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A BEAUCEANT!!

NO 30



A little Knight Templar news does you good

Staying in touch

Dear Brother Knights

This is the last newsletter before the summer break.

Hopefully it will be possible soon to lift the suspension of KT meetings within the Province and that Preceptories will be able to meet here again - starting in September.

I heartily share your longing to be with our good friends again at a KT meeting - and there is much work to be done.

However, it may well be that some members will not want to resume attending meetings immediately and that is fully understood. No pressure should be applied, as you know. Such members will be made extremely welcome whenever they feel that the time is right for them.

In the meantime, for the benefit of both those who resume meetings in September and those who want to wait a little longer, a reminder ceremony will be re-enacted online on the last day of August at around 6.30pm.

Details of how you can join those watching the demonstration will be sent out closer to the date. It will be a valuable opportunity to familiarise yourself once again with the beautiful ritual of the Templar Order.

Certainly we shall continue to keep the newsletter going well into the autumn, but in the meantime, I hope that you have a very sunny and enjoyable summer and come back refreshed.

Yours in the bonds of the Order
R E Kt Paul Calderwood

The Provincial Banner

If you have ever wondered about the coat of arms illustrated at the top of this page (and the story that lies behind it) then you will find a great deal is explained on the next page.

The Provincial Prior's Banner

The story of its origins and elements is described in the following extracts drawn from the history book of the province which was published in 1989.

The earliest record of a Superintendent for Knights Templar in Wales is dated 1810 and it relates to Benjamin Plummer.



In 1869, V.E.Kt Talbot was Provincial Grand Commander for South Wales - a post which he held until his death in 1876, following which no re-appointment was made.

The area of Monmouth was later added to the Province of Somerset in 1889 and then re-named the Province of Somerset and Monmouth.

In 1914 South Wales was added to make it the Province of Somerset, Monmouth and South Wales - and so things continued for almost 40 years until the death in 1952 of the then Provincial Prior, V.E.Kt. Frederick Lacey, whereupon a major change took place.

On 12th June, 1953, a Special Meeting of the Province was called by the Sub-Prior in charge, E.Kt R Wilson Bartlett, at the Masonic Hall, Bath, for the purpose of "winding up" the old Provincial Priory of Somerset, Monmouthshire and South Wales before dividing it into two Provinces. Surprisingly enough, for such an important Meeting, only 37 Knights presented themselves but all the Preceptories were represented.

The Provincial Sub-Prior was the Provincial Prior Nominate for Monmouthshire and South Wales, and the Registrar (E.Kt. G. Travers-Biggs) was the Provincial Prior Nominate for Somerset.

In his Address, the Sub-Prior congratulated E. Kt. G. Travers-Biggs, on his appointment and wished him well. Despite the division of the Province there would always be a close affinity and future fraternal visits between the two new Provinces.

E.Kt R Wilson Bartlett was installed 18 days later as Provincial Prior for Monmouth and South Wales at Cardiff Masonic Hall under the banner of Morganwg Preceptory by Lord Harris, the Most Eminent and Supreme Grand Master.

Then, at the meeting of the Province in 1956 at Newport, Mon, the Provincial Prior announced that he had given much thought to the ownership of the Provincial Prior's Banner and he had decided to make a present of it to the Province, together with the letters from the Clerks of the Councils of Glamorgan, Pembroke, Carmarthenshire and Monmouthshire, authorising the use of their County shields upon the Prior's Banner.

He then handed this beautiful Banner and letters into the safe keeping of the Provincial Vice-Chancellor, E. Kt. Alban J. Rees, to be held on behalf of the Province of Monmouth and South Wales.

This presentation came as a complete surprise to the members of Provincial Priory and it was accepted with grateful thanks.

The Banner would be held at the Newport Masonic Hall and insured by the Treasurer. The letters would be in the keeping of the Provincial Vice-Chancellor. The Sub-Prior thanked the Prior warmly for his gift and wished him good health to preside over them for many years to come. Just two years later, however, the Provincial Prior answered the call of the Great Captain of our Salvation.



Local news

I am very grateful to The Great Prelate, R.E.Kt Revd Malcolm Lane, who keeps me supplied with valuable information.

The following article, which he sent to me, I thought would be of special interest because of its references to the Crusades, monastic history and Welsh connections.

Road collapse hits pilgrimage

This year's Father Ignatius Memorial Trust pilgrimage, which usually starts at Llanthony before going to Capel-y-Ffin where Fr Ignatius established a monastery, will be different this year.

Not because of Covid – which forced its cancellation last year – but because part of the road between Llanthony and Capel-y-Ffin has collapsed, making it impassable. While some people do walk between the two, many people drive, and this won't be possible.

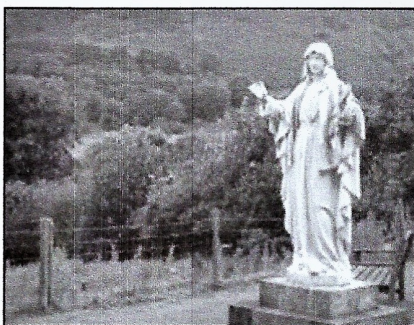
It's been decided that the pilgrimage will start this year with a Sung Eucharist at St Mary's Church, Hay-on-Wye, at 11.30am, followed by a bring-a-picnic lunch in the church grounds.

A large and distinguished church, St Mary's houses the Icon of Our Lady of Llanthony, a copy of which is in St Mary's, Capel-y-Ffin. Fr Richard Williams, Vicar of Hay, will preside at the Mass while the preacher will be fellow trustee Fr Jeremy Dowding.

Then, instead of the pilgrimage walk, we will drive to Capel-y-Ffin over the Gospel Pass – the highest road pass in Wales (reaching a height above sea level of 1,801ft). While a single track road over much of its length, there are numerous passing places.

Why Gospel Pass? There are two theories: the first that St Paul was brought to Wales though the pass by the daughter of Caradog to preach the Gospel to her people (Paul having met Cardog, also known as Caractacus, in Rome); and the second that in 1188 Baldwin and Gerald pass through preaching for the Third Crusade.

There will then be Evening Prayer at St Mary's, Capel-y-Ffin at 3.30pm,



which this year will be held in the grounds of the church, which is so small that with social distancing you'd only get about half a dozen people in. The service will be led by Fr Philip Wyn Davies, while the preacher will be Fr Ben Rabjohns, Vicar of Penrhiwchieber.

The service will be followed by the procession to the ruins of Fr Ignatius Abbey Church with a 'station' at the newly-restored Wayside Calvary, and prayers at the Statue of Our Lady of Llanthony, *pictured*.

At the end of the service, tea and cakes will be served (donations gratefully received) on the Monastery lawn, courtesy of Andrew and Sue Knill.

➤Fr Ignatius was a prominent figure in the Catholic Revival which swept the 19th century Church of England, who, as a young man, resolved to restore it to the monastic life lost at the Reformation. He established the monastery as Capel-y-Ffin in 1870, financing its continuing life through his parallel career as a preacher of missions, from which he became a household name – some of his preaching was so intense that it caused riots.

The date of the pilgrimage this year is 21 August and if you would like to read more about Father Ignatius and this subject a visit to the [Father Ignatius Memorial Trust](#) website is warmly recommended.



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