

Ecumenical Pilgrimage to Landévennec

Wednesday 29 April to Monday 4 May 2020



Organised for



CHURCHES
TOGETHER
CORNWALL

Charity Number – 1053899

by the Companions of Saint Guénolé

'We have been longer together than we have been separated'

Père Abbé Jean de la Croix, 1989

Landévennec

Landévennec in Brittany 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 Guénolé that has existed, though with long interruptions, since the 5th century. The village is quite remote and has few amenities though there is a small community shop and a café. The nearest town is Le Faou, about twenty minutes' drive away.

Saint Guénolé

The tradition of Guénolé tells that he was the son of refugees, possibly from Cornwall, who were fleeing Saxon invaders in 5th century Britain. With 11 disciples he founded the first monastery at Landévennec that survived there for several centuries. Ruins of early monasteries can still be seen by the seashore where there is an informative museum. Links across the seas between ancient peoples led to the founding of churches in Cornwall dedicated to Guénolé. Known by the name of Winwaloe, he became the patron of churches at Tremaine, Landewednack and Gunwalloe. For the last 30 years, the friendship between Christians in Britain and Brittany has been renewed by regular ecumenical pilgrimages to the Abbey.



Every year on 1 May a festival – the '**pardon**' – takes place at Landévennec celebrating Saint Guénolé. There are special services and a concert by local folk musicians. A statue representing the Saint is taken in procession from the modern Abbey church, through the grounds, down to the ruins of the ancient Abbey on the sea shore. In 2020 our Pilgrimage has been planned to coincide with this very special occasion.

The Monastery Today

Work began on the present buildings in 1958. The community of around 20 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. More information can be found on the monastery website: <http://abbaye-landevennec.fr/>

Accommodation for Visitors

Two modern 'Pavillons' in the Abbey grounds provide single room accommodation for guests. There are wash basins in each room and shared shower and wc facilities. There are also rooms for visitors within the monastery.



Ecumenical Pilgrimage

The dictionary defines a pilgrimage as a 'journey to a shrine or other sacred place.' A pilgrimage to the Abbey at Landévennec gives Christians from different traditions the chance to live, study and pray together in a sacred space. The programme provides for fellowship and time to be solitary. There will be 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 (or remain silent) in discussions prompted by talks
- to continue your own spiritual journey

In previous years, the pilgrims have included leaders from different church traditions:



Chris Goldsmith, Bishop of St Germans: *"(This) modern day pilgrimage draws upon the deep and ancient roots of hospitality connecting Cornwall and Brittany. At a time when division can appear to be in the ascendancy it was so very good to draw together around word, sacrament and a shared history as Christians from a range of denominations and traditions united in prayer and friendship."*

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



Major Ian Harris, Salvation Army: *"The bond of fellowship with other pilgrims is an amazing blessing, allowing leaders of differing denominations to journey together, acknowledging but respecting differences but rejoicing and embracing those things of faith that we share. We travel together as pilgrims with God as our head."*

Arrangements for 2020

Pilgrims will gather together at the ferry terminal at Millbay Docks, Plymouth, on ***the evening of Wednesday 29 April*** for the overnight sailing to Brittany. The organisers will give advice and will help co-ordinate transport to and from Plymouth once it is known who is coming and from where. For the sea journey, at differing prices, a berth in a cabin or a reclining seat needs to be booked by each person. From Roscoff a coach will transport the group to and from Landévennec. Pilgrims will return to the UK on ***the afternoon of Monday 4 May***, arriving back in Plymouth during the evening.

Cost

Based on past experience, we estimate that the ***overall cost*** per person is likely to be between £350 and £400 per person. This total covers:

- the ferry between Plymouth and Roscoff
- coach transport in the UK and France
- accommodation and meals at the Abbey

Once accepted for the pilgrimage, you book the ferry yourself. The total you pay will depend on whether you book a cabin or a seat with Brittany Ferries. You pay the Companions of Saint Guénolé working group for their organisation of road transport and for accommodation and meals at the Abbey. ***You must ensure you have appropriate travel insurance.***

Programme

Each day is organised around the monastic offices at the Abbey and pilgrims may join as many (or as few) of these services as they choose. The main meals of lunch and supper are shared by the pilgrims in a visitors' refectory. There will be time to explore the Abbey grounds and the local area. Themes for the pilgrimage and talks for the group will be arranged near the time and final details will be confirmed before departure. You should be aware that monastic offices are conducted mainly in French; group talks and a pilgrimage Eucharist are conducted in English.

Expressions of Interest

There is a limit on the number who can be accommodated on each pilgrimage. Subject to the aim of ensuring we are an ecumenical group, places are normally reserved on a 'first come, first served' basis. Further details and application forms can be obtained from Mrs Pam Miller, email: pam@pandamiller.co.uk.