

Developments at Inglewood

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After being unoccupied since February 2004, things are at last happening at Inglewood. The buildings and grounds have been bought by a company called Audley Court which provides retirement accommodation; have a look at their website:

www.audleycourt.co.uk

About two weeks before Easter site clearance began in earnest, prior to building work. The facade and front rooms of the main house are due to remain, with the back of the house being redeveloped, and further accommodation being built in the grounds behind the house. The clock tower is due to remain, but most of the other buildings will be demolished.

The Chapel has been acquired by a family who live a couple of villages away, and they intend to rebuild it in their grounds. The walls are very ordinary, but they are taking the roof, the stained-glass windows with their stone window frames, and the interior fittings (altar, rood

screen and wooden panelling) and incorporating them into their building. The Chapel was originally designed by Edward Pugin, son of the more famous Augustus Pugin, for the Walmesley's house near Wigan, and then moved to Inglewood when the Walmesley family moved here just over 100 years ago. Recent newspaper reports suggested that the fittings had been removed to prevent the building being spot-listed by English Heritage. It is true that the fittings were removed prior to the English Heritage visit, but, as far as I know, the removal was not done in a hurry for that purpose. We at St. Cassian's are due to be given the two large stained-glass windows (with Lasallian themes) from the back of the Chapel which were put there by the Brothers when the Chapel was enlarged into the main house, and also a plaque put in the Chapel by the Walmesley's expressing their gratitude to the Brothers.

I shall keep you informed as work proceeds.

