

Pilgrimages to Landévennec

Organised by



supported by the Saint Guénolé Working Group

Ecumenical Pilgrimage

The dictionary defines a pilgrimage as a 'journey to a shrine or other sacred place.' For more than 30 years, there has been a regular ecumenical pilgrimage organised from Cornwall to visit the Abbey of Saint Guénolé at Landévennec in Brittany. The intention has been to give Christians from different traditions the chance to live, study and pray together in a sacred place. The programme is designed to allow time for fellowship and time to be solitary. There are opportunities:



- to learn about monastic life – joining the brothers in their rhythm of worship, silence and prayer
- to share experiences with Christians from other denominations and reflect on our shared traditions
- to take part in discussions prompted by seminars led by pilgrimage leaders and members of the Community
- to continue one's own spiritual journey

Landévennec

Landévennec is a village located where the Aulne River enters the Bay of Brest, about ninety minutes' drive from the port of Roscoff. It is the site of a

monastery dedicated to Saint Guérolé that has existed, though with long interruptions, since the 5th century. The village is quite remote and has few amenities. The nearest town of any size is Le Faou, about twenty minutes' drive away.

Saint Guérolé



The story of Guérolé is that he was the son of refugees from Cornwall fleeing the Saxon invasion of 5th century Britain. With 11 disciples he founded the first monastery at Landévennec that survived for centuries. Ruins of the early monastery can still be seen by the seashore where there is a museum. Links across the seas between ancient Celtic peoples led to the founding of churches in Cornwall dedicated to Guérolé. Known by the name of Winwaloe, he became the patron of churches at Tremaine, Landewednack and Gunwalloe.

As part of our shared Christian heritage, Saint Guérolé is a valued symbol of the friendship between Christians in Britain and Brittany that has been renewed by a periodical pilgrimages to the Abbey.

The Monastery Today



Work began on the present buildings in 1958. The community of around 30 monks follows the rule of St Benedict and has brought renewal to spiritual life in Brittany. People from across France and from abroad come to spend time on retreat, to attend services or simply to be there. Further information can be

found on the monastery website: <http://www.abbaye-landevennec.cef.fr>

Accommodation for Visitors

There are two modern 'Pavillons' located close to the monastery that provide single room accommodation for guests. There are wash basins in each room and communal shower and wc facilities. There are also rooms for visitors within the monastery buildings.



Typical Programme

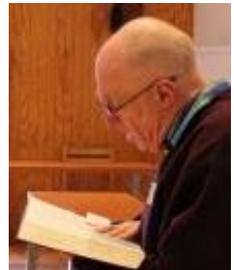
Each day at the Abbey is organised round the monastic offices and pilgrims may join as many of these services as they choose. Pilgrimage leaders and sometimes the abbot or one of the monks lead the group in study sessions on a chosen theme. The main meals of lunch and supper are shared by the pilgrims in a visitors' refectory. The group does its own clearing away and washing up. There is ample time to explore the Abbey grounds and the local area. An afternoon excursion is often organised to a place of interest in the vicinity such as the cathedral city of Quimper.

Leaders in 2015 and 2017



Bishop of Truro, Tim Thornton: *“The abbey is in a beautiful spot and the monks are both very friendly and focussed on their life of prayer. The chapel is magnificent and I was physically moved by the power of prayer whilst sitting and contemplating the sanctuary and the altar.”*

Chairman of the Methodist Conference, Steve Wild: *“I came home renewed and refreshed and keen to encourage others to know something more about our friends in Landévennec and to experience their style of prayer and their music.”*



Bishop of Plymouth, Mark O'Toole: *“Benedictine spirituality has been an important part of my life for many years, I am sure this pilgrimage will be an opportunity for each of us to ‘listen’, as St Benedict instructs us and to ‘prefer nothing to the love of Christ.’”*

Expressing Interest

Interest is such at present that a pilgrimage in some form is organised most years. However, there is a limit on the number of pilgrims who can be accommodated each time. More information on current plans can be obtained from Mrs Pam Miller, email: pam@pandamiller.co.uk or tel: 01872 275772.



The pilgrim group in 2013 ...



.... and in 2015

***'We have been longer together than we have been separated'
Père Abbé Jean de la Croix, 1989***