

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

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Gair gan y Gweinidog A word from the Minister

By the time you read this message Annette and I will have returned from a well-earned break on board a cruise liner, having celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary doing what we love doing most on vacation – traveling in style. I feel rather proud and honoured at reaching this milestone in my life, and also very humbled. This is because there are so many others who would crave for such an honour to befall them but have not been fortunate because of events and circumstances they can do nothing to alter. The simple and profound phrase ‘There but for the grace of God go I’ is so very true in so many situations. We tend to take things for granted until we are reminded in some way that we are blessed with, and should be grateful for, everything we hold dear to us.

Yes, we have traveled on many journeys over the years, some to exotic lands and others to places that are steeped in culture and history. All journeys add to our experiences, and they also make us appreciate our return to ‘normal life’. It’s good to go away, and it’s good to come home.

We could see life as a kind of journey. Many aspects are similar. To travel is exciting, partly because we do not know what we will encounter. We hear about the things that we will see but to experience them is something else. Some things we will remember for their beauty, others for the wrong reasons, when things go amiss. Proper preparation is the key to a good journey, taking the right baggage and items we need for the trip. A guide book is always useful, if not essential, or else there is the danger of becoming lost and wasting valuable time, which we have so little of. And the people we take with us, those we choose to be our companions can make or spoil a journey. If those who are with us are of similar minds and ideals we can share travel experiences without feeling that anyone in the party is acting or having to do things against their will.

One absolute essential for peace of mind, of course, is an all-inclusive, comprehensive insurance policy that will cover all eventualities on the journey. Knowing that we have this document ensures that we can move on without worry, and if anything were to go wrong then we know that everything will be taken care of on our behalf.

Whether it be a journey ‘down the road’, to the other side of the world, or the journey we call life, all these things are vital to our enjoyment and pleasure. And in life we can be sure that when one journey ends, with its mixture of experiences, we can always look forward to the next. This is the wonderful message of the ‘guide book’ and the reality of Easter Sunday.

Bob bendith,

Deian.

UCW ----- MERCHED YR EGLWYS.

The UCW hosted the Good Friday Bilingual worship service, dinner and Gymanfa Ganu. Many people worked to make this a meaningful day of worship and fellowship. Thanks go to Reverend Deian Evans, Dr. Murray Black and Merched Dewi for the afternoon worship.

At five a dinner was served thanks to the work of Wendy van der Voort and Chris Bailey. The te bach after the Gymanfa was prepared by Betty Jones. She was helped by Audrey Evans, Flo Sutton, Brenda Davies and Ashley Terry. Marie Hillier, Mabel Hastings, Gaynor McConnell, Violet Clay and Betty Jones made the delicious goodies that were served.

Elisabeth Stroud and Myfanwy helped Betty set up the tables etc. the night before and Cyril and Audrey Evans helped with the clean up at the very end of the evening. It takes many hands to make things a success.

The Gymanfa Ganu was a great success with a near full church. Congratulations go to Sheryl Clay for conducting her first Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu. Thanks also go to our soloist David Jones and organist Dr. Murray Black.

We need all the help that we can get and I feel that we owe a big vote of thanks to all those involved. Diolch yn fawr i bawb.

Myfanwy Bajaj. UCW Chair.

Please make a note of the up coming UCW events.

The Spring/Summer bazaar will take place on the 3rd of June. Sheryl Clay is the coordinator.

We are looking for all kinds of things in good working condition. We are asking for good clean clothing, books, utensils, treasures, knitting, knick, knacks, and of course baking goods. For your contributions please contact Sheryl or myself. We are just a month or so away and need to start assembling the goods. Sheryl 416 652 7537 Myfanwy 905 737 4399.

The annual Strawberry Supper will be June 23rd.

Thank you. Myfanwy.

Renewal 2007 - Sponsor a Year.

I'm delighted to report that only six years remain awaiting "adoption". The orphan years (just hoping for a loving sponsor!) are 1915, 1917, 1949, 1963, 1985 and 1990. Please won't you put these unloved years out of their lonely misery? A cheque for \$100.00 made out to Dewi Sant Welsh Church / Sponsor a Year is all that is needed. A tax receipt will be issued for your donation and your name will appear on a commemorative plaque.

Thank you all for making this campaign so successful. To date more than \$14,000.00 has been raised towards our overall goal of \$100,000.00. Let's do our utmost to ensure that the Dragon lands soon!

Hefina Phillips.

Famous quotes* well a little famous !!!!!**

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible. Santa Claus has the right idea, visit people once a year. My wife has a slight impediment in her speech. Every now and then she stops to breathe. I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat. I never drink water because of the disgusting things that fish do in it.

My luck is so bad that if I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying. Money can't buy you happiness...but it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery..

Church Picnic....Sunday, May 28!!!!

Do you remember when the picnic at Dewi Sant was the social event of the church calendar? For many of us, going to the church picnic was a highlight of the year. Three legged races, egg tosses, hitting a nail into a piece of wood with a hammer in the fewest strokes, all were annual competitions to be relished. There was often a tug of war (between the North and the South?), and a soccer or a baseball game as well.

Last year, the Reverend Deian Evans mentioned in his sermon on Whitsun, that in Wales, this was the time of the yearly church picnics and his memories resonated with those of many of us here at Dewi Sant. It was decided that this May 28, Whit Sunday (Whitsun), would be a good time to resurrect the church picnic and Earl Bales Park has been reserved for the event. Earl Bales Park (Picnic Area #2) is located on Bathurst Street just south of Sheppard.

The last Dewi Sant picnic was held on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the church and this year will be a prelude to an even bigger centenary event next year. (You can try out your picnic recipes in preparation for the "big" event in 2007!)

Do come along and join in the fun. Bring your families and enjoy the camaraderie, plus all the fun events that will be planned for you. Hot water will be supplied for tea and coffee..

See you at Earl Bales Park on May 28 at 12:30 p.m.!!

** There will be a church service as per usual that morning at Dewi Sant at 11:00 A.M.**

Betty Cullingworth.

LOOKING FORWARD!!

Please mark the dates, October 19, 20, and 21, 2007 on your calendars. This is the weekend that Dewi Sant will formally celebrate its centenary. Exciting events are being planned and more details will be forthcoming shortly but please mark the dates NOW to ensure that you will be available to celebrate this special event with all of the present and past members of Dewi Sant.

Question: Where will you be on October 19, 20, and 21, 2007?

Answer: In Toronto, at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church's Centenary Celebrations!!!

Betty Cullingworth (Chair of the Renewal Committee)

Saint David's Celebrations.

The St. David's Society of Toronto hosted its annual Banquet and Dance on March 11th. President Myfanwy Bajaj welcomed more than a hundred people to Fantasy Farm and introduced us to the guest speaker - Evan Davies from Carmarthen (locally known as Jac Codi Baw). A cancer survivor, Evan accepts no fee for speaking, but all stipends go entirely to Cancer Research in Wales. He is one of the funniest speakers that I have ever heard. I laughed until my sides ached as he rattled off one joke after another - without a smile on his face! I just adored his sense of humour.

As readers of Y Gadwyn are very aware, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church celebrates its centenary in 2007. We have been busy fundraising for more than a year with a goal of \$100,000.00. During the St. David's Society Banquet the Reverend Deian Evans took on the role of auctioneer and was excellent at pushing bids higher and higher. Five pairs of tickets to a Blue Jays game reached a \$100.00 per pair; Merched Dewi successfully bid on a Box also at a Blue Jays game. The pinnacle of the auction was a week's vacation this coming summer at Lord Roger Roberts' apartment in Lambeth Palace. The bidding was keen and exciting. Just as Deian was ready to close, another hand would go up, pushing the price higher and higher. Betty and Ross Cullingworth will be rubbing shoulders with Westminster's hoi-polloi this summer! We were thrilled to learn that more than \$3,000.00 was raised. Thanks to the Society for including this during the celebrations. Thank you, everyone.

To recover from this excitement, we all united in a lively singsong, thanks to Dr Murray Black and Betty Cullingworth. All too soon it was time to say our farewells, with everyone agreeing that we had had a wonderful evening. Diolch, Myfanwy. Noson fendigedig. Hefina Phillips .

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Megan and Islwyn Morris

The Thornhill Golf and Country Club was the elegant venue for a special celebration on Sunday, April 2. It was the Golden Wedding anniversary of one of the most beloved couples in Dewi Sant - Megan and Islwyn Morris. Family, friends from the church and neighbours were thrilled to share in this wonderful event and, even though neither Megan nor Islwyn is enjoying the best of health right now, they both glowed and beamed as we all hugged and kissed them both.

Donna, their daughter, had left no detail to chance, from the exquisite invitation, the menu, the floral arrangements, the background music and the speeches. Donna's friend, Sheryl Clay, produced a book of signed photographs of all the guests as a memento of the afternoon. Libby, Donna's cousin from London, and who was the flower girl at Megan and Islwyn's wedding, related how her aunt and uncle from Blaengwynfi had moved to London, met and fallen in love, and eventually, along with Islwyn's brother, Dai, had moved to Canada.

There were few dry eyes as Donna paid tribute to her parents. How proud they must be to be blessed with such a wonderful daughter.

When the formal proceedings were over, the happy couple was invited to cut the Golden Wedding cake made and gorgeously decorated by Mabel and Barry Hastings.

The excitement of the occasion took its toll, for the next day Megan was back in the hospital, this time with pneumonia. However, Donna is pleased to report that she is improving and is in great spirits. Get better, Megan. We need your smiling face back at Dewi Sant.

Hefina Phillips

The Rich Coast. (Part 2)

From here we tried to head east to Irazu volcano, but I discovered, yet again, that all roads and no matter how hard I tried, I always ended up driving through the centre of San Jose, usually in the dark, in the rain, and at rush hour. All Ticos seem to drive with their hands poised upon the horn. Ears and the horn seem to be more important than the eyes or brakes. Anyway, we managed somehow, and after driving through Cartago, the former capital city, and again through the centre, we found our way to Irazu, but there didn't seem to be any point in paying to enter the park enveloped in cloud. It is the highest of the volcanoes, at 11,260 ft. and although we didn't see the volcano, the drive there through fertile vegetable fields, pastures, and native oak forests made the journey worth while. Driving here may be different on August 2nd, when the road from San Jose to Cartago is clogged with worshippers from as far away as Nicaragua, come to celebrate the 1635 appearance of Costa Rica's patron saint, La Negrita (the Black Virgin). There are healing powers and curative properties attributed to the water from the spring behind the church containing the shrine to La Negrita. The church, Basilica de Nuestra Senora de los Angeles, is Cartago's most famous building. Jose Leon Sanchez, one of Costa Rica's best known novelists, spent 20 years on the prison island of San Lucas for stealing the statue of the Black Madonna in 1950.

We headed back through the centre of San Jose at rush hour, in the dark, 6 pm, and in the rain to Santa Ana, and stayed at the Quality Inn. Our intention was to stay in Heredia, but I wasn't about to tempt fate, or my wife's patience, any further that day. Our chances of finding the proposed hotel in the dark would have been slim indeed.

Next morning we visited the nearby (as the crow flies, that is) butterfly farm. Finca de Mariposas is a fascinating place, which displays, breeds, and exports butterflies, or more correctly, exports chrysalises, as far as Niagara, and elsewhere, and is well worth a visit. My favourite was the Morpho Blue, a large butterfly with an "eye" on the undersurface of each wing.

We returned to Ciudad Colon, and picked up Lauren at UPeace, and continued over the mountain ranges all the way to the pacific. The journey took about 3 ½ hours, shaving at least 2 hours off the trip had we'd taken the tarred road. The 4-wheel-drive rental car performed admirably on the winding rough roads, and the scenery was stunning. We passed through Santiago de Puriscal, a typical small provincial town perched on the very top of a mountain, eventually hitting the tarred road at Parrita.

It was then a straight 25km run south to Manuel Antonio Park It should have been uneventful, except for the rather unsafe appearance of 2 or 3 narrow single lane bridges with moving support struts and big gaps. But, all of a sudden, a hydro pole on the roadside exploded with a large flash beside the car, then, as I drove south, another transformer exploded next to the car, and then a third one! This was the one and only time my wife asked me to speed up on the whole trip! In fact, I had jokingly said that the next hire car I get must have a seat in the rear facing backwards, so that I could drive with fewer comments about speed etc. I'm sure this experience is not unique.

Manuel Antonio is a small tourist town perched on top of a hill on a small peninsula which separates the ordinary fishing town of Quepos and the Manuel Antonio National park The area is surrounded by lush green tropical forest. The park, despite being the smallest National Park in C.R., is one of the most popular, second only to Poas National Park. Our hotel grounds stretched from the lovely, hardly ever crowded, Espadilla beach, across the main road, and up the hill. Our cabin had a spectacular view of the bay and the small islets, the one drawback being the 100 or so steps to reach it! It came with its own iguana family, and the dominant male left a very large calling card at the door step! After paying for entry into the park, we experienced several new creatures, including the agoutis, a rodent relative of the guinea pig, but larger. We also saw a number of cheeky white-faced capuchin monkeys, as well as another pizote, also known as a coati. After an arduous climb through the park to a mirador (look-out point) and back, we rested on the beautiful Manuel Antonio beach. I set my sweaty shirt on the branches of a tree to dry, but fortunately, a helpful local told me the tree was a "poison ivy tree", presumably the Manzanilla tree, whose poisonous fruit deterred the French invaders of Curacao in times gone by. Needless to say, I didn't put my shirt back on! We had dinner at an interesting restaurant called L'Avion. The place is partly composed of an old American C123 plane, the "sister ship" of a plane shot down over Nicaragua during the Iran / Contra affair. The plane we saw was abandoned in Costa Rica, and bought by the restaurant owners for \$3000.00. It makes a great talking point. It was here that I met an Argentinian couple from Buenos Aires, who owned 300 hectares of land near Trevelin in Patagonia. However, his genetic background was Germanic, and not Welsh.

We re-traced our route over the mountains to Ciudad Colon. The journey was made more interesting because it was voting day. At every settlement, no matter how small, there was a colourful array of political flags and posters, displayed mainly by children and young adults. The kids are encouraged to take part in the voting process, and they certainly do! They can also vote, but, although their vote doesn't count, they become familiarised with the democratic process, perhaps a lesson we could learn. Our last night in Ciudad Colon saw us being hosts to a number of Lauren's friends at a vegetarian restaurant. It turned out to be a most interesting evening in the company of a very cosmopolitan group of young people bristling with enthusiasm for the future.

We spent our last day returning our rental car and enjoying the sights and venues of San Juan. We had lunch at the Casa Italiana, although we were taken initially to the Italian Embassy, my Spanish again! We saw the market and the National Museum, and had a drink at Café Mundo. My drink was a fresh lemonade, because they didn't have "guanabana", a local tropical fruit drink that my daughter had recently introduced to me. We then returned to our hotel to await our "middle of the night" return journey home.

It had been a thoroughly enjoyable trip, and we had found the local people to be extremely friendly and helpful. However, I wonder about the future. There is so much development going on in and around San Jose and along the coast. Sure, it brings jobs and wealth to some, but what of the average Tico. What happens when N .American prices compete with the local economy? Will it breed animosity and ill-will? Time will tell,- and soon. Pura Vida.

Dr. Steven Jones.

Cornel Fach Y Gegin

Kitchen Corner.

This takes five minutes to make and was very popular at the Good Friday Dinner at Dewi Sanctity takes five minutes to make:

Fruit Cocktail Cake.

*1 1/2 cups white sugar: 2 cups flour: 2 teaspoons baking soda: 1/2 teaspoons salt:
2 eggs : 19oz can fruit cocktail with juice*

Beat eggs slightly add all ingredients EXCEPT flour. mix together then add flour.

Bake in 9x13 greased pan at 350 for 45 minutes. (Test with toothpick.)

ICING

3/4 cup white sugar: 1/2 cup milk: 1/2 cup butter: 1 teaspoon vanilla OR brandy

Boil all ingredients EXCEPT vanilla

Add vanilla and pour over HOT cake. It makes a lot but use it all.

Serve warm or cold with or without cool whip or ice cream. It keeps in fridge for several days.

You can substitute crushed pineapple for fruit, but use a little less sugar.

Chocolate Cherry Almond Cake

1 pkg Devils food cake mix: 1 can Cherry pie filling: 1 tsp Almond extract: 2 eggs beaten.

Preheat oven to 350. In large bowl combine ingredients STIR WELL until all mixed. Pour into greased 9x13 pan. Bake 25 to 30 minutes until cake tests done with toothpick.

Whilst cake is cooling prepare frosting.

FROSTING:-- 1 cup white sugar; 5 tablespoons butter or margarine

1/3 cup milk: 6 oz (1 cup) semi sweet chocolate chips

In small saucepan combine sugar, butter and milk. Boil stirring constantly for 1 minute or until sugar is dissolved. Remove from heat, stir in chocolate chips until smooth. Pour over cake and refrigerate.

Wendy van der Voort

Calling All Thespians.....AGAIN

The faulty furnace (and resultant lack of heat) necessitated the cancellation of the drama meeting that was scheduled for March. Several members have already indicated their interest in the possibility of forming some kind of drama group with a view to a presentation in 2007, our centenary year. If you have such an interest (it need not be in performing but could be in costuming, props etc.) please come along to the meeting that will be held AFTER CHURCH ON JUNE 4th. WE WANT YOU, YOUR IDEAS AND YOUR ENTHUSIASM!!

Betty Cullingworth.

Great Little Trains of Wales

Railways In South Wales..

Having looked at the Great Little Trains of Wales, which are mostly in North Wales, we should now turn our attention to the railways in South Wales. During the early years of the 20th. Century, in the valleys of South Wales, there were more railways per square mile, than anywhere else on earth. These lines were constructed to provide a service to the many coal mines that were operating in the area .Also they served the iron and steel industry of Dowlais and Ebbw Vale.

Most of the lines were built by small, independent railway companies. In 1923 these were all absorbed by the Great Western Railway. This was one of the four railways that were nationalized in 1948, becoming British Railways. Since the 1950's, many of the valley lines of South Wales have been abandoned as mines and other heavy industries were closed.

The remaining line in the valleys are still active, providing convenient passenger service, connecting with main line trains at Cardiff. From Cardiff general or Queen Street there are frequent trains to Treherbert, Aberdare, Merthyr and Rhymney. Since British Railways were privatized a few years ago, services have been provided by Arriva Trains (Wales). Main line trains from London and the North still serve Cardiff to Swansea with connections to West Wales.

For those interested in a bit of railway history, there are a number of preserved lines and museums to visit. The GWILI RAILWAY, just North of Carmarthen, operates over a couple of miles of track. Check their web- site at www.gwili-railway.co.uk for their operating schedules. At Llansamlet, just North of Swansea, THE SWANSEA VALE RAILWAY operates over about a mile of the former Midland Railway route from Hereford to Swansea. THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN RAILWAY runs trains over 1 ½ miles of track to Barry. The PONTYPOOL AND BLAENAVON RAILWAY runs trains over ¾ miles of track near Blaenavon, (www.pontypool-and-blaenavon.co.uk). At GRIFFITHSTOWN, about two miles South of Pontypool, you will find a railway museum.

A real treat is a journey over the "Heart of Wales" line. Starting from Swansea and Llanelli the route goes

through Ammanford, Llandeilo, Llandovery, past Sugar Loaf mountain and on to Llandrindod Wells. Craven Arms is the junction where trains join the main line for the final leg of their journey to Shrewsbury. Log on to the Wales Tourist Board website for lots of information and links to other attractions.

Hadrian Evans. Vernon. B.C.

Thank you Hadrian. I have been on a couple of these and it is a very pleasant way of seeing rural Wales. M

North American Welsh Festival Cincinnati.

It's time to prepare for the North America Festival of Wales in Cincinnati. Are you planning to attend over the Labour Weekend? If so, perhaps you might consider competing in this year's Eisteddfod. The main event is the David Morris Award, open to semi professional singers. The winner of this prestigious event will compete in the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 2007, all expenses paid. There are many other categories which are open to both adults and children. There are recitations in English and Welsh for under 12, under 18 and adults. There are solo and choral singing competitions, of course, as well as instrumental competitions. This year, for the first time, there is a Folk Dancing Competition.

You are unable to attend the event? Why don't you participate in the literary competitions? The title of the English "open" competition is "Rivers" and the Welsh is "Afon". There is also an English competition for young people under 18. All details of the Eisteddfod can be obtained on the website www.nafow.org or call Hefina Phillips at 905-847-5474

Thank You

Diolch Yn Fawr.

Silver Wedding anniversary. We were given quite a surprise when we came down to the fellowship hall after the service on Easter Sunday to find everyone waiting to congratulate us with kind words, generous gifts and a celebration cake. Twenty-five years ago we celebrated amongst family and friends, and this year we celebrated with our new friends and Church family.

Than you all. Diolch yn fawr i bawb.

Deian and Annette.

Deian and Annette Silver Wedding Anniversary A poem by Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies

Far across the sea they came.
Deian and Annette by name.
Came they to our city fair,
Sent by God himself, this pair !

Far from Wales, their native land
Came these two to lend a hand
Upon us all their stamp to plant
And build a richer Dewi Sant.

Five and twenty years ago
These two shared a solemn vow,
Promised they to walk through life
Hand in hand as man and wife !

As their new formed family
Sing we all with joyful glee;
Join we now to celebrate
On this day, their wedding date.

On this silver wedding day
Quietly we hope and pray
That God his grace will not withhold
As journey they toward their 'gold'

**We are so lucky to have met
Deian and his sweet Annette,
We all hope to be quite nifty
As they celebrate their fifty.**

February 26, my mother-in-law, Margaret (Peg) Cordy passed away unexpectedly. Peg was an exceptional wife, mother and grand-mother. She will be greatly missed by her husband (Reg), her 6 children (and their spouses) and her 17 grandchildren. This note is sent with heartfelt thanks to Reverend Evans, who graciously presided over the funeral services. His words and guidance were very comforting to our family. Diolch yn fawr Christine Campney.

***The Committee of Stewards would like to thank Trisha Stevenson for her 2 years of service on the committee. She will be missed!* Sheryl Clay. Chair.**

In Hospital

Yn Yr Ysbyty

Since the last Gadwyn two of our members have been hospitalized.

Megan Morris was taken ill the morning after the wonderful Golden Anniversary. We were sad to hear that it had happened after such a wonderful day. We are delighted to report that Megan is at home and her old self once more I spoke with her a few days ago and she was full of pep and vigor. We all wish you well Megan. M

Ram Bajaj, our "Honourary Welsh man" and such an unfailing support to me is in very indifferent health. He continues to suffer from blood loss which defies all the specialists. We are getting very familiar with St. Mike's hospital and cannot praise the staff enough. Ram has spent the last few weeks in and out of that institution. I ask that you keep him in your prayers. Thank you. Myfanwy.

Wanda Sweet's husband Ron has also spent quite a while in hospital in critical condition. It has been a really difficult time. Now thank God he is at home with Wanda and Warwick. Warwick is to be commended on the care that he gives his father whilst Wanda is at work. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. M

We were all delighted to see our friend Lorna Hobbs at the Gymanfa Good Friday. She is valiantly fighting a battle that we all hope and pray that she will win. Our thoughts, love and prayers go out to you Lorna. M

Lucille Harris is at home also fighting a valiant battle. She so positive and up beat during very hard times. Our love and prayers also go out to you Lucille and your wonderful husband Ross who is always at your side. We pray for you and the family. God Bless M.

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In Memoriam Er Parchus Gof

Margaret Pollard.

My mother, Margaret Pollard, passed away, age 90, at Extendicare Cobourg on April 7. She was 100% Welsh. My mother and her brothers and sisters grew up in Dewi Sant Welsh Church when it was on Clinton Avenue.

My mother's maiden name was "Jones" for her father, Percy Jones, married her mother, Margaret Jane Rogers, in the Welsh Church. All the children were christened in the Welsh church, and my mother's older sister, Myfanwy, who died at age 19 of tuberculosis, had her funeral service there. Myfanwy's death then made my mother the eldest. She is survived, however, by the youngest, Trevor Jones, the only other one, a retired airline captain with Air Canada.

The other children in the family were Roger, Helen and Evelyn, all of whom have passed away.

For many years, my mother received "Y Gadwyn" and enjoyed reading it. She regretted she lived too far away from the Welsh church to come to services any longer, and she was far too ill to travel in the last years of her life.

Thank you, Laura Hamilton, Bourne End Bucks.

Joan Harries

Friends of the Harries family will be sad to learn of the death of Joan Harries in Cardiff last week. Howard and Joan Harries and their son Martin lived in Toronto and attended Dewi Sant Church some years ago. They returned to live in Wales. We extend our sympathy to Howard and Martin and his family their loss of a wife and mother. Our thoughts here in the Welsh community—your many friends, go out to you.

Please note an omission of author's name in last month's edition – the article entitled 'A Welsh Interlude' was written by Joan E. Humphrey. Apologies to you, Joan.

Orphan's Reunion.

In the Convention Centre Oakville over the Easter week end was a very emotional celebration. The orphans from Saigon were being reunited after 31 years. Adoptive parents, the orphans, the pilot and co pilot and care workers had come from all over North America. Being such an old softie I cried most of the time! 57 orphans were airlifted and 42 were present at the reunion. Two had passed away and the other few could not be found. What an achievement after so many years!!

Here is a short account from Major C.J Zacharias the pilot in charge of Operation Orphan Airlift out of Saigon.

"When I got to the plane there were 57 babies and toddlers near naked, strapped into cardboard boxes. Our orders were to get in and out as the Viet Cong were 10 miles away and moving fast.

Whilst waiting for flight clearance 4 Vietnamese security personnel armed with submachine guns arrived wanting to check the babies against their manifest. It was soon found that there were 2 babies that should not have been there. The guards were insisting that the 2 should be removed and a Canadian care worker was screaming, "over my dead body." (which would have been NO problem.)

So what to do? I started the engines so that I would be able to move at a moment's notice. I had to think quickly. I put on my uniform cap (it had some gold braiding on it), rushed out into the cargo area screaming "Hong Kong is closing, get off, get off." It was our refuelling stop. To my amazement the guards left and the ramp and doors were locked and off we went.

The flight was fairly uneventful. Most of the crew were in the back changing diapers-some of the kids were pretty sick with dysentery---- and I'll never forget the look on the eyes of the older children who were quietly watching those around them, not having any idea of what lay ahead of them.

I sincerely hope that all those beautiful babies have had contented, happy and meaningful lives."

We feel so blest that our "orphan" Thi Thanh Thuy Lee now known as Amira Bajaj Christie was able to stay on that plane. She was one of the 2 not on the manifest, having been thrown on at the last moment after her plane going to the States crashed on the tarmac in Saigon. The stories that were told at the reunion are being put into a book in the near future and will make very interesting reading---We were even shown slides of the babies inside the C-130 Hercules.

Myfanwy

Changes of Adresses.

Bill Phillips. 3240, Ashwood Oak Lane, Norcross, GA. 30092

New email address for Vaughan Lewis - vaughanlewis@rogers.com

Sarah Langdon 336 Warner Crescent Newmarket, Ontario. L3X 2G7 slangdon@assistplus.ca

I wish to advise you that Verona Large has been hospitalised in Creek Way Village, 5200 Corporate Drive, Burlington, Ontario, L7L 7G7 suffering from Alzheimers. Please send any correspondence to that address. Thank you, Albert Large.

'Dear Editor & Helpers with Y Gadwyn, Thank you again for the 'Link'. We find it most informing. It is a reminder of my past life in Wales (Cardiff). Best wishes for Easter, Harold & Peggy Rowland.'

DONORS

Joy David, Albert & May Hale, Margaret Frampton, Haulwen Edwards, Rev. Elwyn & Louise Hughes, Owen & Josie Jones, David Jones, Vaughan Lewis, Harold & Peggy Rowland, Rev. John Gratton Roberts, Robert & Dilys Stevens, Bonnie Booth, David H. Thomas, Patricia Thomas, Bob and Rosemary White

Thank you very much to all of you.

The list of upcoming events are as follows..

Dewi Sant Services are at 11 am every Sunday morning.

Welsh Language service is on the first Sunday of every month at 8 & 10 pm.

Welsh classes are on Friday night and Saturday mornings.

UCW Spring/ Summer Bazaar June 3rd. Please note change of date.

UCW Strawberry Supper is in June. Date will be in the next Gadwyn.

From the editor.----- Wrth Y Golygydd.

Thank you once again for your support. In order that the Gadwyn production runs a little smoother I am going to make a request. First of all, if you use the computer please send it to me. I usually use Arial font 12 Titles font 14.

If you do not use a computer would you either GIVE it to me personally or mail it to me.

Everything that goes to the church office has to be either e-mailed to me or put somewhere hoping that I will get it. I am very embarrassed when I don't find articles for weeks!! No ones fault. Just a case of between the cup and the lip there's many a slip. Also why duplicate the work? I do all the typing and copying. Wanda prints the finished document on the church copier. ight now there are too many steps and at times things get mislaid. Please try this system and see how it works. I appreciate your cooperation. Diolch yn fawr Myfanwy

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