

# *The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust*

## **NEWSLETTER**

NO. 45 SPRING 2017

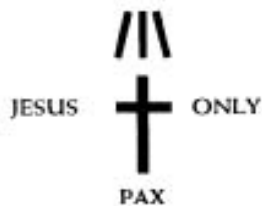
### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUST'S FOUNDATION



The three founding Trustees  
in 1967  
(see page 5)

The ecumenical **Father Ignatius Memorial Trust** was established in 1967 to care for the ruins of the Abbey Church at Capel-y-Ffin built by Fr Ignatius OSB (Joseph Leicester Lyne 1837-1908), first restorer of monastic life for men in the Church of England and popular mission preacher, and to keep his memory alive. Fr Ignatius' body is buried within the church; further information about him can be found on the Trust website: [www.fatherignatius.org.uk](http://www.fatherignatius.org.uk)

Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BŶD



Charity Commissioners'  
Registration No. 253225

## Trustees

Caroline Woollard (Hon Chairman)  
Hugh Allen  
Peter Davies (Hon Secretary)  
Rev'd Canon Philip Wyn Davies ssc  
Rev'd Jeremy Dowding ssc  
Andrew Downey (Master of Ceremonies)  
Andrew Knill (Hon Treasurer)  
Stanley Knill  
Deborah Lyne (Emeritus)  
Rachael C. Rogers (Curator,  
Abergavenny Museum)  
Rev Bernard Sixtus  
Rev'd Canon Mark Soady  
Venerable Martin Williams ssc  
Rev'd Richard Williams  
Michael Woodward (Newsletter Editor)  
Consultant: Philip Chatfield

## Contents

- 1 COVER PHOTO: THE THREE  
FOUNDING TRUSTEES, 1967
- 3 LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN  
Caroline Woollard
- 5 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRUST  
Peter Davies
- 8 MOTHER TUDFIL'S BREVIARY  
Hugh Allen
- 10 FR ROGER SHAMBROOK SSC  
Obituary by Hugh Allen
- 12 PILGRIMAGE 2017  
Details of Programme
- 12 NEW PUBLICATION

## Update on the Trust & Trustees

WELCOME TO THE 2017 Fr Ignatius Memorial Trust Newsletter; we very much hope you will enjoy reading it and learning more about the work of the Trust.

The last year has consolidated recent changes in the running of the Trust, with a new Chairman (Caroline Woollard) and Secretary (Peter Davies), and with the retirement of some Trustees, and appointment of a new Trustee, Canon Mark Soady, Vicar of St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny and Prior of the Holywell Community. Dr Davies is the son of the late Wilfred and Helen Davies—Wilf was one of the three founding Trustees in 1967 and the family lived at the Monastery: so a very fitting connection for this, the fiftieth year of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust.

# From the Chairman...

Holy Week, 2017

Dear Friends and Fellow Pilgrims,

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust, so it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 2017 edition of the Trust newsletter. I write this on the morning after Palm Sunday when all over the world Christians will have been processing with palm crosses, re-enacting the entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem.

There was no exception at my small church in Abergavenny—Christchurch, a cedar-wood clad tin structure built as a chapel of ease to St Mary's Priory Church in 1875. It takes exactly the length of time to process out of, around, and then back into the building as it does to sing *All Glory Laud and Honour*, although quite what the neighbours think of this at 9am on a Sunday is another matter. It put me in mind of the procession at the end of the annual Fr Ignatius pilgrimage in the Llanthony Valley which, this year, takes place on Saturday, August 19th. For those of you who have not managed to join us for this day, the procession leaves the small church of St Mary in Capel-y-Ffin after Evening Prayer and winds its way up a country lane to the former monastery, built by Fr Ignatius in the 19th century. We then gather for prayers at the statue of Our Lady of Llanthony, followed by a welcome cup of tea.

This year, our preacher at Evening Prayer will be the Rt Rev Dominic Walker, former Bishop of Monmouth, who, now retired, is still ministering in the parish of Monmouth itself. Bishop Dominic, who describes himself now as a 'humble monk', was ordained priest in 1972, beginning his ministry in London before serving in Brighton and then as Bishop of Reading. He was appointed Bishop of Monmouth in 2003, retiring ten years later. He is a member of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, a dispersed international community of Anglicans, ordained and lay, bound by a common rule of celibate chastity, responsible spending and direction of life. We welcome Bishop Dominic to the pilgrimage and look forward to hearing him preach.

The day itself starts with Holy Eucharist at St David's, Llanthony, celebrated by Fr Richard Williams, Vicar of Hay, where the preacher will be Fr Philip Wyn Davies, of Tregaron. Following that service, we will again share a picnic lunch before the pilgrimage walk up the Valley to St Mary's, which usually takes just under two hours and which is fairly accessible. It's wise to bring good walking boots/shoes and also wet weather gear—the Valley seems to have its own micro-climate where it can be raining in Abergavenny but sunny in Llanthony and vice versa. Having said that, I have seen one fairly elderly pilgrim complete the

## ...the Chairman continues

walk in a pencil skirt, smart jacket and court shoes—including climbing over a fairly tall stone stile.

This year, we will be without one of our long-standing and much-loved trustees Fr Roger Shambrook, who died as last year's newsletter was going to press. You will be able to read more about Fr Roger and his work for the Trust in an obituary, on pages 10-11.

This year, also, we are changing the way we keep in touch with our supporters. Seven years ago we launched the Llanthony Pilgrimage Association, which was designed to give pilgrims and visitors to Llanthony an opportunity to enter into a definite relationship with the Trust, and to associate themselves with its aims spiritually as well as financially. Operating two separate but overlapping mailing lists has proved administratively quite difficult, however, so we have decided

that henceforth everyone who asks to receive the newsletter will be enrolled as a 'Friend of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust'. The Pilgrimage Association will be subsumed into this new body; for those who would like to use them the Pilgrimage Prayer and list of intentions formerly issued to Pilgrimage Association members can be downloaded from the Trust website, or requested by post from the Trust Secretary.

The new 'Friends' organisation won't have a fixed subscription, but as usual we would ask all who wish to support our work to fill in and return the enclosed subscription form, together with an appropriate donation.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, and I look forward to seeing you in August.

**Caroline Woollard**  
Chairman



*Pilgrims relax near the statue of Our Lady of Llanthony following the Pilgrimage walk*

# 50th Anniversary of the Trust's Foundation in 1967

AS TEENAGERS growing up in our family home (the monastery at Capel-y-ffin), we were only partially aware of the history of the place, but knew that we owed our home to the building's foundation by Father Ignatius in the latter part of the 19th century. I was aware that my father, Wilf Davies, was Secretary to the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust, and that Trust correspondence, together with his National Park work, kept him busy on his typewriter most nights, often with a pint of home-brewed beer on his desk to sustain him.

1967 was, of course, the 'Summer of Love', and while the airwaves of the newly-launched station Radio One brought us 'All You Need Is Love' by the Beatles and 'A Whiter Shade of Pale' by Procol Harum,



L to R: Fr Brocard Sewell, Wilf Davies and Revd F.H. Mountney on the Monastery forecourt, c.1970

Wilf was engaged in setting up the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust together with Revd F.H. Mountney, the Vicar of All Saints Church in Hereford and Fr Brocard (Michael) Sewell, a Carmelite friar and friend of the family. Michael Sewell had worked with my mother's grandfather, Hilary Pepler, at the Ditchling Press in Sussex in the 1930s before taking Holy Orders.

The statue of Our Lady, funds for which were raised by Ignatius's biographer the Baroness de Bertouch to commemorate the reported apparitions in 1880, had originally been sited in the meadow below the Monastery.



Master stonemason John Barber of Llanigon (right) and his assistant Luke at the Wayside Calvary earlier this year. They were able to conserve the original inscription on one of the pillars which reads 'The Burning Bush Opposite'.

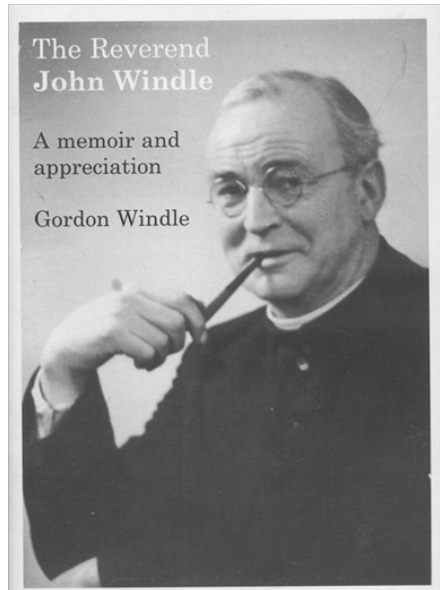


It was moved to All Saints Church in 1935 on the initiative of the curate there, Fr John Windle.

Fr Windle was a long-standing devotee of Ignatius, and in 1936 he was responsible, together with Ignatius's nieces (the Ewens sisters), for commissioning the Wayside Calvary at the side of the lane leading up to the Monastery. Fr Windle and his parishioners had also observed the annual Pilgrimage to Capel-y-ffin for some thirty years from 1935. He was co-opted into the Trust in 1969, when the Trust assumed responsibility for the Wayside Calvary. Funds raised by the Trust



The statue of Our Lady in its current location outside the Abbey ruin, on the Monastery forecourt (also see p.4)



Frontispiece of Gordon Windle's memoir of his uncle, the Reverend John Windle

enabled a new freestanding stone altar inside the ruined Abbey Church to be completed in 1980. It is dedicated to 'The Glory of God and in Memory of John Windle, Priest'.

The relocation of the statue to the Monastery forecourt in 1965 preceded the foundation of the Trust by two years or so.

The Trust was conceived in 1967 as an ecumenical organisation which would be responsible for the maintenance of the ruined Abbey Church as a focus of Christian



*Douglas Lyne with his daughter Debbie and the Archimandrite Barnabas (Burton)  
at the 1989 Pilgrimage*

worship including pilgrimage, as well as for the upkeep of the statue and the Wayside Calvary.

Once the Trust had been established, it became clear that a considerable quantity of 'Ignatiana' existed, and Douglas Lyne (a relative of Fr Ignatius) was appointed as archivist to the Trust. Douglas, a veteran of the Battle of Monte Cassino, died in 2010, and his daughter Debbie Lyne is now an Emeritus Trustee. In 1993, the collection was moved

to controlled conditions in the Museum in Abergavenny where it has been re-catalogued. It is now under the supervision of curator Rachael Rogers, who is also one of our Trustees.

We invite all our readers to join us at the Pilgrimage on August 19th 2017 to celebrate this, the Trust's fiftieth anniversary year.

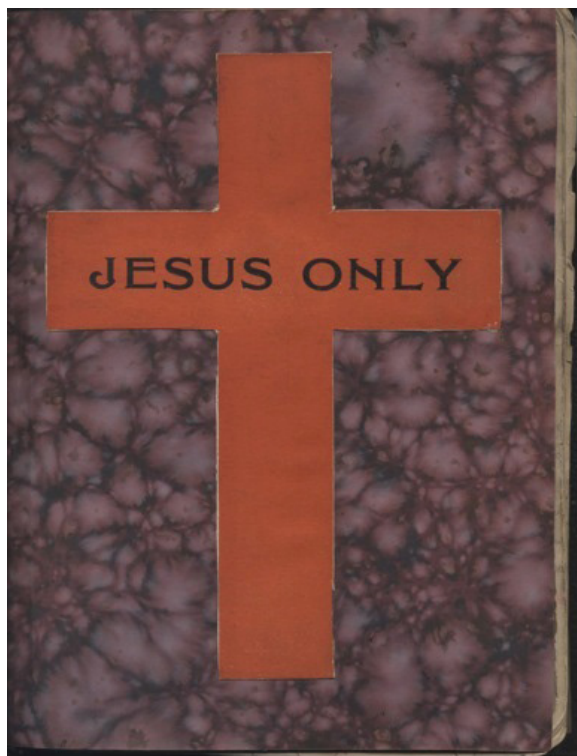
**Dr Peter Davies**  
**Secretary**  
**Father Ignatius Memorial Trust**

## *Mother Tudfil's Breviary*

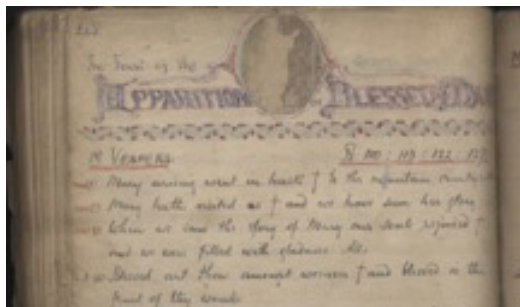
REGULAR READERS OF THIS Newsletter will be aware that one of the most prized items in the Fr Ignatius collection at Abergavenny Museum is the 'Llanthony Missal'. This is an altar book containing the text of the Communion Service from the 1662 Prayer Book written out and illuminated by Mother Tudfil (Jeannie Dew), the last surviving member of the Llanthony convent. It was acquired in 2011

through the good offices of the late Fr Roger Shambrook.

Another example of Mother Tudfil's work is an office book evidently used by the resident associate sisters (it has the puzzling inscription 'Sister, R.M.' stamped on the front cover), and is in the possession of Dr Julian Litten of King's Lynn. It came to him some years ago from the widow of Anthony Rissen-Kent of Stoke Hall, near Newark, whose







Photos of Mother Tudfil's  
Breviary by courtesy  
of Dr Julian Litten

library included a number of rare and important books of ecclesiastical and architectural interest.

This is more of a workaday volume than the Missal, a standard manuscript book on whose 352 lined pages the text is written out in ordinary handwriting, although there are decorative headings for some of the feasts. Essentially it is a supplement to the printed office book used by the community, containing material for the special Llanthony observances.

Of particular interest is the commemoration of 'brethren of our congregation, our relations and benefactors, who have departed this life' on 15 November. A list of thirty-three names is given, preceded by those of eight bishops to whom the community felt beholden (including Longley and Tait of Canterbury and 'Pius of Rome', who spoke kindly to Ignatius at his February 1866 audience), and followed by fourteen later entries in other hands.

Lack of space prevents me reproducing them here, but identification of the various individuals could be a worthwhile project, and I would happily email a scan of the relevant pages to anyone wanting to undertake it.

The most significant local celebration was the Feast of the Apparitions on 30th August, observed as a Greater Double with octave. At First Vespers and subsequent offices the psalms were sung with these highly evocative antiphons:

1. Mary arising went in haste \* to the mountain country.
2. Mary hath visited us \* and we have seen her glory.
3. When we saw the glory of Mary our souls rejoiced \* and we were filled with gladness. Alleluia.
4. Blessed art thou amongst women \* and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
5. When thy glory O Mary shone upon us \* our hearts were filled with joy. Alleluia.

**Hugh Allen**

# Obituary

## *Fr Roger Shambrook SSC*

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Fr SHAMBROOK DIED on 6 May 2016, a few days short of his seventieth birthday. He had been in poor health for some time: inability to attend recent pilgrimages and Trust meetings had been a particular disappointment both to him and to his fellow-Trustees and pilgrims.

As a young man Roger was present at the first pilgrimage to be organised by the Trust in 1972, but he had been involved with Llanthony and Fr Ignatius for several years before that. In his teens he visited Fr Windle at Welsh Newton, serving him at the altar and accompanying him on the pilgrimages to Capel-y-ffin organised at that time by local Anglo-Catholic clergy. It may have been his interest in Fr Ignatius that drew him to the monastic life: in 1976 he joined the Anglican Benedictine community at Alton Abbey, where in addition to his monastic formation he was able to study for Ordination.

Eventually he came to the conclusion that his vocation was to parish ministry

rather than to the cloister. After a three-year curacy in Bournemouth he enjoyed fifteen fruitful years (1986-2001) as priest in charge of St Swithin's, Bridport, before moving to All Saints, Torre (Torquay) for a further ten.

As a parish priest, Fr Roger was cast firmly in the traditional mould. Worship and pastoral care were of first importance, and so far as the former was concerned he preferred to follow the time-honoured practice of facing east at the altar and to avoid concelebration and other fashionable innovations. His commitment to the Anglican Church was unshakeable, despite his distress at alterations to the inherited structure of her ministry.

In all-too-brief retirement at his family home in Ottery St Mary he enjoyed taking services in local parishes, developing a particular attachment to the historic church of St Mary Steps in Exeter, which was filled to capacity by family, friends, fellow-clergy and former parishioners for his Requiem Mass.



Fr Roger Shambrook 1946-2016: a picture taken at a social function in his parish of All Saints, Torre (with thanks to churchwarden Wendy Hancock)

On his strict instructions this followed the pre-Vatican II western use and included neither eulogy, homily nor (apart from three good old-fashioned hymns) other interpolated material; with subsequent additions, a retiring collection for the Father Ignatius Trust yielded a little over £350, for which we are most grateful.

Fr Roger's longstanding association with the memory of Fr Ignatius was recognised by his appointment to the Trust in

March 2000, and until prevented by illness he was punctilious in attending its twice-yearly meetings.

His knowledge of the byways of Anglo-Catholic history was considerable, and it was through his contact with her heirs that we were able to obtain for the Trust collection the 'Llanthony Missal' written and illuminated by Mother Tudfil. He will be greatly missed: may he rest in peace.

**Hugh Allen**

# PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME

## Saturday 19th August 2017

**11.30AM**

Sung Eucharist at **St David's Church, Llanthony**. Preacher: **Fr Philip Wyn Davies**, Vicar of Tregaron.

**1.30PM**

Assemble outside St David's Church for Pilgrimage Walk. Stout footwear is essential and weather-proof clothing recommended.

**3.30PM**

Evensong at **St Mary's Church, Capel-y-Ffin**. Preacher: **Rt Rev Dominic Walker**, former Bishop of Monmouth. Followed by Procession to the ruins of Fr Ignatius' Abbey Church with 'station' at the **Wayside Calvary** and prayers 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 afternoon at Chapel Farm, Capel-y-Ffin by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Watkins.

After the Eucharist pilgrims are invited to a BRING & SHARE LUNCH in the picnic area next to the car park at Llanthony (a wet weather alternative is available).

At the end of the afternoon service, tea and cake are served at a modest charge on the Monastery lawn, courtesy of Mr & Mrs Knill and helpers.

### **Please note:**

Next year's pilgrimage will take place on Saturday, August 18th, 2018.

[To be confirmed]

## *Have you got your copy yet?!*

*New Llanthony Abbey: Father Ignatius's Monastery  
at Capel-y-Ffin by Hugh Allen*

HUGH ALLEN'S STUDY of Fr Ignatius's community and the subsequent history of his monastery is available from selected bookshops at £18.50 per copy, or direct from the publisher at £20 post free (orders to Peterscourt Press, 3 St Peter's Court, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6NZ; cheques payable to R.W.H. Allen). It may also be ordered online from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

### **Comments from some reviewers:**

A substantial and significant book, well researched, rooted in thorough archival sources and attractively presented; comprehensive in its scope, measured and considered in its judgements (William Davage, *New Directions*)

Forensically researched, meticulously referenced and fluently written, a winning combination that makes it as enjoyable as it is useful (Serenhedd James, *Church Times*)

A fascinating compendium of information about a bizarre and ambiguous monastic experiment (Geoffrey Rowell, *Anglo-Catholic History Society Newsletter*)

Indispensible for Trust members, and anyone with a close interest in the monastery, and in 'the oldest Marian pilgrimage in the post-Reformation Anglican Church' (Martin Williams, *Father Ignatius Memorial Trust Newsletter*)