

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

Dosbarthiadau Cymraeg 2020-2021

Tiwtor / Tutor: John Otley,
E-mail: TiwtorCymraeg@sympatico.ca
Telephone - Home: (416) 782-7169
Telephone - Mobile: (647) 525-7169
Church website: www.dewisant.com
Church Telephone: (416) 485-7583

Welsh Classes

This is the twenty-seventh consecutive year that Welsh classes have been presented by Dewi Sant Welsh United Church as part of the Church's cultural mission. The congregation of Dewi Sant places great importance on its culture and traditions (including the Welsh language). Though there is no charge for the classes, you may wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church so that the Church may continue its unique Welsh traditions. In past years, many students have seen fit to donate \$50 - \$100 to the Church. A donation form is included if you choose to make such a donation.

Lessons

2020 brings about a major change to the Welsh classes. Prior to this year, the classes were held in person at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. However, we have now entered the 21st century and all classes will be offered on-line. So there is no need for you to drive, walk or take the TTC in order to take part in the Welsh classes. You can take the class from the comfort of your own home.

We will be concentrating on modern, spoken Welsh as taught to adults today in Wales¹. This is the Welsh that you will hear on the streets, in the shops and in the pubs in Welsh-speaking areas of Wales. Though there will be writing exercises, the emphasis is on speaking and understanding.

¹ All materials follow the Welsh Joint Education Committee ("WJEC") guidelines for Welsh for adults. However, the lessons are structured and ordered in a way that I have found more suitable for Canadian learners.

Modern Welsh can be divided into a number of different dialects (in much the same way that we can divide “British” English from “Canadian” English). Though the vast majority of words and grammatical patterns are the same throughout Wales, there are some regional differences that we should note as we go along. For our purposes, we will simplify the dialects into “northern” and “southern” forms. Choose whichever you prefer.

Teaching materials will be provided for you at no cost. They will be emailed to you a few days before each lesson. You can store them on your computer/device and refer to them during the lesson, or you can print them out if you prefer having a piece of paper before you. Most lessons end with a worksheet for you to do between classes. This will give you an opportunity to review and practice what you have learned in class. If you wish to do the work sheets and email them back to me, I will give you feedback on how you are doing. Further, by emailing in the worksheets, I am able to judge how the class as a whole is progressing.

Schedule

We offer two classes at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. There is a beginners’ class on Friday nights between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm., and an intermediate class on Saturday mornings between 9 am and 12 noon. Here are the start dates for the classes:

- **Beginners’ Classes - Every Friday between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm**
 - The first class will be Friday, September 18th, 2020

- **Intermediate Classes - Every Saturday between 9:00 am and 12 noon**
 - The first class will be Saturday, September 19th

The classes will run every weekend (with a few exceptions such as Thanksgiving Weekend, Christmas Break, etc) until mid-May. In total, there will be about 26 classes (depending on holidays).

If these 2 and 3-hour classes seem long, fear not! We will be taking a 10 to 15 minute break half way through. This will give you time to boil up some tea or grab some cookies as a snack.

How Do I Access The Class On-Line?

We will be using Google Meet for our classes. To access a Google Meet, you may use a personal computer, a smart phone or a tablet as follows:

- **Personal Computers:** You can access Google Meet through your computer's internet browser. As Google Meet is a Google product, you may want to use the Google Chrome browser. However, it should work with all major browsers.
- **Smart Phones and Tablets:** Though you can access Google Meet through your device's internet browser, it is best to download the Google Meet app from the iOS or Google app stores as they are designed to work with Google meetings.

The second thing needed is the Google Meets code. This ensures that you can join the Dewi Sant Welsh classes. I will send the meeting code out to you in an email about 10-15 minutes before the start of the class. Click on the link in the email and you should be taken into the Google Meet (though you may have to request entry by clicking on a button).

I will be arranging a short "test" class one evening before the first class of the year so that we can work out any issues with Google Meet. I will contact you later with the details.

Classroom Etiquette

Since the start of the Covid-19 crisis, you may have been using Meet, Skype, Zoom, Teams or other such software for work meetings or classes. These meetings/classes seem to work best if we all follow some simple etiquette. Here are a few suggestions:

- You might consider getting a headset/microphone combination suitable for your device (if you don't already have one). This will reduce feedback online and you won't be bothering everybody in the household with people talking Welsh.
- You will not need a web camera for the class. If you do have one on your computer or device, please turn it off once the class starts as it increases the bandwidth needed (which can lead to reduced web performance).
- As these classes are interactive, I want you to feel free to participate by doing the oral class work, asking questions, doing drills or generally discussing issues. However, if there are periods where you are not participating, could you please push the "Mute" button in Google Meet to temporarily close your microphone. This helps reduce feedback and household noises when others are talking. When you are ready to once again participate, unmute yourself.

- Try to find a place in your quiet household where you won't be disturbed during the class. It is often helpful to explain to others that this is your Welsh class time. If you are disturbed by a family pet, we may ask you to show us this perpetrator on screen so we may ooh and aah.
- If you cannot make a class, it would be helpful if you could let me know ahead of time via email. That way, I will know how many people to expect.

Other Things To Might Need

As mentioned above, all materials will be provided for you. However, you may find that paper and a pen might be useful to keep notes. If you want to print out the lessons, you might also want to get a three-ring binder in order to keep your materials organized. If you have a Welsh-English dictionary, you might want to keep that at hand.

Cewch Hwyl / Have Fun

We are here to learn Welsh. I have always found that students learn best in an informal, fun environment. So don't get too bogged down with words and phrases. Don't get frustrated. Learning any new language will not happen overnight. It will all come in time. Relax and enjoy learning the "Language of Heaven."

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. If you don't understand something, you can be sure others are having similar problems. So don't be afraid to ask even those "stupid" questions.

Ac uwchben pob dim, cewch hwyl wrth ddysgu! / And above all else, have fun learning!

How Do I Enrol For The Class

We are highly informal. All you need to do is let me know that you're coming by giving me your name and your preferred email address. This will allow me to invite you to the classes each week.

As mentioned above, there is no cost to attend these Welsh classes. However, you may wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church so that the Church may continue its unique Welsh traditions. In past years, many students have seen fit to donate \$50 - \$100 to the Church. Donation forms will be sent to you to use if you choose to make such a donation.

Oes 'Na Gwestiynau / Any Questions?

I hope that you now know more about the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church Welsh classes. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me as mentioned above.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir / Yours,

John