

## 1990's

In 1990, after 27 years as prioress, M Lucia retired, and Sr Zoë was elected prioress.



**Sr Zoë and M Lucia**



At the time, work was under way on the new chapel, the last of M Lucia's many building projects. The chapel went into use in June 1991. Here both communities meet together to celebrate the Divine Office, the heart of Benedictine life.

When we moved to Turvey in 1981, Mass was celebrated on the upstairs landing of what is now the monks' guest house. The room which is now the Blessed Sacrament chapel was initially used as a place to put anything we didn't know what to do with. As we settled in, the room was finally emptied and set up as a chapel—Sr Benedict made the tabernacle stand out of old timbers from the Abbey, the ones at the back are ceiling joists. It was the main chapel, (Sunday Mass was celebrated there) until the communities and guests outgrew it and moved into the hall. The hall remained the main chapel until 1991.



**The first chapel**







**Ecumenical day, 1983**



**1990, work commences**



**Main Chapel**

M Lucia died in 1998. Her father and her brother had run a painting and decorating business, and M Lucia was responsible for a remarkably large number of building projects.

In 1984 the community had travelled to Schotenhof in Belgium to celebrate the golden jubilees of M Lucia and three other sisters. Sr Paschal Hardiment composed the following song for the occasion, sung to the tune of 'The Church's One Foundation':

When I was in a nappy  
They gave me building bricks,  
And still it makes me happy  
To play at builders tricks.  
Like vader and like broeder  
For paint and brush I croon;  
I am a born bouwmoeder—  
Er is niets aan te doen!  
And nothing can be done about it!

And yet, I've said it often,  
I will not build again,  
This time I shall not soften,  
I've done enough for ten!  
But somehow, as I'm sitting,  
I see a new prospect . . .  
I throw away my knitting,  
And phone an architect.

Saint Peter, stop your fishin',  
I have no time for you—  
I mean to build a kitchen  
And refectory too.  
One day I'll see your City,  
Those mansions bright and clear,  
I'm sure there're very pretty,  
But I'm still building here!

