

July Services at the Shrine Church of Pennant Melangell

Last year, a small hollyhock was planted in the Centre's garden and it seemed doubtful that it would survive, never mind flourish! However, it was put in a sheltered spot and it grew to almost the height of the roof, with abundant flowers. This year, it's already tall and sturdy even though it's still in bud and the many seeds it produces means that hollyhocks have become associated with abundance, fertility and ambition. In olden days, they were often planted by a front door to indicate prosperity or in front of outbuildings and places in need of disguise but, nowadays, hollyhocks are most often seen in cottage gardens.

Part of the mallow family, which has been linked to the healing of various ailments, hollyhocks are prone to rust if the plant gets too wet and, for that reason, fell out of fashion with some gardeners. However, these short-lived perennials have become more popular again and their beautiful colours and towering flowers can be spectacular.

Hollyhocks originated in China before spreading into Europe through the trade routes and were brought back from the Holy Land by returning Crusaders which led to them being called holy hocks at first. Flowering throughout July and August, they became associated with the holidays which were originally holy days marking the lives of saints and the single or double colourful flowers of hollyhocks typify, for some people, the blooms and sunshine of summer.

Whether celebrating holy days, holidays or hollyhocks, enjoy this summer and the surrounding beauty of its garden flowers - weather permitting!

With my prayers,
Christine, Priest Guardian.

The following services will be held here:

Thursday July 2nd, noon: Holy Eucharist.

Fifth Sunday after Trinity, July 5th, 2.30pm: Service of Thanksgiving at St Dogfan's, Llanrhaeadrym Mochnant, for the ministry of Rev'd Norman Morris as he retires. *Due to this, there will be no service here.*

Thursday July 9th, noon: Holy Eucharist.

Sixth Sunday after Trinity, July 12th: Apologies, there is no service here.
Thursday July 16th, noon: Holy Eucharist and service of healing.

Seventh Sunday after Trinity, July 19th, 3pm: Service of reflection.
Thursday July 23rd, noon: Holy Eucharist.

Eighth Sunday after Trinity, July 26th, 3pm: Service of reflection.
Monday 27th July, 10.30am: Julian Group at the Centre.
Thursday July 30th, noon: Holy Eucharist and service of healing.

For further details about any of the above or to book the Shepherd's Hut, please contact admin@stmelangell.org or ring [01691 860408](tel:01691860408).

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