



Main pic: St Winefride's Well. Facing pics (left to right): inside St Winefride's Well, shopping, historic buildings, High Street.

Never mind one of the Seven Wonders of Wales. St Winefride's Well, which gives Holywell its name, is quite simply unique in the world.

This reputedly healing spring has been a place of unbroken pilgrimage for 1,300 years. It was long-famous by the time King Henry V walked here from Shrewsbury to give thanks for his victory at Agincourt.

According to legend Winefride was beheaded in 660AD by a local chieftain after she spurned his advances – and a spring rose from the spot where her head fell.

All a bit gruesome but don't despair. She was restored to life thanks to the prayers of her

uncle St Beuno and lived another 22 years as a nun.

This being the “Lourdes of Wales”, you can bathe in the pool beside the beautiful chapel built by Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII.

And if you haven't brought your swimsuit you can still follow an audio trail through the grounds or visit a museum containing many rare relics. People of all faiths, and no faith, are welcome.

www.holywell-town.co.uk