



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the
Toronto Welsh Community

Volume 36 - Number 03

Mawrth / March, 2003

Rev. Dr. Larry Beech PhD

The Season of Lent. A time for self reflection.

Historically an interval of six weeks before Easter in which the Christian community abstained from excesses in their daily lives. Lent was also a time for earnest inner searching- to discern God's direction for our lives

And so it is for us, no longer living in association with monastic communities, but with the intention as Christians to cleanse and purify our lives in preparation for the gift of new life on Easter morning.

Lent is a deliberate choice. For some it means giving up something in our lives that we really enjoy. For others, a decision to eliminate a habit or pattern from ourselves that is harmful. And for others, an opportunity to listen to the still small voice of God and discern God's way for our own lives.

In Protestant churches, we avoid taking Lent too seriously. We bemuse ourselves with words like Lent really belongs to our Catholic brothers and sisters. By minimizing the observance of Lent, I feel that we lose a rich opportunity to re-evaluate our lives and re-align our goals and values after the mind and heart of Jesus Christ.

It is through the inner work of coming to terms with myself - who I am and who I am called to become- that I am able to fully appreciate the meaning of the resurrection -from death to new life.

May the season of Lent be a rich and rewarding experience in all of our lives.

Rev. Lawrence A. Beech, PhD,
Minister

Dewi Sant Church Women

On Good Friday April 18th the UCW of Dewi Sant will be hosting the "Good Friday Dinner" This has become a well attended annual event. The menu is as follows: Leek and Potato Soup, Baked Ham with Pineapple, Scalloped Potatoes, Mixed vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Assorted Pies, Tea and Coffee.

Tickets are now on sale at \$15.00 per person and may be ordered by phoning Trisha Stevenson at 905-884-2603 or myself Joy Bailey at 905-883-0347.

Announcement

Spring is here and you all know what that means ---- Spring cleaning !!!!! For all you enthusiasts, please don't throw anything out. The U C W will once again be holding its yard sale and would very much appreciate any items that you could donate.

Thank you, Donna Morris

Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu Croeso

Do you remember when the Gymanfa Ganu at Dewi Sant on Good Friday was one of the highlights of the year for the Welsh people of Southern Ontario? Chartered buses lined up in front of the church, people lined up for a seat at one of the two supper sittings, and spaces in the pews were at such a premium for the evening Gymanfa that chairs lined the aisles. Sometimes the crowd even overflowed into the narthex.

This year, with your participation, we can have another Gymanfa to remember. The afternoon service will be bilingual, the dinner at 5:00 P.M. will be delicious and the Gymanfa session at 7:00 p.m. will be filled with your favourite hymns. All that is needed to make it a success is you. Mark your calendars now and come to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord". See you on Good Friday, April 18th.

Submitted by Betty Cullingworth

Easter Flowers

Every year we decorate our church to a point of beauty by adorning the Chancel with a collection of Easter flowers. Everyone is invited to be a part of this. If you are interested please send a donation marked Easter Flowers and make it payable to "Dewi Sant Welsh United Church" and mail it to the church. Thank You.

Rev. Glyn Richards

On March 7th we heard of the death of Glyn Richards in Cardiff, Wales. He, together with his wife, Helga (a cousin of Richard Burton) and three of their children, Ann, Geraint and Helen used to worship at Dewi Sant. Glyn was educated at Cardiff University and then at Cambridge before being ordained in the Congregational Church in Wales. He ministered in Swansea and served a two-year period as the Secretary of the Bible Society. We befriended him when he came to study and lecture at McMaster University in Hamilton. He later brought his wife and three younger children to live in Scarborough. He then went to teach at Carlton University in Ottawa from whence he ended up in Stirling University where he became the Head of the Department of Religion. While at Stirling he wrote a number of books and was regarded as the authority on Gandhi and his philosophy.. When India celebrated its fiftieth anniversary of independence, Glyn was one of the only two people from the West invited to the celebrations. During his stay in Scotland he lost his wife, Helga and never fully recovered from her death. He wrote a beautiful book describing his loss and recovery, "Beyond Tragedy – an Anthology" Last June, he visited us with his new wife, Franca, and we spent a pleasant few days before he returned to Cardiff via Ottawa.

The funeral took place in Richmond Hill Crematorium, Heath, Cardiff on March 17th.

Our sympathy goes out to Franca and his children, Hywel, Ann, Geraint and Helen.

Submitted by Elwyn Hughes

The Centre Of The Bible

This is pretty strange or odd how it worked out this way. Even if you are not religious you should read this:

What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?	Answer - Psalm 117
What is the longest chapter in the Bible?	Answer - Psalm 119
Which chapter is in the centre of the Bible?	Answer - Psalm 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalm 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalm 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

What is the centre verse in the Bible?	Answer - Psalm 118 : 8
--	------------------------

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives? The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the centre of His will, just send them to the centre of His Word!

Psalm 118 : 8 (NJ) -- "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."

Now isn't that odd how this worked out. Or was God in the centre of it? When things get tough, always remember - Faith doesn't get you around the trouble. It gets you through it! Be blessed!

To our friends at Dewi Sant, Ann and Ray Dayes, London Ontario

The New Archbishop of Canterbury

Dr. Rowan Williams received a standing ovation Monday, February 24th 2003 during his first visit as Archbishop of Canterbury to the Church of England's General Synod

An unusually packed and cheerful Synod chamber applauded for a minute before Dr. Williams said prayers and welcomed new members whom, he said to laughter, happened to "include myself".

Making typically erudite and subtle remarks, he turned for inspiration to one of his favourite Church Fathers, Augustine, and warned the Synod, which was meeting in Church House, Westminster, that he would quote the saint often.

The new archbishop will eschew the Gospel songs, saxophones and synthesizers favoured by his predecessor, Dr. George Carey, for tradition with a Celtic flavour at his enthronement at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday, February 27th.

A soprano accompanied by a harpist will sing "I saw Him standing", a Welsh poem by Ann Griffiths (Wele'n sefyll), translated by Dr. Rowan Williams and included alongside some of his own verse in his book "The Poems".

James Macmillan, the Roman Catholic Scottish composer, has set words written by George Herbert to music for a choral piece for the service. Another poem by Herbert will be sung by the choir of St. Woolo's Cathedral, Newport – in Dr. Williams's former diocese of Monmouth – who are traveling to Canterbury for the enthronement.

There will also be an African song "Kuku" performed by a group called Frititi.

Among those attending will be the Prince of Wales, Tony Blair, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Conner, the Catholic primate, and representatives of the Lutheran, Orthodox, Oriental and Free Churches.

Submitted by The Rev. Elwyn Hughes

Many Thanks To This Month's Contributors

Enid Baldwin; Christine Campney; Keith & Agnes Davies; Rev. Alan & Jennifer Edwards; Margaret Frampton; Alan Gray; Helene & Bob Maxwell; Phyllis McLeod; Mary Morgans; Charles Oakley; Harold Rowland; Dr. Peter & Janet Thomas; Bob & Olwen Whiffin;

Good News!

Gaynor McConnell and Huw Jones wish to announce the birth of their third grandchild, Morgan Louise arrived safely on February 3rd, a sister for Jack and Taylor. Mother (Catrin), father (Simon) and baby are doing well.

Submitted by Gaynor McConnell

Catrin, along with her brother were very active members of Dewi Sant Sunday School during their formative years in Toronto.

Joke

A prominent Welsh minister travelling home one night was greatly annoyed when a young man, much the worse for drink came and sat next to him on the bus. "Young man" he declared, "do you not realize that you are on the road to perdition"? "O diawch ar erioed" replied the drunkard, "I could have sworn this bus went to Llanelli" !!!

Footprints in the Sands of Thai #2

A seventy fifth birthday is quite an occasion, and I was really looking forward to celebrating mine on Lanta Island, which is situated on the south west coast of Thailand and being one of three in a group of islands in the Andaman sea, the other two being James Bond island, where, (yes you've guessed it) the James Bond films are shot, and Peepee island, where the "Beach" was filmed a few years ago. Lanta is the most virgin of the three, and is only recently being developed, but has for some years been a popular haunt among tourists.

It is on this island that my son Emyr Wyn has built a home, on a hill overlooking the sea, with a view to die for! As my birth date neared, (actually my two birth dates, because my father made a mistake when he registered me. some six weeks after the event! We lived on a farm ten miles from the nearest town, and in those days a trip to

town was decided by the need, which apparently my birth did not justify!! However when the calf was born, and had to be taken to market, my dad saw it as an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone! (so to speak!) I was registered, but in doing so, I was given the wrong birth date, Feb. 23rd became 21st!! However as the years went by I came to enjoy having two birthdays, and my seventy-fifth was going to be one (two) of the best.

Son # 2 (Geraint Wyn) in cahoots with his mom was planning to surprise me by flying from California for the occasion. Which he did!

Because Emyr's villa was not quite finished, Nora and I stayed in a resort where we had a bungalow right by the water with all the modern frills and amenities, including what was a must—a western style toilet!! He had rented a regular house, built on stilts over the water in a nearby town. Talk about modern! This house had both air conditioning and water-cooling!! The air conditioning came through the windows, which had no glass, and the water-cooling came from the half-inch gaps in the floorboards through which one could see the water!!

Between the families, the agenda for my birthdays was developed! On day number one I was given the choice of bungee jumping or elephant trekking! Because I had a choice I went for the latter, and so on Feb. 21st. off we went into the jungle to ride elephants!

Nora and I rode one elephant, Emyr, his wife Samme, daughter Sandi (seven months) and brother Geraint rode the other.

One thing I learned on the back of an elephant, if in a hurry, never take the elephant train!! I don't know how old our beast of burden was, it was however old enough to suffer from a weak bladder and flatulence!!

In my life I have dreamed of doing many things, but never did I dream that on my seventy fifth birthday I would be plodding through the jungle on the back of an elephant! This day was concluded with a dinner on the beach beneath a starlit sky.

There are very few cars on the island, but thousands of motor scooters. It must be the motorbike capital of Thailand! Entire families ride on one scooter. The most I saw was five, mum, dad and three children. There is no such thing as a driver's licence, and no one has ever heard of insurance!! Sometimes, going up a hill, we would have to get out and push!!

We however, on birthday # 2, rented a jeep, which had double strength shock absorbers, which believe me were needed because most of the roads left more than a lot to be desired! The back of the elephant was more comfortable than the back seat of the jeep!! Off we went to explore the island, stopping every now and then at a beach for a swim, when we would undress behind a bush amidst squeals of laughter! Talk about acting my age!!!

We arrived back at Em's villa late in the afternoon, ready for the planned happy hour! So we tucked into cake, which had been made especially for the occasion. Thai folk do not make a fuss about birthdays, so there were no ready-made cakes!

As we sat on the terrace, slowly sipping our pinna coladas, blue Hawaii's, and mai thais, blended by mine host, we watched one of the most magnificent sunsets. Another wonderful day came to an end. I was a year older, and glad to be alive and surrounded by my family. On my 80th I may indeed take up Emyr on his offer to go bungee jumping!! Cerwyn.

Submitted by Dr. Rev Cerwyn Davies

Our Celtic Cousins

Brittany is the Celtic part of France. After the Romans abandoned Britain the inhabitants were pushed north and westwards by invasions from Europe into Scotland, Wales and Cornwall. Some crossed the English Channel into what is now Brittany.

There are still close links between Brittany and Wales and the Breton language can often be understood, at least a little, by Welsh speakers. Brittany remained culturally separate from the rest of France until the mid 19th century when railways, compulsory military service and education began to take its toll on the language.

As in Wales, school children were punished if they were heard speaking their native language, even in the playground (does this sound familiar?) A "symbol" such as a wooden cross or a clog would be placed on a cord around the neck of a child caught speaking Breton in school. If the child had not denounced another before the end of the day then more punishment was assured.

Problems after World War II, because of a minority who had collaborated with the Germans, only served to put Breton further out of favour. The situation couldn't continue and the people began to demand the right to express themselves once more in Breton. Education is now offered in Breton from nursery school to sixth form and continues in French/Breton form in some National schools. TV channel Breizh was launched 2 years ago and broadcasts programs in Breton for children every day while national TV channels offer 1 and 2 hours a week in Breton on local frequencies with FM and AM radio stations also broadcasting in Breton.

Breton resembles Welsh and the language of Britain before the Anglo-Saxon conquests. In 1992, 518,000 spoke Breton. Sadly, there were 1,400,000 who spoke the language in 1914. These figures are considered to be conservative because of emigration to other regions of France and also because the French government refuses to collect language data when taking a census.

An example of the Welsh connection is found in the following:

Welsh: Un, dau, tri, pedwar, pump, chwech, saith, yth, naw, deg.

Breton: Unan, daou, tri, pevar, pemp, chwec'h seizh, ezh, nav, dek.

English: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Welsh: Pen, pont, glaw, eira, haul.

Breton: Penn, pont, glav, erc'h, heol.

English: Head, bridge, rain, snow, sun.

Unlike Welsh, Breton has no legal status; this is true of France's other regional tongues including Corsican. However, despite government resistance there is a spirit of optimism that the Breton language will survive. While facing difficulties unimaginable in Wales today, Bretons are determined that their ancient language shall not die.

Submitted by Vaughan Lewis

On The Move

Jean MacCrae, 216 Plains Road W., A208, Burlington , Ontario, L7T 4K8. Tel # 905 634 6512

Mary and Ray Batten, ray.mary@telus.net ---- New E Mail Address.

Welsh Ghosts

Dyfed seems to be a good spot for the gruesome minded to look out for, “corpse candles,”— glowing lights which foretell of a death or a disaster. Dyfed’s main claim to ghostly fame revolves around the river Teifi. (Most of the better known ghosts seem to have a connection with water.)

If you were unlucky when you went to Pendine and did not hear the ghostly fiddle playing, perhaps you would do better if you went to Llandysul which is quite near the river Teifi. There you may have heard ghostly harp music.

According to tradition, a harpist was drowned there many years ago and his music can still be heard to this day. Whether he drowned whilst playing the harp, unfortunately we’ll never know!

Kitchen Corner

Cornel Y Gegin

Kiwi Fudge Slices

¾ cup of butter, softened
2 dessert spoonfuls golden syrup
½ cup chopped walnuts

½ cup of sugar
2 cups self raising flour
1 ½ cups raisins or dates and cherries (mixed.)

Preheat oven to 350deg. Cream butter and sugar. Add golden syrup, flour fruit and nuts. Blend well. Press into a 9”x 13 pan lined with waxed paper. Place on cookie sheet covered with tin foil. Ice with icing of your choice while hot. Cut when cold.

A friend of my uncle’s in Australia gave this recipe to my mother when she was over there. Unfortunately she didn’t give my mother the recipe for the icing that she used. The sweetness of the squares depends on what type of icing that you use.

Homemade or commercial icing can be used. Buttercream icing gives you a very rich sweet square. Butterscotch or chocolate icing is also very tasty. Icing while the cake is hot allows the icing to melt into the cake itself -- and carry the sweetness all the way through the cake. The original recipe did not include cherries. That was my mother’s addition.

Submitted by Brenda Sutton

Profile Of A Man

The artist looked out from his studio door,
With a thought not to work this day any more,
When an elderly man gave a friendly smile,
And the artist could see an interesting profile.

The artist beckoned the gentleman in,
And enquired if he would be a “subject” for him,
The old man agreed to a time each day,
And the artist was pleased that the gentleman could stay.

For when he looked into the old man’s face,
He could see beyond wrinkles, his perpetual grace,
Some wrinkles revealed, disappointment and sadness,
While others showed happy times with gladness,
And the curves around the mouth, told another story,
Of long ago success, and long ago glory.

Many days later with painting complete,
He walked the old man to the open street,
He returned, and realized when closing the door,
This profile belongs to thousands more.

Submitted by Albert Hale

Thank You

My sincere thanks to all who sent me cards and for the phone calls and other messages of sympathy received. The support of my Dewi Sant “family” is much appreciated at this difficult time. The day after the memorial service for Maurice there arrived the most beautiful arrangement of flowers from the congregation of Dewi Sant. What a wonderful, thoughtful gesture that was. It has helped cheer me up during dark moments, reminding me of the many caring friends that I have.

Submitted by Gaynor McConnell

I wish to thank all my very kind friends and associates who sent me so many beautiful cards expressing their concern and hopes for a speedy recovery, during my time spent in York Central Hospital. I am happy to say that I am now fully recovered from the operation, out and about---in full circulation---and it only remains for me to look for and hopefully find, all the weight I lost during the process. Unwaith eto, diolch yn fawr i chi gyd,

Gratefully yours, Peter Hobbs

Dear Editor, I am sending a donation for Y Gadwyn as many moons ago John and I lived in Toronto and attended the Welsh Church on Clinton Street . My very sad news is that my dearest John passed away on February 6th. He had pneumonia and all kinds of complications that just would not leave him. I am heartbroken and do not like attending to so many things. I still know a few folks in Toronto, Mrs. Bajaj, and my John's dear friend Jack Evans who passed away in May. His wife Irene called me a few weeks ago. I am sad and lonely as all the remaining relatives are in Britain. The Rev. Hedd-Wyn Williams sent a lovely letter at Christmas time. God Bless you all.

Mary (Maimie) Morgans

As a postscript I would like to add that our old friend Mary Aubrey phoned me with the sad news of John's passing and I arranged for an announcement to be made during our Sunday service at Dewi Sant. Our love and condolences go to you Maimie from us here in Toronto.

Myfanwy

Thank you for publishing my brief note of appreciation in Y Gadwyn, which appeared in the January issue. Just a very belated, small correction of an earlier misstatement on my part. I must have been smoking something at the time (!), but, on reading my letter as published, I see that I claimed that I was president of the Saint David's Society from 1951 to 1957. In actual fact, although I was an active member of the Society from 1951 (when I first arrived in Canada) until 1964 (when my family and I moved to Massachusetts). It's my recollection that I was president for only two years, from 1957 to 1959. It was a long time ago and no one would probably challenge my outrageous claim of a "six year presidency", but my Welsh Calvinist conscience requires me to set the record straight!

Sincerely, John Jenkins

Dear Gadwyn staff, Please find enclosed a contribution toward your wonderful newsletter. We look forward to its arrival in our mailbox. We especially enjoyed the recent article and poem about , "love spoons --- llwyau caru", because it brought back many fond memories of Al's dad the late Richie Edwards who was a great carver of love spoons.

With our best wishes, Rev. Alan and Jennifer Edwards

To the editor and the church helpers. A big thank you. I enjoy receiving the news and updates.

Regards, Harold Rowland, Newmarket

From The Editor

Wrth Y Golygydd

Once again thanks to all my contributors, and for the words of encouragement. It is quite exciting to check at Dewi Sant office to see who has written something for me and to check my e mail to see if there is a goodie there titled Y Gadwyn. This month we have a wonderful holiday adventure. With all the travellers in our midst I am sure that there are many stories to tell. Please feel free to "**inundate**" me with your offerings.



Dewi Sant Welsh United Church
Profit & Loss Statement
Year to Date - 2003 vs 2002

Jan-Feb 2003 Jan-Feb 2002

Income

Members	8,9639,859	
Friends & Associates	1,379755	
Loose	286417	
Gadwyn	450540	
Rental Facilities	2,0003,200	
Manse Rental	1,2052,320	
Sundry Income		175
Total Income	14,28317,266	

Expenses

Office & General	1,618619	
Postage	0600	
Bank Charges	7224	
Interest Expense	1111	
Observer	-48-72	
Presbytery Dues	734671	
Technology	463238	
Maintenance-Church	1,0260	
Maintenance-Manse	5690	
Property Taxes	6181	
Insurance	602732	
Session Expenses	226525	
Payroll & Staff Costs: -		
Minister	5,19810,782	
Secretary	3,8382,758	
Organist	1,7401,740	
Caretaker	1,1361,036	
		
Utilities: -		
Gas	2,9692,208	
Electricity	232211	
Water	51639	
Telephones	288274	
		
Total Expenses	21,25122,477	
Net Profit / (Loss)	-6,968-5,211	

Date of the next Gadwyn Deadline is April 21. Please send all contributions to Dewi Sant Office or to Phone # 905 737 4399. my e-mail address, which, is myfanwy@rogers.com.

Thanks to Tara Siân Bajaj- Freemantle for technical help.

Dewi Sant Calendar of Events - 2003

The community of Dewi Sant Welsh United church meet Sundays at 11 a.m. for worship. Sunday School is scheduled to take place every Sunday morning at the regular time.

Welsh Language Services are held at 7 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month.

Good Friday, April 18, 2003

A special bilingual service will be held at 3:00 pm with the Rev. Norman Jones preaching.

Good Friday dinner is at 5.00 pm. Reserve your tickets early - \$15. Contact Lorna Hobbs 905-832-1544.

Good Friday evening at 7.00 pm. the Annual Dewi Sant Gymanfa Ganu under the direction of Betty Cullingworth, with David Jones, Soloist, and Dr. Murray Black, Organist.

Upcoming Events

An Evening of Song with the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and guest soloist Tracey Rees. Scarborough YMCA Benefit Concert. Saturday, April 12th 7:00pm Scarborough Civic Centre, Main Rotunda. Tickets \$20.00 For information call 416-296-9907 Ext 401 or visit the TWMVC web site at www.twmvc.com

Ontario Gymanfa Ganu –Stratford, Ontario, April 25-27, 2003.

North American Festival of Wales. Featuring the 72nd Annual Gymanfa Ganu. Richmond, (Vancouver) B.C. August 28-31 2003. This festival promises to be excellent. Side trips are being arranged to Whistler, Olde World Victoria on Vancouver Island, an Alaskan Luxury Cruise and a West Coast Adventure. Dunvent Male Voice choir, Jason Howard, Ysgol Gerdd Ceredigion are but a few of the Headliners. For details telephone 1-877-831-0563.