

## EVENTS at the Shrine Church and St. Melangell Centre

**Wednesday 9th August** at 2pm Julian Group at St. Melangell Centre  
Using silence as a means of listening. Followed by coffee.

**Saturday 12th August**, 10am – 3pm Quiet day at St. Melangell Centre  
Melangell, her church and its relevance for us today.

**Friday 25th August**, 10am-3pm Quiet day at St. Melangell Centre  
Holy days and holidays.

**Monday 4th September**, from 10am  
Gardening & work day at St. Melangell Centre.

**Friday 8th September** at 7pm in St. Melangell Church. Concert of  
harp music in all its inspirational forms by David Watkins.  
This will include light classical and Welsh folk music and take us  
on a journey through the beauties of nature, dreams of longing,  
aspects of love and of spiritual blessings in this holy place.  
Price £12 **Booking is essential**  
**Places are limited due to the restricted number of seats.**  
**Tickets are available from the Centre (see front page & posters)**  
*Volunteers to help will be appreciated.*

**Friday 15th September**, 10am-3pm. Quiet day at St. Melangell Centre  
Eve, Mary, Melangell and Charlie Dimmock:  
Images of women and Eden then and now.

**Monday 18th September** at 2pm Julian Group at St. Melangell Centre  
Using silence as a means of listening. Followed by coffee.

**Friday 29th September** at 10.30am. Macmillan Cancer Care Coffee  
morning at St. Melangell Centre.  
Offers of help and donations of cakes and biscuits welcome.



# St. Melangell Church and Centre

## AUGUST NEWS SHEET 2017

This News Sheet is frequently updated and distributed at regular intervals.

If you would like to receive further information about our

**SERVICES, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

please email

[saintmelangell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:saintmelangell@tiscali.co.uk)

indicating your wish to receive copies

For further details

or to meet for coffee and a chat,  
please get in touch with the Guardian, Chris,  
via the Centre on 01691 860408  
or at the above email address.

Jacqui is also volunteering at the Centre's office  
on Mondays – please ring the above number  
for any bookings or enquiries.

There may well be a member of our team  
present to welcome you at the Church.  
If not please pay us a visit at St. Melangell Centre which is at  
the first house 100 yards further up the lane on the left.

## *A letter from the Guardian of the Shrine Church of St. Melangell*



### **The Rev'd Christine Browne**

St. Melangell Centre, Pennant Melangell

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A moving service was held at St Melangell's, on Sunday 30th July, as we commemorated the outbreak of Passchendaele, the third battle of Ypres. It was said of those soldiers in 1917 that they had two battles on their hands, the second being the weather as the heaviest rain for thirty years created such mud that men and horses drowned in it. The appalling casualties and utter devastation created terrible suffering for those at the front and for their families at home given their anxieties and the poor communications of the time. 4,000 Welshmen died on the first day alone, amongst them the Shepherd Poet Hedd Wyn. At the National Eisteddfod weeks after his death, his fine poem won the Chair which was then draped in black before being sent to his family. What might have been, had he and others lived?

Yet, since then and despite later warfare, Ypres has been rebuilt and the war cemeteries have become places of peace and reflection due to the fine work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The stories of those who went to war are now available on various websites and a new initiative called Passchendaele at Home is collating what happened to those who were repatriated to recover but who later died of their wounds and are buried in their homeland. Poignant tales of families' initial joy at their survival and the bitter sorrow of later loss are being recorded and will be available electronically as their sacrifice is honoured. The internet, often derided as much as welcomed, will ensure they are not forgotten.

Neither were they forgotten in church, where stories were told very movingly by three men whose close relatives had been sent to war. One spoke of the three dents in the spade his father was carrying at Passchendaele which blocked the bullets that could have killed him; another talked of the importance of his grandfather's survival because his mum later died when she was young; the third spoke of the kindness of the enemy soldier who found his father badly wounded, gave him a cigarette and called for help, later even visiting him in hospital. These accounts all spoke of hope and compassion in the midst of the battle to survive - a struggle that continues today.

That is so here too as stories of hope and despair, suffering and joy are touched by God's healing grace and Melangell's compassionate example in this place of journey and encounter where people of difference share sacred space. Within Tyne Cot, the huge war cemetery near Passchendaele, is a German pillbox and also the graves of those considered enemies at the time. In death, they lie together in peace after a battle that lasted over three months as we now live out the costly freedom they died to preserve. Just as then, what we offer each day in this time of relative peace can still make a profound difference as we give thanks for the sacrifice of Hedd Wyn and all those "whose blood is mingled with the rain - A'u gwaed yn gymysg efo'r glaw".

*(From Rhyfel – War, poem by Hedd Wyn.)*

*Tangnefedd, Christine.*

## **SERVICES at**

## *the Shrine Church of Pennant Melangell*

The Church is open daily from 9am to 7pm.  
When possible Morning Prayer is said daily at 9am  
Pilgrim Prayers at noon and Evening Prayer at 5pm  
in addition to the following services:

**Thursday 10th August** at 12 noon

Holy Eucharist and service of healing: Bro. Lawrence

**Sunday 13th August** at 3pm

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of reflection – the storms of life.

**Thursday 17th August** at 12 noon

Holy Eucharist and service of healing – forgiveness.

**Sunday 20th August** at 3pm

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Songs of praise in the open air, weather permitting.

Choose your favourite hymn, prayer or poem and share it with others present as we share the beautiful surroundings & a picnic afterwards.

**Thursday 24th August** at 12 noon

Holy Eucharist and service of healing: Tydfil and Bartholemew.

**Sunday 27th August** at 3pm

Twelfth after Pentecost

Service of Reflection – John the Baptist.

**Thursday 31st August** at 12 noon:

Holy Eucharist and service of healing – St. Aidan

**Sunday 3rd September** at 3pm

Thirteenth after Pentecost

Service of reflection: the outbreak of World War Two

**Thursday 7th September** at 12 noon - Gregory the Great

Holy Eucharist and service of healing

**Sunday 10th September** 3pm

Fourteenth after Pentecost

Service of reflection – Education Sunday.

**Thursday 14th September** at 12 noon

Holy Eucharist and service of healing – Holy Cross.

**Sunday 17th September** at 3pm

Fifteenth after Pentecost,

Service of reflection: Battle of Britain Sunday.

**Thursday 21st September** at 12 noon

Holy Eucharist and service of healing – St. Matthew.

**Sunday 24th September** at 3pm

Sixteenth after Pentecost

Service of reflection: The last will be first and the first will be last.

**Thursday 28th September** at 12 noon

Holy Eucharist and service of healing – Michael and all the angels.