

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

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Minister's Message - Neges y Gweinidog

MAY, 2004

Someone asked me the other day what it feels like to come back to minister in a congregation ten years after I had been there before. I can only answer that it feels good.

Of course, there is sadness at the faces which are missing, and there are regrets that we are all a little less youthful than we were ten years ago. But there is joy in renewing relationships with people I think of as friends, as well as meeting and getting to know new people. And there is joy in sensing the renewed enthusiasm and hope in the congregation.

My time with you as minister will be short. I'm a caretaker, trying to help you keep things going until Deian Evans arrives in September. But even that short period of time will be important, and I want to be as useful to you as I can. Please do not hesitate to give me a shout if there is any way in which you think I might be helpful to you personally or to the congregation.

We have had a wonderful boost under the ministry of "Lord" Roberts. He has helped us to begin the process of change which is necessary for every church these days. Let's not lose the impetus of what he has done for us.

Sincerely, Gordon.

Please note that summer services will continue on Sunday mornings at 11:00am throughout the summer. The next Welsh Service will be held June 6th at 7:00pm conducted by the Reverend Dr. Cerwyn Davies.

Greetings from Cricieth.

In the last issue of Y Gadwyn I promised that I intend to let you get to know me a little better prior to my arrival in Toronto, so here goes!

At present I am a minister (part time) at Jerusalem Independent Chapel in Cricieth and Head of the Religious Education department at a school for 11-16 year old students, a post I have held for the past 18 years. I also hold the post of Special Education Needs Co-ordinator at the school. Annette, the 'better half' is an Educational Adviser for the counties of Gwynedd and Mon and an Inspector of Schools. By now, of course, we are at the stage of leaving those posts and preparing ourselves, both physically and mentally, for the new and great adventure in Canada.

My roots? I am afraid that I have none. As the son of the Manse I became somewhat of a 'traveller'. I was born in Llandyfri in the old Carmarthenshire, then moved to live in Rhosllanerchrugog, near Wrexham (the largest village in Wales). From there we moved to Newcastle Emlyn, on the Teifi River, and seven years later moved again, this time to Blaenau Ffestiniog, a town made famous by the slate quarrying tradition. I entered college at Trinity, Carmarthen, where I gained my Degree in Divinity in 1977. This is where I met Annette. Since then I have been a teacher at ysgol Glan y Mor, Pwllheli and Ysgol Eifionydd, Porthmadog, and a minister at Bryncir, Pantglas (Bryn Terfel's Church) and in Cricieth.

On the other hand Annette has very solid roots, in Trefor, a village on the Llyn Peninsular, where there was once a thriving granite quarry, and where all the best Curling stones are produced.

One reason for giving you the above list of 'ports of call' is that I am certain that many of you, the readers, have a connection with one of those places, and if you have I would be thrilled to meet up with you to share memories of the Homeland when I come over to live in Toronto.

That is more than enough information for one issue! So I will 'sign off' with best wishes and blessings. Hwyl fawr a bob bendith.

Deian.

U.C.W.

This is an advance notice to all members and friends of Dewi Sant to attend the annual "Strawberry Tea" to be held on Friday June 25th. at 7:30 p.m. Tickets. \$5.00
Fellowship Hall - Dewi Sant Welsh United Church.

Mission and Service

On May 2nd. Mission and Service held their Spring Fundraiser. Approximately 50 people attended the Lunch, Sale and Auction after Sunday Morning Service. Approximately \$1100.00 was raised to add to Dewi Sant's yearly contribution to Mission and Service. Our thanks to Marie Hillier and Meryl Davies for serving the "Pastie & Bean Lunch", to Nest Pritchard and Irene Evans for looking after the Home Baking and Miscellaneous items Stalls, to Joan Lloyd for acting as Treasurer, selling tickets and looking after the proceeds from the sale and auction and a big "thank you" to those who helped clean up the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you to those who contributed to the Home Baking Stall with their lovely home baking, to those who contributed many items to the Miscellaneous Stall and a big thank you to those who spent months knitting and crocheting the lovely afghans and shawls for the auction. Some of these people live too far away to attend Dewi Sant's Services and Special Events, So contribute to Dewi Sant in a very special way by using their talents in making the lovely Afghans and Shawls we were selling on May 2nd. Special Thanks to:....

Doreen Beckett, Ulricke Jones-Caledon, Margaret Frampton-London, Brandi Davis, Marie Hillier, Iris Mulcahy-Alberta, Lilly Stevens-Burlington and a very special thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Francis (Leona) for the Blue Jay tickets we auctioned off at the close of the day. My last big "thank you" is to all of the people who attended the Lunch & Sale especially those who stayed for the auction. Those who purchased an Afghan or Shawl have something very special to enjoy for years to come.

Thank you again, See you at the September Barbecue!!!!!!!

Betty Jones for Nest Pritchard, Joan Lloyd and Anna Dunets.

Annual Ontario Gymanfa Ganu, April 23-25.

There is only one way to describe the recent Ontario Gymanfa Ganu weekend - hugely successful. This annual celebration is an opportunity for Welsh people from all over Canada and the United States to celebrate and to immerse themselves in their heritage. Peterborough was the venue for this year's Gymanfa, and although the weather was chilly, the warmth of the occasion more than made up for the temperature outside.

I have always admired and rather envied the North American custom of annual family reunions. The Gymanfa is the nearest that I, as a Welsh Canadian, can get to that feeling of family. It is at gatherings such as these that we re-confirm and acknowledge the depth of our roots.

The celebrations began officially with a Noson Lawen on Friday evening. Myfanwy Bajaj, president of the OGGGA, chaired the evening in her superb and inimitable way. Myfanwy could well consider a new career as a stand-up comic! She set a high standard for those of us who had volunteered to participate in the evening's program. Amongst the musical entertainers were Merched Dewi (Toronto), Cantorion Cerdd Dant (Ottawa), John Griffiths and Alison Lawson (duets), Meriel Simpson, Kirsten Baker, Glenys Reed, Sally Funderburk and Hefina Phillips. Mairwen Thornley, herself an alto, kept us laughing with her recitation, "The Altos' Lament". Elizabeth Semlitsch and Eileen Tyrrell have become a fixture with their very amusing parodies.

Guests of honour at the Saturday evening banquet were Sylvia Sutherland, Mayor of Peterborough, and the Member of Parliament for Peterborough, Peter Adams - both of whom have strong Welsh connections. The family of Her Worship, the mayor, hails from Forest Fach, near Swansea, and the Honourable Peter Adams comes from Aberdare. (Peter was seen in the tenor section during the Sunday morning Gymanfa, singing with gusto!) Both the Mayor and the Member of Parliament welcomed us warmly to Peterborough.

Following the banquet we were royally entertained by the Burlington Welsh Male Choir, under the baton of Maestro Lyn Harry and accompanied by Richard Street. It was wonderful to see Lyn back in action after his serious illness. He was on top form on Saturday evening. Such was the excellent sound that Lyn produced from the choristers that it was impossible to believe that the choir was formed less than three years ago.

Trevor Bowles, a very young baritone, thrilled us with his solos. It was worth the trip to Peterborough just to hear him. Remember his name, for he surely has a bright future as an operatic performer.

The pinnacle of the weekend is the Gymanfa and there were two sessions - morning and afternoon. We were indeed blessed that Dr. Haydn James agreed to conduct this year's gymanfa. Haydn is the Musical director of The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and Cor Meibion De Cymru. He has also led the singing of 70,000 spectators at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium prior to international matches. (As he's such a musical genius, it's a pity he can't work the same magic on the Welsh Rugby team!!)

Those who attended the National in Richmond, B.C. last September will remember that Haydn was able to produce a magnificent sound despite the rather daunting atmosphere of the Sports Arena in which the Gymanfa was held. Imagine how much better the sound he produced in the exquisite surroundings of All Saints Church, Peterborough. He is loved not only for his superb conducting ability but also because of his delightful personality. He certainly knows how to get the best from us singers and he had the alto section eating out of his hand! A few words of flattery here and there work wonders!!

Accompanist Alan Thomas of Ottawa was the other half of the dynamic musical duo. Born in Neath, South Wales, Alan is presently Director of Music at Ashbury College, Ottawa and Organist and Choir Director at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ottawa. He is also guest conductor of the Parkdale Symphony Orchestra. Haydn certainly found an apt nickname for Alan when he called him "Fingers"!! The combination of Haydn and Alan resulted in one of the best cymanfaoedd that I have attended.

No OGGGA weekend is complete without its annual general meeting. A huge vote of Thanks goes to outgoing president Myfanwy Bajaj who has been on the Board of Trustees for a very long time. Incoming president, David Pugh of Oshawa, thanked Myfanwy for her hard work and dedication and welcomed returning and new trustees to the Board. Trustees for 2004-2006 are: Dave Pugh, president, Myfanwy Bajaj, past president, Hefina Phillips, vice-president, Gwen Dodson, treasurer, Margaret Williams, secretary, Barbara Colton, Betty Cullingworth, Donald Davies, Mabel Hastings, Glenson Jones (one year appointment), and Hywel Pritchard.

We were delighted to welcome members of the National Executive and Board to the OGGGA. This was an opportunity for them to hold their semi-annual meeting and to plan for the up-coming North American Festival of Wales in Buffalo, NY, from September 2 - 5, 2004

A special "Diolch yn fawr" goes to the members of the Peterborough Welsh society for all their hard work in making this year's gymanfa such a success.

Next year's Ontario Gymanfa will be at Stratford, Ontario. Why not mark your calendars now? Why not combine a Gymanfa weekend with Stratford's superb annual Shakespearian Festival?

Gobeithio'ch gweld flwyddyn nesa yng Nghymanfa Ontario.

Hefina

Eisteddfod Buffalo, 2004

Calling all competitors! The deadline for registering for the Buffalo Eisteddfod is fast approaching. Did you check your copy of last month's Ninnau? It contained a comprehensive information sheet on this year's competitions. Please make this year's eisteddfod a resounding success by competing in as many categories as possible. There is truly something for everyone.

Do you love singing? Of course you do! Too nervous to sing a solo? Well, get some friends together and enter the Vocal ensemble competition - six or fewer in number. You have more than six friends who love to sing? Even better! Then you can enter the competition for choirs (no restrictions on numbers!) That category may also be the opportunity for you all as a family to shine. If you are "of a certain age", what about the Senior Hymn Singing category - solo or quartet?

Contrary to popular belief, not all Welsh people can sing well! For those of us who fall into that category, there are plenty of other competitions. We may not be first class singers, but we can certainly talk! How about one of the story-telling or recitation competitions? Still afraid to go solo? No problem! There's a category for a recitation ensemble. The spoken word not your forte? Then the literary category is for you- either prose or poetry. And, naturally, most of these categories appeal to both English and Welsh speakers.

Again this year, the pinnacle of the Eisteddfod will be the David Morris award for semi-professional singers. The winner receives an expenses paid trip to Wales in 2005 to compete in the National Eisteddfod! Diolch yn fawr iawn, Mr. Morris am eich haelioni.

June 15th is the deadline for entries. For more information, log on to our website: eisteddfod2004@yahoo.com or call Hefina Phillips at 905-847-5474

See you all in Buffalo. Hefina Phillips.

AWR Y PLANT

Awr y Plant (Children's Hour) has long been an important feature of Cymanfaoedd Canu in North America. The Festival of Wales in Buffalo this Labour weekend will be somewhat different. Not only will there be the usual Awr y Plant, but also an extended program for the children and youth.

Awr y Plant is an opportunity for your children or grandchildren to perform in a non-competitive environment- singing, instrumental, recitation or dance. Or perhaps your child is good at telling stories or jokes. We encourage all children to participate and keep the tradition of Awr y Plant alive. Who knows- it might be the start of a great new beginning. Maybe you were at the Kingston OGGGA the year that little Sharon Mercer performed so exquisitely in Awr y Plant. She is now a sought-after operatic soprano! I don't want to make claims that this is because she performed at Awr y Plant, but.....!

In addition there will be a program for the young people to include Bingo (in Welsh, of course), a twmpath dawn (folk dancing), a pool/pizza party, face painting and tours. No excuses this year not to bring your children or grandchildren (and their friends) to the annual Festival of Wales, especially as we are so close to Buffalo. Please support the children and youth. They are the future of our organization.

Hefina Phillips.

THE EISTEDDFOD AT THE FESTIVAL OF WALES IN BUFFALO

As part of the festivities at the Festival of Wales in Buffalo on the Labour Weekend, there will be an eisteddfod. Competitions in singing, recitations, essay and poetry writing will highlight the event. Opportunities exist for performance in either English or Welsh. Attached to Y Gadwyn, you will find applications and further information about the categories.

We encourage all to participate and attend the performances on either Friday or Saturday.

You may send your completed form to the National Office or give it directly to either:-

Hefina Phillips or Betty Cullingworth

As an editor I would like to thank Betty and Hefina for all the work that they are doing on behalf of Dewi Sant and the Festival of Wales in Buffalo. Renewal 2007 and the Festival take a great deal of time and dedication and these two ladies are constantly working, planning and keeping us all informed. Thank very much Diolch yn fawr iawn

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!!!

...for the **FESTIVAL OF WALES IN BUFFALO** – Labour Weekend, 2004

From Thursday, September 2 to Sunday, September 5, the festival of Wales will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in Buffalo with a program filled with events, concerts, seminars and Cymanfaoedd to please every Welsh heart. To ensure the smooth running of these activities, a huge volunteer contingent is needed.

If you are planning to attend the NAFOW even for a day or so and you think that you might have some time available to help as a volunteer, I would be delighted to hear from you. There is something of interest for everyone so please do not hesitate to give me your name and we will find an activity of interest to you.

You can reach me by phone at (416) 486-0432 or by e-mail at cullingwho@rogers.com

Diolch yn fawr iawn in advance for any help that you can offer.....**Betty Cullingworth.**

Whilst we are still on the subject of Buffalo..... Many of our Gymanfa goers feel that as they get older it is much easier to be driven to an event. With this in mind Clarice Terry is interested in renting a coach to convey people to Y Gymanfa on the Sunday in Buffalo. If you feel that you'd be interested please get in touch with Clarice. 30th. of June would be an appropriate date for the final count in order that the bus can be booked in time. There are several names on the list, so please hurry to join them for a really good day out.

Clarice Terry 905 460 9526 clarice.terry@sympatico.ca

"Taken from a 1998 Gadwyn"

Last month I mentioned how my father introduced me at an early age to his belief, and now mine, that life is not made up of individual units or blocks, but of overlapping "clinker built" planks, each giving strength to the next, provided each is strong in itself. My "plank" this month, is my Welsh village life of the thirties and forties (!!!) A life greatly changed in the last few decades.

Welsh Village Life of Yesteryear"

**A diversity of kindred spirits.
An amalgam of philosophies and beliefs.
An acceptance - within limits, of differences.
An enjoyment of life in the pride of self,
Neighbour and Community.
A remembrance and understanding of yesteryear,
A belief in the present,
A hope for the future.**

**The ability for self and others, especially others,
To try and turn stumbling blocks of life
Into stepping stones of living.
Sharing, village-wide in the care and upbringing of village children
And the acceptance of such care by all concerned.
The involvement of so many
In the culture of Welsh Wales,
The Eisteddfod, Yr Urdd, - (for the hope of Wales)
The choirs, the chapels with their Band of Hope and seiat.
The deep natural love of Cymraeg, - for some, the only language.
The pride of skills and ability with garden and greenhouse,
With craft making in farming, kitchen and hearth.
The Nosweithiau Llawen with family and friends, -
Impromptu, thoroughly Welsh,
Warm and melodic yet robust in their rural humour.
Penillion singing, instant poetry, story telling.
This plank has multiplied into many
And there are others, many others, yet to be mentioned.
A perfect life?
No, not perfect, even then we were all human!
But I do believe that this "clinker built boat"
By the Welsh nickname of "Jones the Story"
Is a stronger boat on this sea of life
Because of his Welsh village upbringing.**

Tom Jones "Jones the Story"

THE LUNCH BUNCH / CAWL A BRAWL.

*This group of friends has been meeting on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month since February and has been growing in fellowship and interest as each meeting passes. We gather together at 10.30 am. And enjoy a cup of tea while visiting with friends or browsing in the "Library" coordinated by **Audrey Evans**, and "The Country Store" coordinated by **Irene Evans**. You might even try your hand at a board game or two, ably set up by **Orly Bohorquez**. Our average attendance is about 30 !*

The meeting is called to order at 11am. with the singing of a hymn and a time of prayer. Since we began we have been entertained (and educated) by the Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies who shared the experiences he and Nora encountered on their trip to Thailand; and the Reverend Roger Roberts (now of the House of Lords) Most recently Meriel Simpson led us in a self-evaluation of our personality which provided much humour to many. We have also enjoyed hearing Meriel and Hilda Anderson who brought a musical touch of Wales and Ireland to us as we neared and celebrated March 1st. and the 17th. !

After our "programme" has ended we adjourn to tables decorated according to our theme and enjoy piping hot soup to compliment the sandwiches, muffins etc. which each member brings to suit their individual taste.

The atmosphere is warm and loving and our volunteers are the best! If you haven't heard about us and would enjoy spending a few hours with a very relaxed and happy band of pilgrims, sharing LOTS of conversation,... please call, you can be assured of an enthusiastic welcome.

We are still in the "growth" stage and would welcome and consider any ideas for future speakers, demonstrations, etc.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, JUNE 1st. at 10.30 am and our topic is "KANATA." It's going to be a colourfull, educational and entertaining event!

Hope to see you there!

Jean Iona Thompson. Coordinator (416 656 666)

THANK YOU.

I would like to thank everyone for their cards and Prayer's during my recent stay in hospital. I really appreciated them all. Also thank you to the UCW Executive for the beautiful plant. I am so thankful to be back at Church where I feel I am among friends.

Joy Bailey.

On The Mend

The Reverend Hedd Wyn Williams and family thank you all for the interest, compassion and love shown during the long illness that Iris has been experiencing. Your love and prayers have played a great part in her recovery. Hedd Wyn said this morning that after seven long dark weeks there is light at the end of the tunnel. Iris was showing encouraging signs that she had taken a turn for the better yesterday.

Hedd Wyn is a firm believer in the power of prayer and knows that we his church family and friends are praying that Iris will soon be back amongst us, her cheerful healthy self. _

CONGRATULATIONS.

Following the highly acclaimed performance on Broadway of King Lear, which has been nominated for a Tony award, Geraint Wyn Davies (who played Edmund) is now preparing to open in the starring role of Cyrano de Bergerac at The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington D.C. on June 8th. The play will run until August 1st.

In October Geraint will return to Stratford as Dylan Thomas, in his one-man performance of "Do not go gentle" and "Goodnight disgrace."

On The Move.

We are delighted to welcome into our midst a very talented young couple....Marlene and Gwyndaf Jones. Both have had success in the field of Theatre. Marlene is from a Portugese family, whilst Gwyndaf is the son of the late Reverend Tudor Jones Of London Ontario. His mother is still living in London.

Gwyndaf gave a one-man concert in Toronto in the fall and has performed with the Detroit opera company. He has a beautiful voice and to crown it all he speaks Welsh fluently, (and sings Myfanwy like an angel!!!) We are blessed to have such a great deal of Welsh talent amongst us. Marlene and Gwyndaf are at Unit Z-4 Belle Ayr Blvd. Toronto. M4S 2P7

Tel : 416 544 8228

Also On The Move.

Marjorie Tsipuras. 15 Barberry Place, Ste. 310, Toronto, Ontario, M2K 1E9,
Tel. 416-987-7703

Eaton Davies. 23 Imperial Crown Lane, Barrie, Ontario
Tel. 705-792-1306

Doris Chappell. 305 Balliol St., Apt. 202, Toronto, Ontario M4S 3H5.
Tel. 416-488-8005

Gwynfor & Joan Parry. 66 Martindale Crescent, #85, Brampton, Ontario L6X 2V1

Reverend Alwyn & Janet Evans. Morlogws Lodge, Tanglwst, Capel Iwan,
Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire SA38 9AL
Tel. 01559 371070. E-mail. Alwynevans36@aol.com

Renewal 2007.

As you all know, the Renewal 2007 committee is hard at work preparing for our centenary. This is a major stepping-stone in our history and, of course, we need everyone's input to ensure its success.

There will be a Lunch-Launch for the campaign on Sunday, September 2, 2004. In the meantime we need a SLOGAN for the campaign, and that's where you, dear readers, come in. By September, could you (ALL OF YOU) come up with a catchy slogan for the Renewal 2007? The

deadline is Wednesday, September 15, and I shall be reminding you constantly about our contest. Send your entries to Betty Cullingworth c/o Dewi Sant Church, 33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto, M5M 1Y6 or email to *info@dewisant.com*

This is an exciting period of growth in our beloved church. Unfortunately we need funds to make it all work. One of the suggestions for raising money was "Loaves and Fishes." You will be "given" \$25 and asked to at least double it. Fundraising can be fun and this suggestion is one of the most enjoyable. Can't decide how to grow your money? What about making bara brith and selling it in your neighbourhood? Two friends of mine got together to organize a used book sale and served lunch to the people who attended. I shall probably invite all my neighbours and friends in Oakville for dessert and coffee (and even a glass of wine). No, of course not, I can't do all that for \$25, but I feel passionately about Dewi Sant and therefore have no problem donating more money towards the project. For more ideas, speak to Betty Cullingworth or Hefina Phillips. I hope you're as excited with this idea as I am. If so, contact Ross Cullingworth for your \$25.

The cut-off date for the Loaves and Fishes project is December 31, 2004. When you return your proceeds to Ross, please include details of how you raised the money.

Good luck. Dewi Sant needs you.

Hefina Phillips.

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All are invited to A SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING on Monday, June 21st at 7:00pm at St. John's United Church, Alliston, Ontario. This will be an opportunity to hear the Reverend Wesley Madona Mabuza preach. He has been Toronto Conference Partner in Residence, and the people from Dewi Sant who have heard him preach report that he is a dynamic and inspiring speaker.

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From the Editor

Please keep your articles and stories etc. coming. I need to start soon on the next edition. The deadline is June 20th. Send your contributions directly to me at myfanwy@rogers.com tel # 905 737 4399 or leave them in the church office in an envelope clearly marked Y Gadwyn. Thank you, Myfanwy