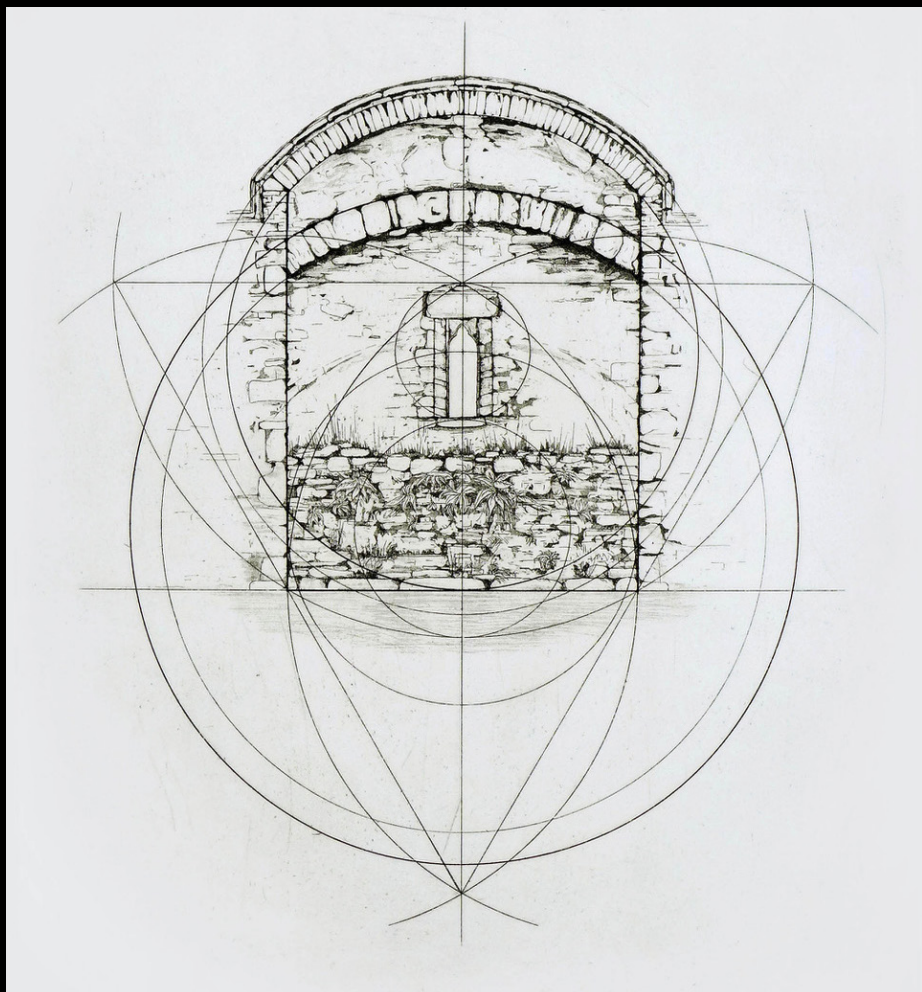


The Father Ignatius Memorial Trust

NEWSLETTER

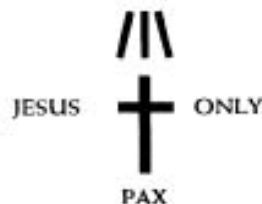
NO. 46 SPRING 2018



The Abbey Church East Window
by Professor Nicholas Cope
(see page 8)

The ecumenical **Father Ignatius Memorial Trust** was established in 1967 and organises an annual Pilgrimage from Llanthony to Capel-y-ffin. The Trust has in its care the statue of Our Lady at Capel-y-ffin Monastery as well as the ruins of the adjacent Abbey Church, and the nearby Wayside Calvary. The Monastery was founded in 1870 by Fr Ignatius OSB (Joseph Leycester Lyne 1837-1908), first restorer of monastic life for men in the Church of England and popular mission preacher. Fr Ignatius' body is buried within the Abbey Church; further information about him can be found on the Trust website: www.fatherignatius.org.uk

Y GWIR YN ERBYN Y BYD



Charity Commissioners'
Registration No. 253225

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Hugh Allen
Dr Peter Davies (*Hon Secretary*)
Revd Canon Philip Wyn Davies ssc
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Consultant: Philip Chatfield

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Update on the Work of the Trust

WELCOME TO THE 2018 Fr Ignatius Memorial Trust Newsletter; we very much hope you will enjoy reading it and learning more about the work of the Trust.

The work of the Trust continues. Although the Abbey Church is now sadly unsafe for public access due to irremediable instability of the higher north, east and south walls, the Trust is continuing to make repairs to the lower west wall, outside which the annual Pilgrimage ends. In addition, the railings around the Wayside Calvary are undergoing a complete refurbishment, and repairs to the plinth of the Statue of Our Lady are being planned.

From the Chairman...

Ascension Day 2018

Dear Friends and Fellow Pilgrims,
Welcome to the 2018 edition of the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust newsletter.

I write this on Ascension Day, when Christians throughout the world celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, his earthly life fulfilled, leaving his disciples to carry on his work and build his Church. In Abergavenny, we joined congregations from seven churches to celebrate the Eucharist in the garden of St Mary's Priory Vicarage, sharing a fellowship which spread across town and village. Of course, fellowship can be very much more than gathering together for church services—we in the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust are also a fellowship, one which includes everyone who joins us for the annual pilgrimage, everyone who receives this newsletter and everyone who visits our website.

In this day and age of data protection, we very much hope you will want to continue that fellowship by receiving this newsletter and a form is enclosed for you to complete and return so that you can do so.

And we also very much hope that you will be able to join us for this year's pilgrimage, on Saturday, August 18, beginning with Eucharist at St David's, Llanthony, at 11.30am, before a shared lunch, the pilgrimage walk to Capel-y-Ffin and the service of Evening Prayer at the tiny St Mary's Church. This is followed by a

procession to the statue of Our Lady of Llanthony which stands in front of the former monastery, built by Father Ignatius.

This year, our preacher at the Eucharist will be Fr Martin Williams, former Archdeacon of Margam, one of the Trustees. The service will be celebrated by our newest Trustee, Fr Mark Soady, Vicar of Abergavenny and Prior of St Mary's and the Holywell Community, a new monastic community which enables young people to explore their vocation.

For the last few years, after the Eucharist we have shared lunch under a gazebo overlooking the Llanthony Valley—although we have repaired to St David's if the weather isn't being kind; it can be brilliant sunshine six miles down the valley but raining at Llanthony (something to remember when decided what to wear on the walk). May I take this opportunity of encouraging you all to join us in that lunch, even if you're not going to be walking.

In the afternoon, the service and procession will be led by Fr Philip Wyn Davies, Vicar of Tregaron, and our preacher will be the Rt Revd Cuthbert Brogan OSB, of Farnborough Abbey, which has a connection with Llanthony Abbey as well as with France and Africa.

St Michael's Abbey in Farnborough was founded by the Empress Eugénie, widow of Napoleon III, who had built a house for herself nearby. The distinctively French Gothic abbey

...the *Chairman* continues

church was designed as a mausoleum for her late husband and their son the Prince Imperial, who lost his life in 1879 fighting on the British side against Zulu rebels. Staffed at first by Premonstratensian canons and then by Benedictines from Solesmes, in 1947 their survivors were joined by monks from Prinknash, whose Cotswold monastery was becoming seriously overcrowded.

At that time, the last of the Llanthony religious (Dom Asaph Harris) was still at Prinknash, as were a number of inanimate relics. As Farnborough was a fully functioning monastery many of these went to the other Prinknash “overspill” foundation at Pluscarden, but some of the Llanthony choirstalls did eventually find a home at the Hampshire abbey (the rest are at Prinknash).

After Evensong, we will process to the ruins of the Abbey Church built by Ignatius. And it’s here that the ongoing work of the Trust can be seen most clearly. Sculptor Philip Chatfield will be carrying out repairs to the plinth on which the statue of Our Lady rests, which will necessitate lifting it into mid-air. Work has also been done on the steps to the Calvary, with the railings being repaired by metalworker Chris Powell of The Garn, Llanthony, and the inscription on the stonework is now clear. It reads ‘The Burning Bush Opposite’, commemorating the reported sightings of Our Lady of Llanthony in August and September 1880.

Major work is also being carried out on the ruins of the Abbey church itself, with stonemason John Barber carrying out repairs to the inside of the west wall on both sides of the entrance. The ruins are now in an unstable state so we won’t be able to go into the building. Although it is no longer feasible to make the ruins safe for public entry because of their inherent instability, the Trust will continue to arrange repairs to the lower level western wall, outside which the annual Pilgrimage ends.

This work, and the continuing organisation of the pilgrimage, is made possible through the support of readers of the Trust Newsletter—it is much appreciated, and all donations are very gratefully received.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and look forward to perhaps seeing you in August. In the meantime, please do keep up to date with the news on our website at www.fatherignatius.org.uk

Caroline Woollard
Chairman



Some Additions to The Llanthony Story

Hugh Allen

WHEN I DELIVERED the ms of New Llanthony Abbey to the publishers I was aware that my account was far from complete. However, one has to call a halt somewhere, and I was anxious to have it on sale at the 2016 Eisteddfod (an objective I just failed to achieve), as well as in time for last year's fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Trust.

Even as the book was with the printers I received the first of a number of pieces of extra information—confirmation that the Reverend W.A. Shoults (p 135n) was indeed associated with the Anglican Benedictine revival, and that his identity as 'Fr Cyril' can therefore be reasonably assumed. This came from the community of Benedictine nuns at Curzon Park, Chester, lineal descendant of the Feltham 'remainers', whose published history includes the information that Fr Shoults (formerly Schultz; I managed to slip this detail into the Index) acted as chaplain to the community 'from the earliest days [before the split with Ignatius?], until his death in 1886. A learned man, he introduced many other clergymen and useful friends.... Although it was not always certain that he would arrive to celebrate the Eucharist

on feast days, he came regularly on Saturdays to hear Confessions and give Benediction.'

From the beginning of monastic life at Capel-y-ffin in 1870 to its dying days four decades later, there was a priest who provided for the community's spiritual needs in the period just after Fr Ignatius's death. This was John Jeffreys de Winton (1875-1973), scion of a prominent local family and Vicar of Hay, where in a thirty-year incumbency he established the strong Anglo-Catholic tradition which endures to this day.



The Revd J.J. de Winton and his wife,
photographed at Hay Vicarage:
image courtesy of their grandson
Bishop David Jennings

In old age he told his grandson David Jennings (later Bishop of Warrington) how he had ridden to the monastery over the mountains, arriving in time to join the brothers for Vespers and to hear their Confessions. The next morning he would celebrate Mass and renew the Reserved Sacrament before returning to his parish. Bishop Jennings was unable to say how often or exactly when these visits took place, but it's unlikely they continued after the controversial ordination of Frs Asaph and Gildas in the spring of 1909.

One of those who would have benefited from Fr de Winton's ministrations was 'Brother Frank',

otherwise Francis Thomas More (New Llanthony Abbey pp. 374, 379).

Our good friend Richard Barton blogs enthusiastically on the byways of Roman and Anglo-Catholic history (www.btsarnia.org), with a section devoted to Llanthony and Fr Ignatius, some of it derived from the collected papers of the late Donald Halliday, and recently included this postcard photograph.

A note pasted on the back has the following explanation. It is signed 'Fr Aelred' (Carlyle), and would date from the period between his community's reception into the RC Church in 1913 and his departure for Canada in 1921:



'Fr. Thomas More'—late organist of Llanthony Abbey; now a lay-reader in Whitechapel where he runs High Church Missions to the Jews.

The 'Fr' in this case is not a contraction of 'Father' but an abbreviation of his first name, much as in the case of his younger contemporary 'Fr' [ederick] Rolfe, otherwise Baron Corvo.

More was born into an upper working-class family in Deptford in 1848 (his father was a coachman, and later an omnibus conductor) and died in Stepney in 1930. In three successive censuses he is listed as a teacher: in 1871 in an Essex village and in 1881 in Streatham, on both occasions occupying the house tied to a local elementary school. In 1891 he was proprietor of a private educational establishment in Twickenham; this did not last long, however, as in 1901 he was living with his sister and brother-in-law in Hammersmith and acting as an insurance agent. Some time later in that decade he went to Llanthony as a resident associate (could he be the bearded figure in the group photo on p. 369 of my book?); by 1911 he was lodging with a Mr and Mrs Werner in Whitechapel, once again giving his occupation as teacher but also presumably involved in his mission to the Jews (and still wearing his Llanthony associate's scapular). In the winter of 1917-18 he was admitted to a

local institution as an 'infirm adult' (he was then approaching 70); this time he was listed as a clerk.

Another report from Richard Barton concerns Ann Easley (Sister Winifred), who financed the purchase of the monastery site at Capel-y-ffin. A letter from her great-niece to an unidentified relation includes an account of Ignatius's visits to the family home in Highgate, and the intriguing detail that Miss Easley had the job of ordering Ignatius's (and presumably the community's) religious habits from Shoolbreds, the well-known Tottenham Court Road department store. It was also rumoured that some of the Easley family silver had been melted down to provide altar vessels for the abbey church; I wonder what became of them.

I'm most grateful to the people who have provided these fascinating details, and am always on the lookout for more information about the monastery and those who lived there. An expanded edition of my book is probably too ambitious a project to hope for, but with the Editor's agreement I shall be happy to make any further additions to the story available through this Newsletter.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges a donation of £1000 by **Professor Elizabeth Stuart** in memory of her former tutor, Bishop Geoffrey Rowell. Professor Stuart's tribute to Dr Rowell can be found on page 10.

New Llanthony Abbey: the East Window

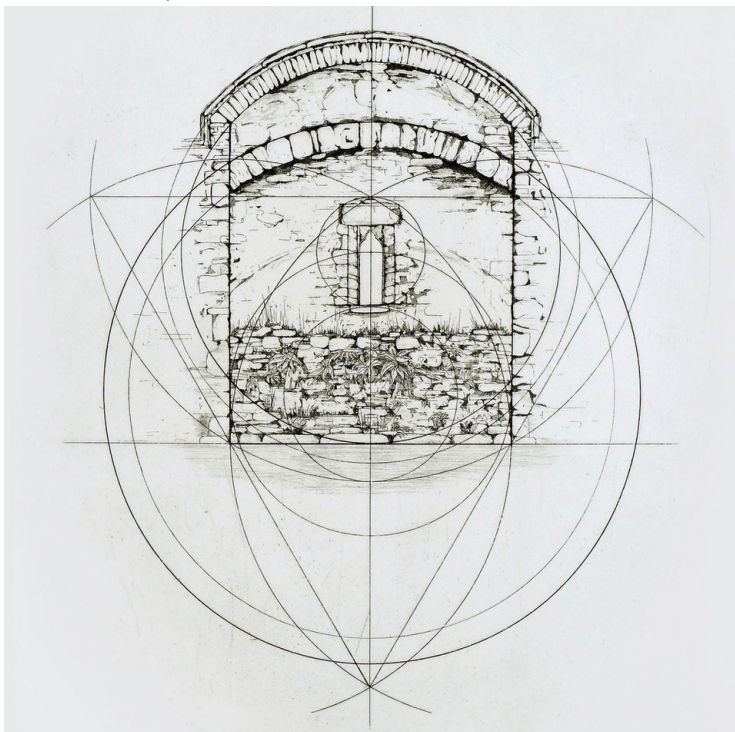
Nicholas Cope

IN 1996, WHILST walking the area surrounding Capel-y-ffin in the Black Mountains of South Wales, I came across a ruined church, which inspired me to make the etching reproduced here.

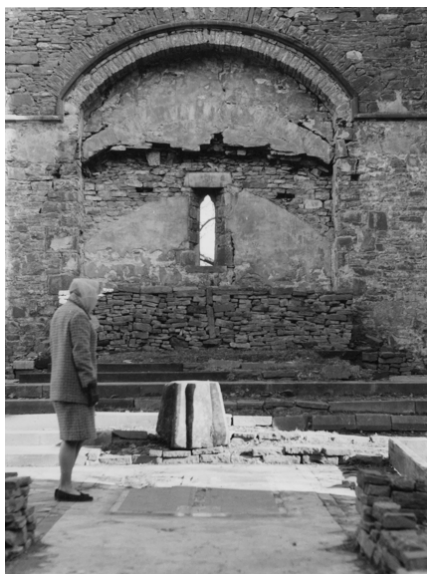
At the time I knew nothing about what appeared to be just a long forgotten ruin and was intrigued to learn that it is, or rather was, the church associated with the New Llanthony Abbey, founded in 1870 by Father Ignatius, which housed a small community of Benedictine

monks until around 1910. My etching shows the east wall of the chancel with its altar, window and architectural arches above.

A study of the form and position of the window is most illuminating because, as is usual with churches, the window's shape can be seen to represent the spiritual body of Christ and the eastern light from the sunrise entering the church through this window is symbolic of Christ as the light of the world.



The particular position of the cross, located at the heart of the window, has many symbolic and geometric connections to the whole of the architectural design of the chancel wall. One example, although there are more, is that that this heart position marks the centre of the circumference of the upper stone arch above the altar. Very soon after my visit to the church the part of the ruin shown in my etching was hidden from view by the addition of the current steel reinforcement. I understand that this was done in order to preserve the east chancel wall of the building, which is understandable, as sadly it was in grave danger of falling.



The Abbey Church c. 1970 © Oswald Jones Estate

In the early 1990s I studied 'Visual Islamic and Traditional Arts' at the Royal College of Art, London. My interest is in geometry and its use at sacred sites; my continuing artwork to date is an attempt to express some idea of the sacred. In 2016 my first book was published, *The Knap of Howar and the Origins of Geometry*, which describes the significant geometric proportions within the architecture and 'design' of the 5,600 year old Neolithic 'dwelling' known as the 'Knap of Howar' on the remote island of Papa Westray, Orkney, Scotland.

Further information on this as well as some of my recent art works can be seen at: www.ncope.co.uk



Llanthony Tertia by Edgar Holloway

Obituary

Geoffrey Rowell

ONE OF THE LAST PIECES of writing Bishop Geoffrey Rowell produced was a review of Hugh Allen's magisterial study of Father Ignatius for the Anglo-Catholic History Society Newsletter.

I was introduced to the extraordinary story of Father Ignatius through Geoffrey. When I was an undergraduate studying Theology at Oxford, I was sent to Geoffrey to be taught nineteenth-century Church history. He could not abide long essays and forced me to master the art of succinctness. He then became the supervisor of my doctorate on Roman Catholic reactions to the Oxford Movement and it was through that research that I encountered the wonderfully colourful Father Ignatius.

Geoffrey, who died in June 2017 aged 74, was one of the world's foremost scholars of Tractarianism and he also embodied it. To any issue Geoffrey would bring the questions: what does Scripture say about this; what did the early Church theologians have to say about it, and what did the Tractarians think about it?

As a young man he developed a life-long interest in and admiration for Orthodoxy, a love which turned him into a relentless and intrepid traveller. Many were surprised when



Geoffrey was appointed Bishop of Basingstoke in 1994 but over twenty years as chaplain of Keble College had fashioned Geoffrey into a sensitive and generous pastor as well as a first rate scholar. In 2001 he was appointed Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe, a role for which he was ideally suited.

Geoffrey was a man who rejoiced in friendship and his friendship transcended all boundaries, including those which burned within and divided the Church. It was typical of Geoffrey that though he opposed the ordination of women to the priesthood, he appointed a woman deacon to be his chaplain.

Geoffrey had a catholic mind which manifested itself in a catholic heart full of humour and kindness.

It was an honour to have been taught by him and to have known him as a friend.

Elizabeth Stuart

Ignatius at Abergavenny Museum

Rachael Rogers

SINCE THE EARLY 1990s, Abergavenny Museum has held a significant archive of material relating to Father Ignatius. Along with documents and photographs we also care for some interesting artefacts including items that belonged to Father Ignatius, a piece of the Holy Rhubarb and an illuminated manuscript. These items are all catalogued on our Collection Management System and stored in our climate controlled stores. The collection is often consulted by interested researchers.

Following popular exhibitions about Father Ignatius in 2006 and about the art of Capel-y-ffin in 2014, we wanted to have an exhibition relating to the Monastery in our permanent galleries. Focussing on this topic gave us an opportunity to pursue our policy of moving away from a series of cases relating to generic historical topics, one would see in many museums, to looking at those that have a much more locally distinctive story.

We were lucky enough to receive funding to revamp our cases, produce information panels and display our objects from both the Father Ignatius Memorial Trust and also the Federation of Museums and Galleries of Wales. The latter due to the inclusion of the Holy Rhubarb, as they were specifically funding projects where natural history objects were being interpreted.

We were also fortunate in having Mary Ann, one of our volunteers, offer to write the text and select illustrative material and objects to include. Mary Ann went through previous exhibition

text and reference books relating to the subject and worked through our museum catalogues to search for objects and images that would suit the available space. She then worked with a designer and our Welsh translator to agree the design and layout of the information panels.



The display covers the early life of Joseph Leycester Lyne and his role in restoring monastic life to the Church of England. It looks at the Abbey Church as well as the Monastery in Capel-y-ffin and its residents. We look at Ignatius' role as a mission preacher and the Visions of 1880. We also make reference to the later residents of the monastery and the role of the Memorial Trust today.

The display is within our Keep Gallery alongside displays on our other notable local figures, namely Lady Llanover and Whiskey the Turnspit Dog. These were also researched and designed by volunteers, as were the archaeology displays.

We hope that you will come to visit us to find out more about Ignatius and some of the other interesting topics to be found in Abergavenny Museum.

We are open 11am to 4pm every day (please note we are closed on Wednesdays from October until May). We look forward to seeing you.

PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME

Saturday 18th August 2018

11.30AM

Sung Eucharist at **St David's Church, Llanthony**. Preacher: **Fr Martin Williams**, former Archdeacon of Margam.

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 Cuthbert Brogan OSB**, Abbot of Farnborough Abbey. Followed by a 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 17th, 2019.

[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

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*)

Indispensable 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*)