favourite job was with the Brecon Beacons National Park, in the great outdoors where he used his many skills including dry stonewalling. He remained a volunteer for many years highlighting local beauty spots for visitors to the area. He was a committee member of the Father Ignatius Trust and always took part in the annual pilgrimage. He particularly liked the afternoon tea with homemade cakes, which followed.

Recently Sallie overheard someone say to him 'You are a character Bill' and he was!

An edited version of the address given at Will's funeral at Holy Trinity Church, Abergavenny. [Ed.]

Obituary: Douglas Lyne RIP

From the foreword of Douglas Lyne's novel *The Ordinance of Time* (2007).
This piece was written by Paul Moran, Douglas' long-time companion and assistant.

DOUGLAS CHARLES EARLE LYNE was born in 1921 to Anglo Welsh parents. He grew up near Bristol, in Aldwick, north Somerset. His father was a barrister and the recorder of Hereford, and Lord Mayor of Bristol, his mother was a founding patron of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre. One of his ancestors was Father Ignatius of Llanthony OSB who founded a monastery at Capel y Ffin in 1870.

Douglas was educated at Winchester College where his favourite reading was Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms*. At the outbreak of WWII, Douglas went to Trinity College, Oxford where he read Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Rejecting his mother's wish for him to join the Brigade of Guards in 1941, he took his father's advice to join the Royal Artillery as a Gunner (private soldier) where he participated in most of the major battles from El Alamein to Cassino through to the liberation of Rome, 5th June 1944. His Longines watch was used to time the commencement of some of those battles.

After the war Douglas worked in the Mercury Theatre under Ashley Dukes and Marie Rambert, and made documentary films with

Ralph Bond, Jack Graham Cutts and Charles de Lautour at World Wide Pictures. Thereafter Douglas was Press and Public Relations Officer for the British Printing Machinery Association in the exhibitions business.

In 1952 Douglas married Monica Grimble. They had two children, Julia and Deborah.

Since the 70s Douglas has been Archivist and Creative Consultant for a variety of organisations including the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust, the Iolo Morganwg Fellowship, the Monte Cassino Federation for Remembrance and Reconciliation, Veterans in Europe, and the Council of British Druid Orders.

He has been instrumental in recording the various nations involved in the four battles for Cassino, instigating the installation of seven stained glass windows of reconciliation in the Abbey of Monte Cassino, representing the seven major combatant nations and the Order of St Benedict. He is also active in the 'Pax in Spinis' campaign for the abolition of war.

In 2002 Douglas moved from Chelsea to south London where, after the death of his wife in 2003 (after 50 years of marriage), he devoted his remaining energies to

'taking warfare off the menu of mankind' in the immortal phrase of Madron Seligman, late Chairman of the Monte Cassino Federation of Remembrance & Reconciliation.



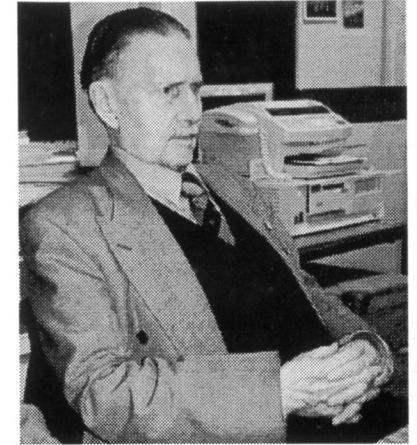
PAST CHAIRMAN HUGH ALLEN WRITES:

DOUGLAS CHARLES EARLE LYNE was born into a family with strong Monmouthshire connections. His grandfather had been County Surveyor. One of Douglas' stories related to a row of terrace houses which the great man had erected in Newport but for which he had forgotten to include staircases; these had to be added as an extension on the back of each house. From Abberley Hall Prep School Douglas was sent to Winchester, and went on to Oxford.

Undoubtedly the single most important event in his formative years was the destruction of the Abbey of Monte Cassino in February 1944, when as a young private soldier he stood for five hours on the opposite hilltop while a millennium and a half of European Christian civilisation was reduced by its supposed defenders to a cloud of dust.

Two decades later Douglas was intrigued to discover that a kinsman of his had achieved fame (or notoriety) by attempting to import the Benedictine life into the Church of England. This discovery coincided with the foundation of the Fr Ignatius Memorial Trust, to which he was co-opted as Archivist: a significant amount of the material now in the Fr Ignatius Collection at the Abergavenny Museum was gathered as a result of his industry.

Other events at this time helped to consolidate Douglas's interest in Ignatius and his desire to promote his memory, which became a consuming passion. In 1968 the 60th anniversary of Ignatius' death was marked by a Requiem Mass in Norwich, with an exhibition



which Douglas helped to organise (exhibition mounting was in fact his 'day job'), and Ignatius' biographer Arthur Calder Marshall drew on his support for a TV documentary on Ignatius he was making for the new BBC2 channel.

The following year he felt that his life had come full circle when he was at Monte Cassino for the 25th anniversary of the battle. On behalf of the Trust he presented the Abbot with the tiled centrepiece from the original covering of Fr Ignatius' grave, repaired following damage by falling masonry and mounted in a wooden surround.

Douglas sat lightly to conventional religion, and perhaps had more sympathy with Ignatius' Celtic fringery and Judaophilia than with the earnestness of his Christianity. He rarely travelled without a copy of the Lyne family tree, which acquaintances old and new were asked to autograph especially on occasions he deemed significant; several dozen of these were got through in the forty years since his discovery of Ignatius. To old friends (especially his former battle companions) he was intensely loyal, but he also had a gift for encouraging the young: I first met him when I was twenty, and enjoyed the novel experience of being taken seriously (perhaps too seriously) by someone twice my age.