

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

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A word from the Minister.

Gair gan y Gweinidog

The Summer break has finally ended, and everything seems to be getting back to 'normal' once more, whatever that may mean. The Church calendar is beginning to fill up with the schedules of events that will keep us busy during the months ahead. This year especially, we at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church will be kept extremely busy with events that will keep on reminding us of our centenary celebrations. You really must keep on reading the Gadwyn and the announcements in the Service Bulletin (which you can pick up at the Church service every Sunday morning) carefully so that you miss nothing of what is happening here until the end of 2007 – and beyond.

Of course, the central events and arrangements will be of a spiritual nature. These will ensure that we view the celebration of one hundred years of Welsh worship in Toronto as a spiritual experience as well as, and even more than, merely social and cultural. Therefore, to give you a taste of what is to come, here are a few things we will be doing :

1. A number of Gymanfa Ganu events will take place, starting with the singing festival at Black Creek Pioneer Village Church at 2pm on Sunday, October 15th. We also intend arranging a few Ysgol Gan sessions, (Singing classes to prepare for a Gymanfa).
2. Members will be invited to present flowers at the Church as a memorial or to remember a special event in their lives.
3. Members will be invited to choose their favourite hymns and tunes which will be sung at the Sunday services upon request..
4. We will invite families or groups of friends to take part in the morning services – a kind of 'Family Service'.
5. Sunday School events will be arranged during the year.

6. Special meetings and services will be arranged, especially at key periods, such as Lent and Advent etc.

7. We intend to arrange a link with other Ethnic Ministries who are also celebrating centenaries in 2007.

8. We also intend to arrange for a retreat, and youth events, during the year of celebration.

These are merely a taster of the events for 2007.

Dewi Sant Welsh United is going to be THE Church to be at during the coming months. I invite you all to share in the celebrations as often as you possibly can. It is going to be Major. Be a part of it, as we look to the future with renewed hope and faith.

Pob Bendith

Deian.

U C W

Merched Yr Eglwys.

It is back to work once again for us ladies of Dewi Sant. Firstly a great big thanks to all. You are really wonderful. Whenever there is the need to cater for a funeral or any other occasion you are always there at the ready. It is very seldom there's a refusal--- and if there is, it is usually due to a prior commitment. You all deserve medals for your unfailing loyalty and hard work. Diolch yn fawr. Myfanwy.

The first function is the book sale on October 21st. Please bring all unwanted books to the church. We are selling everything from fiction, to fact, historical, biographies etc. etc. The more the merrier. This is a fairly large undertaking with quite a lot of work involved. If you are overloaded with reading materials and no way of getting them to Dewi Sant please let me know and they will be picked up. All I ask is that they are in reasonably good condition.

The annual Christmas bazaar is on Saturday December 2nd. Let's make this a truly Christmas event. It is one of the largest fundraisers of the year. The ladies work hard and share a great deal of laughter and socializing. They may be exhausted at the end of the day, but is a "great feeling".

We are looking for baking goods—for which we have become quite well known amongst the locals. Knitting, crochet, crafts of all kinds, treasures, clothes in good condition, jams, jellies, home made candy, Welsh goods etc, BUT NO BOOKS!!

Sheryl Clay is the bazaar convener and welcomes your calls at 416 652 7537.

Other upcoming UCW events will be posted in Y Gadwyn. Thank you. Myfanwy Bajaj.

RENEWAL 2007.

If your plans are to have a quiet, peaceful, uneventful time in the next few months, then Dewi Sant Welsh United Church is not the place for you! On Sunday, September 17th the Renewal 2007 committee, under the leadership of Betty Cullingworth, hosted the Lunch and Launch, thus officially starting the countdown to the church's centenary celebrations 12 months from now.

Members of the congregation were treated not only to an excellent lunch but also to a run down of the exciting events awaiting us. The Reverend Deian Evans started the meeting with a prayer and told us of his plans for the spiritual aspect of our celebrations. Myfanwy Bajaj, president of the St. David's Society, had prior commitments, but before leaving, she presented the Renewal Fund with a cheque for \$5,000.00 from the Society.

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Myfanwy.

Leona Francis (known on the committee as our "ideas person") gave an in-depth explanation of her "Gift of Recognition" which would include donations in memory or in honour of a loved one. A "Lest We Forget" donation could be made to coincide with November 11th in remembrance of a fallen loved one or to honour a veteran.

The "Sponsor a Year" initiative has been very successful but there are still a few lonely years waiting for someone to adopt them. Watch this space for an up-to-date list of years and the names of sponsors. There's still time for you to become the proud sponsor of a year between 1907 and 2007. A cheque for \$100.00 made out to Dewi Sant Welsh Church (Sponsor a Year) would be gratefully received. Don't forget to include your chosen year at the bottom of the cheque.

As readers of Y Gadwyn are well aware, the Renewal Committee's financial goal has been to add \$100,000.00 to our coffers by October 2007. Treasurer Ross Cullingworth is delighted to report that to date we have just over \$70,000.00 in the Renewal account, and that \$14,000.00 have already been spent to purchase a new furnace and a listening system for the hard of hearing.

What can we look forward to during the next twelve months? The children of the Sunday School are thinking globally, and publicity for Dewi Sant is #1 on their agenda. As we are not a neighborhood church the children will concentrate on spreading the news in their own communities that there is a Welsh church here in Toronto. On March 1st the children will dress in Welsh costume and go to local Malls or Shopping Centres. In addition they will continue their fundraising by selling chocolates and popcorn. A big vote of thanks goes to their Superintendent, Mrs. Pam Evans.

The committee's plans are that there will be at least one major event per month, culminating in the BIG weekend in October, 2007. In October 2006 there will be a Gymanfa Ganu at Black Creek Pioneer Village. In November Brenda Davies will lead us in an evening of Welsh Dancing. A Fireside Evening is planned for January, a Noson Lawen in February, an Eisteddfod in March and an Auction in April. In May there will be a musical concert presented by Sheryl Clay and Jean Iona Thompson, and a Heritage Walk in the city led by Barry Hastings. June is the date for the big church picnic and morning service on Toronto Island. This is a family affair so please bring your children and grandchildren. We will have an official photograph which will hang in the Narthex to accompany the one taken in 1929.

Talking of photographs, mark the end of November / beginning of December on your calendars and make your appointments with the hairdresser in good time. Why? Because that is when members of the congregation will have their photographs taken for our new Pictorial Directory.

Meriel Simpson has agreed to be in charge of Publicity. A history of the church is also being prepared by Meriel and the Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies.

The Dewi Sant Cookbook is being printed as we speak and will be available for sale in November. Compiling this book has been a huge amount of effort and we are very grateful to Gaynor McConnell and Annette Evans for all their hard work.

Who are the members of the Renewal Committee? Betty Cullingworth (chair), Myfanwy Bajaj, Murray Black, Colin Christie and Melinda Morgan Christie, Ross Cullingworth, Annette Evans, Leona Francis, Gaynor McConnell, Donna Morris, Hefina Phillips, Lillian Powell, Meriel Simpson, Trish Stevenson, and Clarice Terry. However, we always welcome new members to the committee and especially welcome new ideas.

I spoke with a visitor from Wales at the end of the lunch meeting and asked him if churches back home were as crazily active as we are. His reply was, "Unfortunately not. I wish they were." Think of the message he will take home to Wales from Dewi Sant. Hefina Phillips.

Part of our History. Part One.

Clynnog Fawr is situated about 10 miles west of Caernarfon, on the north coast of the Lleyn peninsula. It is known for its 6th century Church, and was home to St Beuno, Eben Fardd, and my maternal grandmother. The church and the village became popular as a rest stop for the pilgrims and the faithful on their way to Bardsey Island. Three pilgrimages to Bardsey, or to St Davids, were considered equivalent to one pilgrimage to Rome.

St Beuno was a well known and respected 6th century cleric and abbot of the Abbey he founded at Clynnog in 616. He was born in 545, and educated at Caerwent. He is said to have planted an acorn next to his father's grave. "It grew into a mighty tree of which one branch curved down to the ground and then rose again "and there was a part of this branch in the soil, as at present; and if an Englishman should pass between this branch and the trunk of the tree, he would immediately die; but should a Welshman go, he would in no way suffer." His brother's daughter was St Winifred, of Holywell. One day, she rejected the advances of an unwanted suitor, who cut off her head on the church steps. St Beuno replaced her head, and she recovered, eventually establishing the first nunnery in Britain. She is most famous for the well with healing properties, named after her.

St Beuno died on April 21, 640 and is buried in his church, one of the oldest Christian (catholic) churches in Wales.

My maternal grandmother was one of 4 children, 3 sisters (one set of twins) and a brother. They were raised at Clynnog in a very basic cottage, with no electricity or indoor plumbing. It was one of a row of small cottages called Rallt, on a hill overlooking St Beuno's church and the sea, with the coast of Anglesey in the distance. As a young girl, she would help at the Methodist college in the village. The college was founded by Eben Fardd, (1802-1863). He moved to Clynnog in 1827 and became a schoolmaster there on the invitation of Hugh Williams, the vicar of the parish. He set up school in Capel Beuno, a part of the church. He married Mary Williams of Clynnog in 1830 and had 3 daughters and a son. In 1839, he re-established his association with the Methodists, and broke his ties with the established church, moving his school to the Methodist Chapel in 1845. In 1850, the Calvinistic Methodists took more of an interest in him, and paid him 15 pounds a year, soon raised to 30 pounds, to teach the children of Methodists, and to teach those interested in entering the ministry. From this developed the preparatory college for Methodist Ministers. He taught here for the remainder of his life. All the while, he was producing exceptional pieces of poetry, and winning first prize at many eisteddfodau. He was "pipped at the post" in the 1862 Caernarfon eisteddfod by "Hwfa Mon", and died in 1863. He is buried near the wall of Clynnog Church, having been predeceased by his wife, son and two of his daughters. He is considered to be one of Wales' foremost poets.

The college for prospective Calvinistic Methodist Ministers continued in Clynnog until it moved to Rhyl in 1929, where it became known as "Coleg Clwyd".

Another famous son of the village was Saint John Jones, real name Gruffydd Jones, one of 6 Welsh martyrs honoured by the Catholic Church in Wales. A priest and martyr, whose memorial day is July 12, was executed (hung, drawn and quartered) for his faith at Southwark, London in 1598. As a schoolgirl, my grandmother would help out at the college in Clynnog as a servant or with laundry. After leaving school, she found a job as a maidservant at Trem y Don, a temperance hotel in Pwllheli. It was while she was there that my grandmother first met my grandfather. He was working as a young sales person at the Bon Marche store there. The relationship flourished, but the Great War intervened. I remember my grandmother's story of seeing my grandfather walking home through the fields from the train at Rhosgoch, near Amlwch, to his parent's farm, Tafarn Hwyaidd, where I presume my grandmother was staying. It must have been 1917, and my grandfather was on leave from the front. He had enlisted in the Cycle Corps, presumably with the 8th battalion, Welsh

Regiment. He did bring back with him in his knapsack, his pet dog from the trenches. The dog protected him from the rats that infested their living quarters. I know nothing of his exploits in France except that he learnt to play chess there, and he taught me the game.

The name Trem y Don stuck with me, and on my last visit to Cape Town, I remember passing a farm called Trem y Don on our way from Cape Town to Cape Point.

My grandparents were married at Pwllheli in 1917. My mother, their first child, was born late in 1919 in Dwyran, Anglesey, but the family soon moved to a bungalow on the banks of the Menai Straits with magnificent views over the water of Caenarfon and its castle, and the Snowdonia range. The bungalow went through several incarnations, but still stands, and the view remains exquisite. As a boy, I spent many happy holidays there. The Foel farm was next door to the west, now a park and petting zoo. Next door to it was the Mermaid Hotel, well known to many from both sides of the straits, including at least one member of Dewi Sant! On the other side of the country road to Dwyran, to the east of the bungalow, were the Co-operative Society buildings, the Canadian Tyre/ Home Depot equivalent for the local farmers, managed by my grandfather. The buildings have since been converted into vacation properties, a common finding in Anglesey now. No more than ½ a mile down the coast road towards Brynsiencyn is the Anglesey sea zoo and a butterfly farm, but these are relatively new additions.

Although only 23 miles (37 kms) in diameter, Anglesey, or Mona to the Romans, is full of history and endowed with natural beauty and a glorious coastline. If one were to take a lightening tour around the island from the bungalow in a clockwise direction, here's some of what may be of interest.

Llanddwyn Island. Here stands the ruins of an ancient Celtic Christian Church dedicated to Dwynwen. She lived in the 5th century and is the Welsh patron saint of lovers, celebrated on January 25, much like St Valentines Day on Feb 14th. She became a hermit on the island which can be reached from the extensive sandy beach and dunes. It is not truly an island and remains part of the mainland except during the highest of tides.

Not too distant is the village of Newborough, known by the natives as Niwbwrch. It was established to accommodate the Welsh inhabitants of Llanfaes, a village at the other end of the island. The people were forcibly resettled by Edward 1st because they were deemed to be too close to the imported English settlers of the newly built Beaumaris castle, and therefore a threat. This castle is one of the last ones built by Edward, started in 1295.

Aberffraw, not far from Newborough, used to be the capital of North Wales, and the seat of the Princes of Gwynedd between the 9th and 13th centuries. This was the Royal Court of Llywellyn the Last, (Ein Llyw Olaf). He was killed in 1282. On a point overlooking the sea is a Bronze Age Burial mound at Trwyn Du (Black Nose/Point). This dates back to 1500 BC, but was built upon an even older settlement dating back to the middle stone age (+/- 7000 BC).

Along the coast a short distance is St Cwyfan's Island. This also boasts an ancient church dating back to the 6th or 7th century. Cwyfan, an Irishman from Co Wicklow, was a pupil of St Beuno. The Irish equivalent of his name has been modernized to Kevin. The church has been restored and built upon several times, in the 12th, 14th, 16th centuries, and later. Now it needs a new roof. Services are still held there twice a year, on the first Sunday in June and August. The sermons are guaranteed to last no more than an hour, or all will be stranded by the tide. This island really is an island.

After passing the beaches at Rhosneigr and Trearddur, there is the town of Holyhead, or Caergybi, on another island. Ferries depart regularly from here to Ireland. Maddocks would have preferred a different location for the ferry, but it wasn't to be, especially after the building of the Menai Bridge by Thomas Telford in 1826.

Part One.

Dr. Stephen Jones.

A Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My Mummy looked back once, while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied David. "How could he, with just two worms?" A Sunday school teacher said to her children, " We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

A Friendly Difference of Opinion.

Ben Stein is sending the wrong message about faith! In "How Green was my Valley" there is a vivid illustration of how violence, whether between nations, in the community or in the home, simply begets more violence. In this well-known novel, Richard Llewelyn depicts a society where scores are settled by fists. Every member of Dewi Sant will recall how the young protagonist, Huw, is bullied by a teacher who tries to beat the Welshness out of him. In the end, we see how the bullying of this teacher is repaid in kind. The message: Whether a powerful nation or a powerful teacher or parent, if you try to solve your problems through force, someone will ultimately amass a greater force against you. Christians, and those of other religions, should find non-violent means of solving their problems, and the world's. That is why the inclusion of Ben Stein's article in the most recent issue of Y Gadwyn was perplexing, to say the least. The theme of this piece seems to be: "Isn't it awful how the atheists are ruining our (American) society. We Christians and Jews should really get together and do something about this!"

Since Stein is supposed to be a comedian, we even wondered if this article was written in irony. Sadly, no. This is the same Ben Stein who proudly voted for George Bush, and praises his every action! -----Well, where do we start?

Christians are hardly powerless today. George Bush, Tony Blair, Stephen Harper and their cliques of advisers, self-professed Christians all, basically run the world. Calling themselves "Christians" does not stop these men from breaking several commandments including "Thou shall not kill." Going to Church did not stop them from lying about the "weapons of mass destruction" in order to crank up the war machine still further. The ethic of these so-called world leaders, none of whom are atheists, seems to be nothing more than to beat up on small countries because they can. Rather than reproducing the words of Ben Stein, former speechwriter for Nixon, readers of Y Gadwyn might recall the words of our own Trawsfynydd poet, Hedd Wyn:.

Pan deimlodd fyned ymaith Dduw

Cyfododd gledd i ladd ei frawd;

Mae swm yr ymladd ar ein clyw,

A'i gysgod ar fythynnod tlawd.*

Who suffers when God is absent from the world? Who is harmed when peace and justice are absent. Poor children, such as those sent to battle in the ineffectual trench warfare of the Great War.

Who is suffering today? Not rich America but the poor of the Middle East, facing war; and the poor of Africa, facing epidemics. Furthermore, we must remember, it is not only what you do on the Sabbath that matters - it is what you do with the rest of your week. We have before us the example of Stephen Lewis, who chooses to use his energies and considerable talents to promote health in the poorest countries on the planet. If anyone embodies the ideals of how a Jew or Christian should act, it would be Stephen Lewis.

Instead of focusing on terrorists, let's promote justice, health, and peace. As for Stein's Benjamin Spock reference regarding spanking, as parents of two home-schooled, enthusiastically Sunday-school going children, we fail to see anything Christian about assaulting (spanking) children. Instead of calling it "Christian parenting" we would call it failed parenting. Each family member, including both spouses, and each child, ought to enjoy the right to be free from physical "correction" in their

own home. Again, we are reminded of the fate of the brutal teacher in How Green was my Valley.

The passing of spanking children --among other violent practices - into history is something to be celebrated. Our point is that Mr. Stein, and our world leaders, don't seem to understand the faith that they are always so quick to profess.

David Cox, Rachel Edwards, Toronto

*As quick as God is shown the door

Out come the cannons and the sword:

Hate on hate on brother poured

And scored the deepest on the poor.

Louis Flint Ceci, trans.

Thank you for a most interesting response. As editor I feel it is important to include articles that readers feel passionate about. THIS certainly was one of them! It is amazing how people are able to read an article and have so many diverse opinions about it !!

In Memoriam.

Islwyn Wyn Morris. 1923—2006.

Suddenly but not unexpectedly on July 10th Islwyn passed away in the presence of his loving and devoted wife Megan and his beloved daughter Donna.

Islwyn always had a strong sense of duty and was very proud of his Welsh heritage. He was born in Blaengwynfi, South Wales. Islwyn loved to sing and treasured the years spent and friendships made at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and the Toronto Welsh Male Voice choir.

Islwyn was a devoted family man. He spent many hours introducing Donna to various sports. He delighted in taking her to sports activities during her formative years.

Islwyn was a life member of the Saint Davids Society of Toronto and had been the treasurer for many years. He attended the President's dinner a few weeks before passing away. That night he stood to attention and sang "Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau," with such pride.

He will be forever in our hearts and lovingly remembered by his family and friends. A memorial service was held on July 14th at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. "Bydd canu yn y nefoedd."

William Alun Griffith.

William Alun Griffith passed away on July 2nd at Newtown Powys, at the age of 90 years. Bill was born in Caernarfon in 1916 and came to Ontario with his family in 1953. He worked for many years in the aircraft industry. While in Toronto the family attended Dewi Sant Welsh Church when it was located on Clinton Street.

Bill left his mark on Toronto as he was responsible in making the stainless steel work for the entrance to the new Toronto City Hall. He was a talented craftsman with much expertise in Metal work.

The family moved to Port Hope in the fifties and subsequently returned to Wales.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow Rhianwen, in Newtown, Wales and his sons, Mansel and family in Port Hope and Alan and family in Hove, Britain.

Following cremation his ashes were placed in the family grave at Llanbeblig Cemetery, Caernarfon.

"Da was, Da a Ffyddlawn".

Geraint Herbert Jones.

Elaine Kirkham - a long time student of Welsh.

It was great shock and sadness that I learned of the recent death of Elaine Kirkham in a car accident. Although she was not a member of Dewi Sant Church, she regularly attended weekly classes here as a Welsh learner, first with Hefina in the late 80s and early 90s and then as John Otley and Annette Evans' student. Those of us who attend the monthly Welsh Language services will

have seen and heard Elaine participate. She was passionately fond of Welsh and gave her all to her studies. She will be sadly missed by her friends and fellow students. Hefina Phillips.

Anna Dunets and Michael Wills.

Wedding took place in Dewi Sant Welsh United Church on June 7th 2006. Anna Dunets and Michael John Wills were married by the Reverend Deian Evans. Derek and Beverly Wills were the instrumentalists, with violin and recorder. Gwyneth Hughes Penman sang "Where 'er you walk" in Welsh.

Reverend Norm Allen gave an interesting address to the newlymarried couple. Two hymns were sung during the ceremony, "Hyfrydol," and "Huddersfield,"

After the ceremony relatives and friends departed to McLean House for a happy, entertaining reception. Sheryl Clay entertained the guests with a delightful solo.

Mr and Mrs Wills are residing in Russia for the next few months. We wish them many years of happiness.

Val Hastings.

Val Hastings, sister of Barry passed away on May 29th in Perth Australia. She left far too soon at the tender age of 52. She left a husband and children behind. Our condolences go out to the family in Australia and to Barry and Mabel.

Barry wishes to thank all those who sent messages of condolence on the loss of his sister.

Anne Kister and Dennis De Leo.

On August 12th. 2006 the wedding of Anne Kister (the daughter of Iona Rees) and Dennis De Leo was solemnized. Reverend Deian Evans officiated with Sheryl Clay and Dr. Murray Black providing the music. The bride's dress was designed by her young daughter. Both daughters were delightful bridesmaids.

After the ceremony family and friends departed to an Italian Bistro on Elm Street. This was an ideal spot, with an outside balcony for the cocktail hour. Many blessings on this family who are soon going to reside in the United States.

Pen-Blwydd Llawen.-----Happy Birthday.

Congratulations to our very special friend, Elwyn Morris, who celebrated his 85th birthday on August 26th.

Elwyn was born in Neath, Glamorganshire in 1921 and educated in the local High School and in London where his father, an executive with the Great Western Railway, had been transferred.

In 1938 he joined Barclays Bank Ltd. in London. From 1940 to 1946 he volunteered and served in the British Army in India and Burma, being demobilized from the South Wales Borderers Regiment with the rank of Captain.

Elwyn returned to the bank in 1946 and transferred to Barclays Canada at Montreal in 1947. When the bank operation was taken over by the Imperial Bank and subsequently by C.I.B.C. Elwyn moved to Toronto in 1966 and retired as Assistant General Manager of C.I.B.C. in 1985.

Elwyn is a faithful member of Dewi Sant Welsh Church. We all wish him well in his 86th. year. Elwyn has had a wonderful life. To both he and his lovely wife Nina, thank you for inviting us to a great dinner and party in Elwyn's honour.

Geraint. H. Jones.

Give God what's right -- not what's left. Man's way leads to a hopeless end -- God's way leads to an endless hope. A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

Gadwyn Donors.

Maureen Davies, David Jones, Richard Jones, Phyllis McLeod, Lilian & Steve Stephens, David H. Thomas, Ruth Hughes, Maureen Beckett

Thank you very much for your contributions. They are much appreciated.

Change of e mail address-- arleigh.quesnelle@kandkcanada.com

Change of address----Murray Black has moved to 53 Ridley Blvd., Toronto M5M 3L2.

EIRLYS BARKER

Happy 91st Birthday Eirllys! Please come for a visit to wish her a happy birthday on Sunday October 22nd between 1pm & 4pm at the Barton Retirement Residence. The address is 17290 Leslie St., Newmarket, ON. Refreshments and birthday cake will be served.

Everyone is welcome. Best wishes only.

Joanne Barker.

Two Islands, One Spectacular Country----- Part One.

Diane and I began the planning for our New Zealand trip almost a year in advance by using accumulated frequent flyer points to travel business class. A word to the wise: don't expect to get all the way in business class despite giving up the necessary points. We did get from LA to Sydney and back guaranteed, Air Canada upgraded us at the time of flying but Air New Zealand despite having empty seats and being members of Star Alliance don't honour Aeroplan points.

A long weekend spent in Sydney cruising the harbour and visiting the spectacular opera house did much to help us overcome our jet lag, so we were refreshed and ready to tour when we got off the plane in New Zealand. I should mention that in Sydney the Anzac memorial is well worth a visit. In addition to commemorating the contributions of Australians and New Zealanders to the two great wars there is a cricket bat on display from the first test match played after WW2. There on that bat were the signatures of my boyhood idols, Len Hutton, Cyril Washbrook, and Don Bradman etc. It made my day but Diane was unimpressed having always felt that watching cricket was akin to watching paint dry. With the two hour time difference between Sydney and Auckland, it was 6:00pm by the time we got to our hotel and we relaxed by watching Winter Olympics on television.

The next morning Tim, Diane's second cousin who works in Auckland took some time out from his day to show us around the city and the spectacular views from the mountain that towers over the city. In the evening we visited friends who spend their winters in Orewa about an hour north of Auckland. They introduced us to some of the wonderful New Zealand wines, especially the flavourful Sauvignon Blanc's. As you might expect the wine was an accompaniment to New Zealand Lamb.

The next day we drove to Mount Manganui and walked the beautiful beach there. Rotorua and its thermal pools and geysers were our next stop. We found it sadly commercialized and very expensive and contented ourselves with a visit to the free park where there are several bubbling mud pools. We drove onto Lake Taupo where we spent the night. On our way to Wellington we spent a night in Paraparamau a busy beach resort where the only accommodation we could find with the help of the local tourist office, was a place we were told was called Gulf View. When we got there we discovered it backed on to a golf course and was actually called Golf View. We had a unit with beds for six and a full kitchen. One of the attractions on New Zealand motels is that they almost all have some kitchen facilities and the prices ranged from NZ\$40-100. At the time of our visit this was the equivalent of CDN\$26-65. We made full use of the kitchen facilities, seldom eating in restaurants and in Wellington the always windy capital city we discovered green lipped mussels in a local supermarket. A fellow shopper gave us a full account of how best to prepare these delicious mussels which were the largest we had ever eaten.

The next day we were up at the crack of dawn to get the inter island ferry. The car rental companies have you drop the car off at the ferry and pick up a different car when you get to the other side. For us, that meant getting used to three different cars on the two island vacation. The ferry ride to the South island is spectacular especially as you pass though the Marlborough sound on the way to Picton. Our first stop on the South Island was the St. Clair winery in the Marlborough wine district. The Sauvignon Blanc that I tasted there virtually exploded in my mouth with the most delicious fruit flavours, the most prominent of which was passion fruit. Diane loves wine but sadly has a hypersensitivity to alcohol, so she was unable to truly share my passion for this wonderful wine. I must say the Pinot Noir was no slouch either. For me I could hardly wait to get to the next hotel so that I could have a full glass when I'd finished driving for the day.

Ray Freebury.

Surprise !

These words came as a bit of a surprise—St David's Day 2006 greeting from George Bush ! He paid tribute to the Welsh contribution to America. "The Welsh have made innumerable contributions to our history and to our development. Our own democracy is indebted. To the 11 presidents who proudly claimed Welsh heritage, as did 16 American patriots who signed the Declaration of Independence. American education owes a debt to the Welsh founders of Harvard and Yale Universities; American arts to Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frank Lloyd Wright, Sinclair Lewis, and D W Griffith.

The close bonds connecting America and Wales continue into the present day. They are evident in our own capital, where a stone on the Washington Monument stairway bears the inscription, "Cymru Am Byth! __Wales for ever" The president went on to wish all Welsh people a happy Saint David's day.

This was on the back cover of the current copy of Yr Enfys.

Up Coming Events.

Sunday morning services 11.00 am every Sunday morning.

Sunday school at 11.00 am- Superintendent Pamela Evans.

Welsh classes are on Friday evening and Saturday morning.
Contact John Otley for further information – 416 782 7169.

Comparative Religion meetings are held at 10.00 am on Thursday mornings under the direction of Rev. Deian Evans.
Everyone welcomed to join in these interesting lively discussions.

UCW Book Sale Saturday October 21st.

Gymanfa Ganu at Black Creek October 15th. 2.00 pm

Advent Service November 28th.

****** Due to unforeseen circumstances the following two dates
have been changed around******

***UCW Bazaar December 2nd.**

***Christmas dinner December 9th.**

Welcome back after, hopefully a happy exciting Summer. Thank you for your continued support. I hope that there are some interesting articles and news ready to send to me. The deadline for the next Gadwyn is October 15th. myfanwy@rogers.com 905 737 4399. Thank you Myfanwy.