

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

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Neges gan y Gweinidog.

May I take this opportunity to wish all the Gadwyn readers a very happy St David's Day. Dydd Gwyl Dewi bendithiol i chi.

It is SUCH a busy time here at the Church. There are two major events in the city that ensures the Church gets the full attention of the citizens, one at Queen's Park on the 28th of February and the other on March 1st at Nathan Phillips Square. I hope to see a good attendance at both events, especially those who are members of the Church, because the events have been arranged with the Church as the focal point.

Other events are the St. David's related services on March 4th, the World Day of Prayer held at the Church on March 2nd, the Church presence at the British Show at Exhibition Place, March 2nd – 4th, the Eisteddfod held at Dewi Sant on March 10th, and the Auction at Rosedale Golf Club on April 1st. Check the calendar at the back of the Gadwyn for all the important dates and also the Church website for details of how you can participate. With all the busy time and the 'to-ing and fro-ing' going on, I hope that we do not lose sight of what the events are all about. It brings to mind a story I heard my father tell from the pulpit on one occasion.

A Bishop was preparing his up and coming Sunday service and his sermon, knowing full well that he had to be well prepared, because no less than the King of England was going to be present at the Church for the service. Many a sleepless night was experienced leading up to that Sunday, and by the Friday night the Bishop was a wreck. He just could not get his mind on the task ahead. He went on his knees that night in a desperate attempt to find some peace of mind. And he got the answer he wanted. As he called out "The King of England will be present, the king will be there", he heard a still small voice responding "The King of Kings will be present, the King of Kings is always there". Everything was seen in its proper perspective. His fear disappeared, he could face the king, because he had already faced the King.

Let us remember this year of the centenary celebrations at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, that we celebrate together as a community, in joy, in pleasure, and that we always keep in mind that at the centre of those celebrations is the King of Kings, the one and only reason for our celebrations in the first place. Peace be with you Bendith Duw fyddo arnoch. **Deian .**

UCW Report:

The UCW rang in the New Year with a very successful 12th Night Dinner on January 27th. Once more we went with the Murder Mystery theme – a good time was had by all. A very special thank you to everyone who made this event a success....from those responsible for set-up, serving the dinner and cleaning up afterwards to those who participated as actors, to all of those who came and actively participated in the audience participation component – thank you one and all!

The UCW is also pleased to host the following event in the month of February:

- The Presbytery Meeting on February 13th

A special thank you to Betty Jones who, in a snow storm, agreed to single handedly cater for the Presbytery event.

Unfortunately, due to weather, we had to cancel the Feb 14th Valentine's Luncheon. Over 30 people were scheduled to attend and Gaynor McConnell and her team worked so hard to prepare.

March also promises to be a special month. We currently have two events in planning stages:

- World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 2nd (for more info, contact Nêst Pritchard)
- UCW Afternoon at the Movies – Tuesday, March 27th (for more info, contact Myfanwy Bajaj).

I hope you will take time out of your busy schedules to participate in some of our activities.

All the best

Sheryl Clay President, UCW.

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### The Ontario Welsh Festival, Kingston, April 27-29, 2007

Cor Meibion Prysor, from Trawsfynydd, North Wales, will be the guest choir at this April's Gymanfa weekend in Kingston, Ontario. The choir was formed in the mid 1960s and their varied repertoire includes some Male Voice Choir favourites, hymns, folk songs, cerdd dant and songs of a lighter nature. The choir is particularly renowned for its cerdd dant - presenting poetry to harp accompaniment, where the harp plays an air and the voice sings a counter melody. This musical form is unique to Wales.

The choir won second prize at the Cerdd Dant Society of Wales National Festival in 2006 and was complimented on its warm tones and crispness of pronunciation. We look forward with great anticipation to hearing them in Kingston.

Cor Meibion Prysor will be directed by **Iwan Morgan**, a multi talented musician. Born in Corris, Gwynedd, and educated at Tywyn Grammar School and Trinity College, Carmarthen, Iwan is head master of a local school. In addition to his musical prowess, he is a nationally recognized poet. He joined Cor Meibion Prysor first as a chorister and became principal conductor in 1992. Iwan is married to Alwena and they have three sons - Aled, Eilir and Rhydian.

Soloist with the choir is **Sioned Wyn** - first prize winner at the National Eisteddfod, Swansea, in 2006. Sioned, a mezzo soprano, is much sought after as soloist by choirs in North Wales. She has toured the US with Cor Meibion Dolgellau and was guest soloist at the Los Angeles Gymanfa Ganu in November 2006.

The choir and Sioned will be accompanied by **Iona Mair** whose father was a previous conductor of Meibion Prysor. We can look forward not only to her musical accompaniment but also to hearing her pure soprano voice. Her pride and joy? Her three little grandchildren, Tomos, Elis and Mali.

The choir will perform at the Grand Concert on Saturday night and at both Gymanfa sessions on Sunday. Come join us April 27-29 for an action packed weekend. For more

**Hefina Phillips.**

## Centenary Celebrations..

The weekend of October 19-21 will be the culmination of months of preparation leading up to the biggest birthday party in the history of Dewi Sant Church. On Friday night there will be a banquet to which everyone is invited. In addition to a delicious meal, we will also be treated to a concert given by "the children of the church". Our very own, home-grown talent will be showcased that evening.

Saturday evening is the night of the Grand Concert when both the Toronto Welsh and the Burlington Welsh Male Voice Choirs will unite to thrill us in song. York Minster Baptist Church (home of the Toronto Mendelsohn Choir) is the venue.

On Sunday morning we will worship in the Sanctuary. After a lunch, provided by the church, we will unite in a rousing Gymanfa Ganu, under the baton of Iwan Edwards of Montreal.

(On Monday, we can all rest up for the entire day!)

Plans are well underway. Meriel Simpson is updating the history of the church, and the booklet will be available by that weekend. In addition, we hope to produce a glossy Commemorative Programme which will be a wonderful memento of the celebrations. In order to defray the costs of producing such a Programme it is hoped to attract sponsorship and advertising. Would you or anyone you know like to include an ad in the programme? If so, please contact the Rev. Deian Evans or Betty Cullingworth at the church.

There is still a lot of work left to be done prior to the big weekend. We welcome anyone who would be willing to assist in any way.

**Hefina Phillips.**

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Welsh Flag Raising Ceremony.

St. David's Day, on Thursday, March 1st, at 11:00 A.M., the Welsh Flag will be raised at City Hall, Nathan Phillips Square. Come and join in as Deian leads us in singing the "Welsh National Anthem".

Listen to Your "Musical Requests"

Diolch yn fawr to everyone who submitted their Musical Requests for St. David's Day. A special thank you to Deian for championing "the Event" and making certain Dewi Sant will be repeatedly mentioned. Remember to listen to "Here's to You", 'CBC Radio 2', 94.1 FM. at 9:00 A.M to 12:00 Noon on March 1st, celebrating the 100th Anniversary on the air. (for times across Canada and around the world visit, <http://www.cbc.ca/location/selectLocationByPostalCode>). ~ Bonnie Booth

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*Is there another word for synonym? . Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all?"*

*What do you do when you see an endangered animal eating an endangered plant?*

*If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages? Would a fly without wings be called a walk?*

*Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?*

*If a turtle doesn't have a shell, is he homeless or naked? Can vegetarians eat animal crackers?*

*If the police arrest a mime, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?*

*Why do they put Braille on the **drive**-through bank machines? How do they get deer to cross the road only at those yellow road signs? What was the best thing before sliced bread? One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people. Does the Little Mermaid wear an alge-bra? . How is it possible to have a civil war?*

*If one synchronized swimmer drowns, do the rest drown, too? . If you ate both pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry? . If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done? .*

## The Mabinogion and being Welsh.

As Saint David's Day (March 1<sup>st</sup>.) approaches, the question arises once again, what does it mean to be Welsh? It can be hard to maintain a sense of Welshness living outside Wales, especially from one generation to the next. Yet Thousands of *Cymry ar wasgar*, 'the scattered Welsh' manage to do so across Canada, America and around the world. Often this means keeping the visible and tangible markers of Welsh identity around the home. Many Welsh North Americans will fly 'Y Ddraig Goch,' 'the Red Dragon,' on Saint David's Day and prepare a supply of Welsh cakes for visitors on this and other special days and other occasions. Even if yr hen iaith 'the old language,' may no longer be spoken around the home, some words and phrases are fondly remembered, not the least being "*hiraeth*", that particularly Welsh sense of inexpressible longing for home and loved ones.

The great Welsh hymns and songs, from *Cwm Rhondda* to *Ar Hyd Y Nos* and *Sospan Fach*, are sung with gusto whether or not the singer is otherwise fluent in the language.

All this is important but at the same time these are merely the outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual Welshness. How can anyone remain Welsh being so long, even indeed one's entire life, away from Wales? AND how can a sense of Welshness be passed on?

Surely one important way to do this is through literature of Wales. It is in its literature that that any culture most clearly and lastingly expresses itself. At the very heart of Welsh literature is *The Mabinogi*.

*The Mabinogi* is not simply one of the greatest works of Welsh literature, it is also widely recognized as a European classic and one of the finest examples of polished and powerful storytelling ever produced.

The Mabinogi is more than just this to anyone Welsh. Written in the late 11<sup>th</sup> Century, drawing from much earlier Welsh and Celtic lore and myth, it incorporates within it much of what it means to be Welsh. It recognizes the unity of Welsh culture even in the face of political division within and threatening pressure from without. It conveys a view of the world that rises above our personal concerns and enmities and teaches how to live an honourable life, free from deceit, rancour, and violence. It does this through fascinating and exciting tales of magic and mystery, heroism and heartbreak, love and disloyalty, reminding us not only how to behave, but also what it means to be Welsh in the deepest sense.

Gwyl Dewi hapus i bawb. Happy Saint David's Day to all.

**John Bollard.**

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### **A National Holiday For Wales???**

Another St David's Day is nearly upon us - just another working day for most in Wales. At the time of writing and with still a few days to go (the deadline is 20th February) Mr O.A. Jones's petition on the Downing Street website, for St David's Day to be made an official national holiday in Wales, has gathered more than 10,000 signatures and has become one of the most successful recent petitions to the Prime Minister. It has even overtaken petitions relating to issues of national defence! Mr Jones, a policeman from Wrexham, justified his petition in the following terms: "Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland have the least number of bank holidays in Europe. The national days of these countries are ideal opportunities to increase the number of days and at the same time allow us to celebrate our individual culture, languages and identities".

I have seen a copy of a special report commissioned by the Enterprise and Culture Committee of the Scottish Parliament compiled by Experian, the 'global leader in providing analytical and information services to organisations and consumers', which came to the conclusion that an extra public holiday for Scotland would be of immense benefit both to society and the economy. Detailed comparator research was offered citing Ireland, France, the USA and Sweden. As a result of this research the Scottish Parliament voted in favour of a national holiday. Business leaders in Scotland were right behind the decision as they saw the opportunity of using the celebration as an international marketing tool. The research document even mentioned in an aside that since St David's Day fell in the spring, it had even more potential appeal than a holiday in November as St Andrew's Day is. In addition, Scotland already has two national festivals known worldwide: Hogmanay and Burn's Night. Wales, on the other hand, has

only one lukewarm, pseudo-national day. There have been a number of campaigns, by politicians, by the Western Mail, by this magazine. All have been enthusiastically supported by great number of Welsh men and women. Let's hope our rulers sit up and listen to the latest surge of national feeling nobly led by Mr O.A. Jones and supported by ten thousand others. **Gŵyl Dewi dedwydd i chi i gyd!**

**Henry Jones-Davies Editor and Publisher of Cambria.**

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DEWI SANT SPRING LUNCHEON AND AUCTION

**When? Sunday, April 1, at 11:30 a.m.
 (Worship Service at church10 a.m.)**

**Where: Rosedale Golf Club
 1901 Mt. Pleasant Road
 Toronto**

Once again this year, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church will be holding a Spring Luncheon and Auction and is looking for your support. We would be delighted if you could attend and also encourage you to consider donating an item for the auction.

The deadline for letting the committee know of your intent to donate something is **firmly set at March 15**. This allows for the program (listing descriptions of items and the donor's name) to be produced in time for the event.

The sit-down luncheon will include leek soup, crepes, dessert and beverage. Vegetarian and children's menus are also available. Cost of the tickets is \$30 for adults and \$20 for children under 16. Dress is smart casual - no jeans

Please contact Annette Evans 416 506 1533 or Leona Francis 905 727 0440 for more information and/or tickets.

To whet your appetite, our auctioneer, Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies, informs us that the live auction items already include: a week stay in a cottage on the coast of Pembrokeshire (courtesy of Elisabeth Evans); a week stay in a Lambeth Palace apartment (August 4/5 to 12/13..courtesy of Lord Roger Roberts); a week/weekend at a cottage in Collingwood (courtesy of Peter Williams); a box for a blue Jay game (courtesy of Leona and Bill Francis). There will, of course, be many silent auction items as well.

A letter to give to potential donors is available in the church office.

Hope to see everyone on April 1. We guarantee you'll have fun!!

Dewi Sant presents

The Spring Luncheon & Auction

Auction Commitment Form

Your participation in the event will be acknowledged in the Spring Luncheon & Silent Auction program.

Name (or Company Name): _____

Contact (if Company): _____

Address: _____

City/ Postal Code: _____

Telephone #: _____ Fax#: _____

Item Description: _____

Value of Item (\$): _____

Contact person from Dewi Sant: _____

Delivery Method: _____

Please note that the commitment deadline is March 15/07.

Pickup and delivery will be arranged shortly after.

We gratefully appreciate your help!!

Smile Awhile

The woman applying for a job in a Florida lemon grove seemed way too qualified for the job. "Look, miss," said the foreman, "have you any actual experience in picking lemons?" "Well, as a matter of fact, yes!" she replied. "I've been divorced three times."

I was in the express lane at the store quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward looked into the cart and asked sweetly, "So which six items would you like to buy?" Wouldn't it be great if that happened more often?

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45-minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said "We may not have 45 minutes." They were seated immediately.

St. Dwynwen's Day

This year again I received a bouquet of flowers from Deian on January 25th, no it was not my birthday or our anniversary but it was St. Dwynwen's Day. St Dwynwen's day is celebrated in Wales on 25 January and commemorates the patron saint of friendship and love.

Dwynwen lived during the 5th century and was, by all accounts, one of the prettiest of Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters. The story goes that Dwynwen fell in love with one Maelon, but unfortunately her father had already arranged that she should wed another. Maelon was so outraged and left her. In her grief Dwynwen fled to the woods, where she begged God to make her forget Maelon. After falling asleep, Dwynwen was visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice. God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. First she wished that Maelon be thawed; second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third, that she should never marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life. Remains of Dwynwen's church can be seen today on the island of Llanddwyn, off the coast of Anglesey. During the 14th century, upon visiting the island, the poet Dafydd ap Gwilym witnessed a golden image of Dwynwen inside the church, and was bold enough to request her help as a messenger between himself and Morfudd, the girl he hoped to win. Also situated on the island is Dwynwen's well, wherein allegedly swims a sacred fish, whose movements predict the future fortunes and relationships of various couples. Visitors to the well believe that if the water boils while they are present, then love and good luck will surely follow.

Annette Evans.

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## On The Move.

Rhian Griffith - It is now 27, Llys Hafren, Old Kerry Road, Newtown, Powys SY16 1LR. Phone # remains same.

Violet and Elwyn Clay 5795 Yonge Street #1004 Toronto, On M2M 4J3 **416-225-7816**

Sheryl Clay 5795 Yonge Street #1104 Toronto, On M2M 4J3 **416-652-7537 (phone # remains the same)**

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Thank You.

Thank very much for all your care and good wishes during my stay in hospital and subsequent rehabilitation. Your good thoughts helped me a long way on the road to recovery.

George Davies.

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## Letters To The Editor.

We have been attending Melville Presbyterian Church for the past 30 years and during all that time you have been kind enough to send us Y Gadwyn. My husband looks forward to receiving this newsletter and thoroughly enjoys its contents. Many thanks to the people who volunteer their time to compile this newsletter and send it to us. Yours truly, **Mary and Paul Griffiths.**

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Thank you for sending us the Gadwyn, very much appreciated and enjoyed, love the humor, wishing you luck with all your endeavours. Diolch yn fawr, **Glenys & George Jones."**

Annwyl Golygydd, Y Gadwyn: Y Gadwyn gives one and all such food for thought, and more - the poem especially for seniors has been sent on to our hospital alumnae society for the newsletter sent twice a year to so many grads. Many thanks to all contributors and Pasg Hapus i Bawb.

Pob hwyl a bendith! **Margaret Frampton"**

Gadwyn Donors.

Brenda Jones, Alyce Roberts, Phyllis McLeod, Edward Morgan, Gwladys Tanner, Don & Marilyn Neilson, Lillian Powell, "Meirian Evans, Llanbadarn Fawr, (Deian's Aunt)"

Thank you all for your donations. They are much appreciated.

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**Elvis was Welsh!** *Oh yes! Did you not know? He didn't either, most probably!!*

*The name Presley is thought to have derived from Preseli, the Pembrokeshire hill range. What's more, St Elvis of Muster is said to have baptised Saint David, and there's a chapel in West Wales dedicated to St Elvis.*

*Want more evidence? OK. Elvis (the singer, not the saint) had a twin brother, Jesse Garon Presley, who died at birth. Garon is a Welsh name, as is Gladys, the name of Elvis' mother. So, if Elvis was Welsh, that makes rock 'n' roll Welsh too. Hurrah! **M.***

## **Catherine Jenkins.**

Some of us already know this name and really applaud the work of this amazing talent from Wales. This is a name that is going to be heard of very often in the near future. This young lady is a former school teacher from Neath, Wales and an eisteddfod winner. She says that she had three ambitions. Catherine has always wanted to sing at The Millennium Stadium in Cardiff and the Sydney Opera House, and thirdly to get to number one in the classical charts. These three ambitions have been accomplished. Catherine has signed the biggest deal in classical recording history and has become the fastest-selling female opera singer since Maria Callas. Pob lwc yn y dyfodol Catherine. **M**

## **Mae Llaw y Gaeaf.**

Mae llaw y Gaeaf yn oer.  
Yn cloi pob nant a llyn,  
A bysedd bach y coed  
I gyd mewn menyg gwyn;  
A'r adar wrth y drws  
Yn printio'r eira'n dlws

Nid oes mewn llwyn na gardd  
Un nodyn bach o gân,  
A saif y coed yn syth  
Mewn gwisg o berlau glân;  
Ond fe ddaw'r haul cyn hir  
I gipio'r perlau clir.

Caraf y Gaeaf byth,  
Er oerni'i awel fain,  
Am ddod â gynau gwyn  
I'r coed a llwyni drain;  
A'r adar wrth y drws  
Yn printio'r eira'n dlws.

Gan J.M. Edwards.

## St. David's Day Quiz

**1. In which century did David live?**

a. sixth b. eighth c. tenth d. twelfth e. fourteenth

**2. Why is the first of March celebrated as St. David's Day?**

**3. Who was David's mother?**

**4. To whom was David's mother alleged to be related?**

a. King Arthur b. King Offa c. St. Patrick d. St. Illtud

**5. Who was David's father?**

**6. In addition to being an excellent student, David is said to have cured one of his teachers of?**

a. lameness. b. leprosy. c. blindness. d. plague.

**7. Several miracles are attributed to David. The first is alleged to have occurred**

a. before he was born b. when he was a small boy c. when he was a student d. after he became a monk

**8. One of the miracles attributed to David occurred when he was attending the Synod of Llanddewi Brefi where it was to be decided if he was to be made Archbishop. Name this miracle:**

**9. Which craft was remembered as being particularly important at the monastery he founded at Glyn Rhosyn?**

a. making wine b. keeping bees c. curing meats and fish by smoking them d. producing illuminated manuscripts

**10. What was David's favorite beverage?**

a. beer b. cider c. mead d. water e. wine

**11. There are several items served at a typical luncheon in his honor (baked chicken, roast beef, roast lamb, potatoes, salad, green beans, cake, pie, Welsh cakes, coffee, tea, etc.) that David would not have eaten. Choose one and why would he not have eaten this?**

**12. David's preferred penance was to**

a. walk long distances while reciting psalms. b. swim long distances early in the morning. c. do heavy manual labor in the monastery gardens. d. stand in neck-deep water while reciting Scripture.

**13. In what century was David canonized?**

a. sixth b. eighth c. tenth d. twelfth e. fourteenth

**14. St. David was so revered that how many pilgrimages to St. David's in Pembrokeshire were considered equivalent to a pilgrimage to Rome?**

**15. A favorite piece of advice attributed to David would be translated into English as**

a. "Be kind to animals" b. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"

c. "Do the little things" d. "Tend your own garden carefully"

**16. In typical statues of St. David, another creature is usually included. What is it?**

a. a dove b. a stag c. a fish d. an eagle

**17. In which region of Wales are the majority of churches dedicated to St. David located?**

a. North Wales b. Mid Wales c. South Wales

**18. Which two Welsh symbols are traditionally associated with St. David's Day?**

### Noson Llawn.

A traditional Noson lawen was held in Dewi Sant on February 17<sup>th</sup>. I can promise that a really good time was had by all. This was reminiscent of the good old nights back in Wales, when one person would get up and sing or recite. On and on the evening would go until everyone had had a turn, and the "hwyl" was at its height!!

What happy times those were, and they occurred so quickly and easily without any planning.

Due to long distances to travel etc. there has to be planning with us here. Great credit should go to The Reverend Deian Evans. With as little fuss as possible he had a Noson Lawen in full swing in no time at all, and exceeded as if this was his vocation. (Please don't change your day job!).

There was folk dancing, Welsh learners' poetry, Merched Dewi singing a Zulu Song! as well as "Calon Lan to Penillion. 3 year old Madison Carys Freemantle helped Deian lead everyone in The Canadian National anthem at the start. She did not miss a word!!

A great time was had by all. The repast prepared by the Renewal Committee also was a pleasant surprise to those not used to the "Welsh way." A big thanks to all participants. Myfanwy.

**Gadwyn Deadline is March 18th.** myfanwy@rogers.com Please try to send me something of interest. 905 737 4399. **Please read the back page for all Dewi Sant information.**