

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

33 Melrose Avenue,
Toronto, Ontario. M5M 1Y6
Phone 416-485-7583 Fax 416-485-2978
Web www.dewisant.com Email info@dewisant.com

Gair gan y Gweinidog A word from the Minister

Another year is slowly but surely dragging itself to a close. The year has had high points and lows for everyone. Times to remember and times we wish we could forget or ignore. But we know that every experience enhances us as individuals and should take us closer to God. We should rejoice, even in adversity. "Easier said than done" I hear you say. But with faith we CAN use every experience as a learning curve and a way of bettering ourselves. Yes, With Faith.

I believe and accept that one of the worst times to tell you about raising the spirits is now, in November, the time when, I have heard, we feel most vulnerable and most miserable. Pessimistic poets throughout the ages have reveled in self-pity and have shared their hopelessness with us. Let me quote as an example one verse of a poem, written by a certain Thomas Hood around the year 1820 :

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,
No comfortable feel in any member –
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds – November!

I am glad that I am not sharing the same feelings as that poet! Yes, we seem to have nothing but Winter to look forward to, nothing but cold and dark and dreary. But I put it to you that this is not so! Many fellow Canadians agree that this is one of the best times of the year, a time to look forward to skating, skiing, putting on those snow shoes, dressing up in our warmest clothes and taking walks in crisp cold air that kill the germs and make us feel warm inside, a time to slow down and recharge the soul's batteries, it is a time of fellowship and getting in touch with friends and family as we look forward to Advent and Christmas time. And it is a time of realization that we can look beyond the cold ahead, to a Spring that is sure to come.

So cheer up, those of you who feel depressed when the hour falls back and daylight saving time clicks in. November has so much to offer, just as long as you look on the positive side of life. And our Faith in the Lord gives us the strength to do just that – to see the best in everything and everyone, and to count our blessings – 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven'.

Bendith Duw fyddo arnoch, Deian

Dewi Sant's Family Christmas

This year, we invite you to attend "Dewi Sant's Family Christmas" where we will enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner complete with all the trimmings. Come early and help decorate our Dewi Sant's Family Christmas Tree. Bring along a favourite ornament, or, one that you would like to place on the tree in memory of a loved one, or, absent friend.

After dinner, relax and enjoy a special performance of "A Child's Christmas in Wales" narrated by Rev. Deian Evans accompanied by Merched Dewi. Of course, our evening would not be complete without a visit from Santa, or, the singing of perennial favorite Christmas carols.

Date: **Saturday December 15, 2007**

Time: 5:00 p.m., Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 Contact: Donna Morris (416) 756-1249, Trisha Stevenson (905) 884-2603, Arleigh Quesnelle (416) 483-6870

The Ontario Welsh Festival

Now that our Centenary Celebrations are over, we have space to think about upcoming events. Not too far in the future is the annual Ontario Welsh Festival, and in 2008 it will be held once again in Stratford.

Stratford, on the banks of the River Avon, is developing into the home of not just the Shakespearian Festival but also the Welsh Festival! This will be our fourth visit to this beautiful city in the past six years, so it obviously has quite an appeal. The Arden Park Hotel will again be the venue and the Saturday night concert and Gymanfa Sessions will be at St. John's United Church, just a stone's throw from the hotel.

I am delighted to report that our guest choir in 2008 will be the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. Anyone who heard them at the Centenary weekend will know that we are in for a musical feast. Their new director, William Wolschuk, has developed a beautiful sound and discipline. I have already put in my requests for some of my favourites! Joining the choir as guest soloist will be Catrin Davies of Washington. Catrin, daughter of Hywel and Mari Davies, was the winner of the David Morris Award at the North American Gymanfa three years ago, and as a result traveled to Wales to compete in the National Eisteddfod in Swansea last year. The Board is looking forward to welcoming her to Ontario.

The conductor of the two Gymanfa Sessions will be Mari Morgan, originally of Llanelli but now living in New Jersey. Mari is well known as the founder and conductor of the North American Welsh Choir, and during the Festival weekend she will take advantage of her visit to Ontario and hold a practice for choristers planning to visit Patagonia next October.

The Board has plans for a full and entertaining weekend. Watch this space for more details. Do you have your 2008 calendar / diary yet? Please note that there is a date change from our usual last weekend of April. The next Gymanfa will be held on **May 2 - 4, 2008**.

Hefina Phillips.

UCW Report.

The ladies of the church worked very hard this Fall to prepare for the annual Christmas bazaar. These bazaars and sales generate the money that we donate to the Dewi Sants general fund at the end of the year. The bazaar this year was great. The ladies worked hard and enjoyed the fellowship and camaraderie. In the process we managed to raise over \$3000. This can go a long way to help our church. A fantastic job considering how few we are. Again thank you.

We are busy now planning the activities for the coming year. Keep your eyes on Y Gadwyn for further information in the next issue. Thank you all for supporting the work that the ladies do for the church. It is much appreciated.

We do ask that names be put up for the Sunday morning cup of tea. If everyone able enough to do this signed up it would take us half way through 2008. If you don't know how, please ask the ladies that are doing it frequently.

Sheryl Clay.

VIEW FROM WALES and the LORDS by Lord Roger Roberts

First of all I must say that it was a tremendous pleasure to visit Dewi Sant and meet so many old friends. It reminded me of that outstandingly happy time that I spent as Minister in Toronto. I understand that the official centenary celebrations were a great success.

Back in Wales and Westminster life is busy !

David Lloyd George died in 1945. In 1890 he'd been elected as M.P. for the old Caernarfon Boroughs seat, was Prime Minister between 1916 and 1922 and was regarded as the greatest Welshman since the Tudors. More than sixty years later a statue of him was, a couple of weeks ago unveiled in London's Parliament Square. Lloyd George's statue is between those of the South African leader General Smuts and LI.G.s longstanding friend Winston Churchill. A little earlier Nelson Mandela's statue joined this array of distinction. I'd examined the square with great interest and there is one startling omission ; there is nothing to commemorate W.E.Gladstone, perhaps the greatest of them all !

Lloyd George was for many of us the father of the welfare state as well as the one person whose inspiration led to victory in the first world war. It was an honour to be present at the unveiling.

I doubt whether we have statesmen of his calibre in Westminster today although two former Prime Ministers Baroness Thatcher and Sir John Major were at the ceremony together with Gordon Brown. Mr. Brown has had a fairly stormy couple of months but "a week is a long time in politics." A few weeks ago doubts were raised whether David Cameron, the Conservative Leader, would last long and, of course, my own Liberal Democrat party leader Sir Ming Campbell resigned. Let nobody question his honesty and decency. At the time of the Invasion of Iraq he was most certainly "the best foreign secretary that we ever had".

Now my party has an election for leader, so within a year or so all three major parties will have changed leaders and a new trio will lead us - Brown, Cameron and either Chris Huhne or Nick Clegg.

We live in interesting times !

Parliament ended it's 2006-7 session on October 30 and there was a race to complete business and get all the Bills through by that date. On Tuesday, November 6 the Queen re-opened Parliament and we heard what major bills the government propose. For Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland much of the legislation is now in the devolved parliaments. I hope very much that sound proposals will emerge from Cardiff.

Locally in this part of Wales(the north !) the battle continues, not only to protect libraries, post offices and schools (the Gwynedd reorganization is highly controversial - fancy proposing to close Lloyd George's old school with nearly 60 pupils on the very day that his statue was being unveiled in Westminster !) but to protect our health service. It would be nonsense to force patients from this area to travel to Cardiff and Swansea for treatment and to undermine our links with the hospitals of Merseyside, Manchester and Gobowen (Oswestry).

I hope to keep you updated and remember if anyone is visiting here I'll be delighted to meet up -
jrogerroberts@aol.com

MY FIRST HARP COMPETITION

By Tegwen Hâf Lewis, Age 11, from Burlington

When my mother saw the competition at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, she encouraged me to take part. The competition was open to all ages for triple or Celtic harp and involved playing a selection of Welsh melodies, and the performance not to exceed five minutes.

Since we, as a family were visiting Wales for a vacation, it was most opportune that the National Eisteddfod 2007 was held in Flintshire. That is the county where my Nain (Grandmother) lives, and her home was only 16 kilometres from the Eisteddfod field.

The main drawback for me to compete was the fact that I could not take my own harp with me, so my Nain arranged to have one rented. This creates a problem, as you get used to your own instrument.

The day of the competition came and I felt really scared yet excited at the same time. We were given permission to drive the car onto the main field. It also helps that your Uncle happens to be President of the Eisteddfod, As we got nearer to the field, butterflies were flitting around my stomach. At last after tuning the harp, my turn to compete had arrived and I thought "Well, I can only do my best, and I'll be glad when it's over". All my family who were present said that I had looked composed and confident and that I had done exceedingly well – I think they were proud of me!!

Although I was not amongst the winners, I was not the last either (4th). As a matter of fact they were all much older than me, and the winner was in her late fifties and was a professional harpist and composer! However, I had a very good adjudication, and received high marks (75%). The judge himself who is a famous Welsh harpist summarized it by writing "it was a most praiseworthy performance with the melodies flowing naturally one from the other and I encourage Tegwen to continue with the celtic harp as she has natural talent for this instrument".

Altogether it was a wonderful experience. It was not as scary as I had thought, and now I'm glad that I took part in such a huge event. I will be back in 2 years.

A Word Of Thanks.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank Rev. Deian Evans for the beautiful dedication of the Eisteddfod case during the service on Celebration Sunday. My father (Rev. Hedd-wyn Williams) would have been so honoured to think that some of his things would find a permanent home in the church that he loved so much. I would also like to say thank you to all who put on such a wonderful luncheon after the service. We all went home extremely well fed and watered ! What a true example of Welsh hospitality.

Diolch yn fawr iawn

Cheryl Davies nee Williams.

From The Book "How to be a Welshman" by Gren

- Do's and Don'ts for the aspiring Welshman A real Welshman will admire Miss World for her politics.

A real Welshman will always hate the ref. A real Welshman will always say he's read Under Milkwood.

A real Welshman wouldn't call daps - trainers. (ie Gym shoes) A real Welshman calls a hill a mountain.

A real Welshman would never under any circumstances say rigger.

A real Welshman would never forget his wife's birthday - she wouldn't let him.

A real Welshman knows that greatest person in the world is Mam.

A real Welshman gets homesick in Chepstow. A real Welshman would watch an all nude ladies choir and criticize them if they sang off key.

Cheryl Davies.

. She is not a "dumb Blonde. She is a light haired detour off the information superhighway. She does not "NAG" you - She becomes "verbally repetitive."

He's not a bad dancer—he is overly Caucasian!

Cornel Fach Y Gegin.

Kitchen Corner.

With the Christmas season fast approaching, I have searched for some sweets that could add to the festivities and make a little change from the usual fare. These are two very old, very simple and easy to prepare, Welsh dishes.

Cacen Briwfyd.

Breadcrumb Cake!

Ingredients. 5 ounces of soft margarine or butter; 5 ounces of soft brown sugar: 8 ounces of self raising flour (ie -Brodie's in Canada.): 1 level tea spoon of baking powder : 3 eggs well beaten: 1 pound of bread crumbs.

Method. Grease a round 8" cake tin. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl. Put all the mixed ingredients into the cake tin. Level it out to look neat and tidy! Bake for 1 ¾ Hours Heat 325F. Allow to cool before removing from the tin.

Nothing could be simpler than this. Enjoy.

Teisen Ffrwythau Marmaled.....Marmalade Fruit Cake.

Ingredients. 6 ounces of soft margarine or butter: 6 ounces of soft brown sugar: 3 well beaten eggs: 8 ounces of self raising flour: ½ a teaspoon of salt: 2 ounces of glace cherries cut into quarters: 12 ounces of mixed candied peel: 3 tablespoons of marmalade. (ginger marmalade is recommended): 2 tablespoons of milk.

Method. Grease an 8" cake tin. Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl. Mix well then turn into the cake tin. Level the top with a spatula to make the cake look even Bake for 2-2½ hours. Test to see if the cake is well baked by prodding gently with a skewer or knife. The cake is ready if it comes out clean. When cool remove onto a plate.

Mwynhewch

Myfanwy.

If you would like something really light and refreshing after all the heavy "stuff" here is something light and Summery

Cucumber Mousse with Prawns.

Ingredients 2 large cucumbers; 10 ounces of cream cheese; ½ pint double cream or soured milk; 5-6 drops of Tabasco .(this does not make it hot, but deepens the flavour): juice of 1 ½ lemons: salt and pepper to taste: 2 packets of gelatin melted in half a cup of very hot water.

Method Chop up the cucumber roughly then put it in the blender wit all the other ingredients except the gelatin. Blend until almost smooth. Add the gelatin and give it just one pulse of the machine and pour into a lightly oiled mold. Cover and chill for at least six hours. If you use a ring mold the center can be filled with the shrimps. This serves 8 as a main course.

If you want to serve this as an elegant starter you could line a one pound loaf tin with smoked salmon and fill with half the amount of the mousse. Cover the top with a layer of salmon. Cover with clingfilm and chill Serves 16 as a starter. Mwynhewch. Enjoy.

Dorothy Davies.

Clay Balls

A man was exploring caves by the seashore. In one of the caves he found a canvas bag with a bunch of hardened clay balls. It was like someone had rolled clay balls and left them out in the sun to bake.

They didn't look like much, but they intrigued the man, so he took the bag out of the cave with him. As he strolled along the beach, he would throw the clay balls one at a time out into the ocean as far as he could. He thought little about it, until he dropped one of the clay balls and it cracked open on a rock. Inside was a beautiful, precious stone!

Excited, the man started breaking open the remaining clay balls. Each contained a similar treasure. He found thousands of dollars worth of jewels in the 20 or so clay balls he had left.

Then it struck him.

He had been on the beach a long time. He had thrown maybe 50 or 60 of the clay balls with their hidden treasure into the ocean waves. Instead of thousands of dollars in treasure, he could have taken home tens of thousands, but he had just thrown it away!

It's like that with people. We look at someone, maybe even ourselves, and we see the external clay vessel. It doesn't look like much from the outside. It isn't always beautiful or sparkling, so we discount it.

We see that person as less important than someone more beautiful or stylish or well known or wealthy. But we have not taken the time to find the treasure hidden inside that person.

There is a treasure in each one of us. If we take the time to get to know that person, and if we ask God to show us that person the way He sees them, then the clay begins to peel away and the brilliant gem begins to shine forth.

May we not come to the end of our lives and find out that we have thrown away a fortune in friendships because the gems were hidden in bits of clay. May we see the people in our world as God sees them.

I am so blessed by the gems of friendship I have with each of you. Thank you for looking beyond my clay vessel.
Betty Cullingworth.

Baltic Cruise May 2007

Since our plans for this year included a family visit to the UK we searched around and decided to add a cruise around the Baltic ports. So after a circle around the family members in Royston, Manchester, North Wales (Llandudno but no relatives in the Welsh village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch) and Brixham in Devon, we drove to London Heathrow for the short trip to Denmark. On the drive to London along the A30, we saw a road sign with a Canadian Flag on it, so (typical for us) we followed the signs for about 5 miles off the route we were supposed to be going. Eventually we discovered a little piece of land owned by Ontario, on which the small Wolford Church was situated. This was the family church and burial place of the First Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806), and his family. It was a real country setting at the end of a small lane, nicely conserved and with a visitor's book regularly used by visiting Canadians including us now!

There are 4 more pages of the cruise that we went on and had a wonderful time. The editor feels that the whole account would be too lengthy, but allowed us this small paragraph of interest.!

Brian and Joan Hughes.

Pwt Bach O Gymraeg

Y Gegin Gefn.

Yno y teulu'n unig---â'n can;
Lle'r gwmniaeth ddiddig:
Lle bo'r cŵn, lle berwi cîg
Man clydwch a mainc wledig.

Beirdd Sir Feirionnydd.

Nawdd dibrin a roes inni—llwm o aur,
Ond lle mam a'i chelfi;
Yn hedd hael ei symledd hi
Cydiodd cur : cododd cewri.

Beirdd Sir Fôn.

Yn "Ymryson Y Beirdd," Mehefin 25. 1956.

Change Of Address.

Robert Bruce-- crbarbara@cogeco.ca Mervyn and Janet Davies, 205—1425 Ghent Avenue, Burlington. Ontario L7S 1X5
Phone number unchanged: (905) 632-5385

Margaret Williams (secretary of The O.G.G.A) #79 - 607 Cranbrook Road, London, Ontario, N6K 2K4 Tel # unchanged.

Raymond Mathias. Director of Overseas Marketing. Ontario Tourism Market Partnership Corporation. 416 212 5710

416 314 75 63 raymondmathias@ontario.ca www.ontariotravel.net

Cerwyn and Nora Davies 15 Kingsmere Close, Heritage Park. Haverfodwest. Pembrokeshire. S West Wales S A 6 1 2 P G
norwyn@mexicom.com

Under The Weather.

Elwyn Morris has been in hospital for many weeks. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him and Nina.
Nêst Pritchard is suffering having broken her arm in two places. She fell on the ice on Sunday morning.
Our thoughts go out to you as we see you struggling with one hand. It is not an easy process.
Anne Boswell remains in indifferent health. We miss Anne's visits to Dewi Sant. God Bless you.
Ken Hughes and Maureen Davies are recovering from hospital visits. Our best wishes and prayers also
go to Olwen Hoffman and Mairwen Thornley after treatments they have been through recently.
Bonnie Roberts has been in hospital as well.
If we have missed anyone out please let us know so that you can be included in the next Gadwyn.
We wish you all a speedy recovery.

Gadwyn Donors

Bonnie & Gwyn Roberts. Ruth Edwards. Barbara & John Sharpe. David Glyn Williams.

We thank you for your donations. It is quite expensive to print and postage. As you must be aware , postage costs creep up .If any of you would like to receive Y Gadwyn on line please let us know and we will put you on that list instead of the mailing list M

Our Heritage

Pontypridd.

Pontypridd is a relatively young valley town whose people have nevertheless contributed much to Welsh history.

In the mid eighteenth century, before the town existed, a rickety wooden bridge over the Taff river needed to be replaced. The resulting stone bridge completed in 1756 by William Edwards became celebrated as a first in Europe to exceed the span of the Rialto in Venice.

A hundred years later Evan James who had only recently moved to the town, considered a letter from one of his brothers in the USA urging him to take his family to the "New World," He wrote three verses in reply, explaining why the "old country," was dear to him, and Wales got its national anthem.

A century ago this year John Hughes composed our best known hymn tune Cwm Rhondda, first sung here in Capel Rhondda.linked with William Williams's words Guide me O thou great Jehovah it has become a hymn of hope across the world.

Visit Pontypridd Museum in the former Tabernacle chapel next to the old bridge to find out much more

Myfanwy..

Pembroke Castle.

Idyllically set on the banks of the river, this mighty medieval bastion was the birthplace of Henry Tudor, father of the notorious Henry V111. Its passages and stairways are fun to explore, and there are superb exhibitions, which bring the castle to life.

The fortress was once the seat of a succession of earls who played leading roles in shaping Britain's story; William Marshal, for example, was a jousting champion who once even unhorsed Richard the Lionheart.

Spend a day here if you can and picnic in the beautiful grounds, or from St Anne's Bastion enjoy stunning views along the estuary.

Visit the Brass Rubbing Centre and make an attractive souvenir. From the river bank view the castle in all its splendour, surrounded by this peaceful stretch of water. Complete your visit with a walk around the medieval town walls and millpond. Come to Pembroke—have a great day out.

Myfanwy

I am sure that many of you could write a small paragraph about your hometown or village. Let's try to get a series going for 2008. It does not have to be your special place, any other interesting town would be just as acceptable. Myfanwy.

LOST IN THE DARNDDEST PLACES:

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way."

A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard." He says. "She got in the back-seat by mistake."

FAMILY

Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together. One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful, knock on wood." She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

Wrth Y Golygydd

From The Editor

As you have noticed I have put in a great many "fillers" in this Gadwyn I would much prefer some articles from the readers. It is not my paper to write as I will. There are plenty of you out there with talents far far greater than mine. Betty and Hefina do their part but we can't depend on the same people all the time. I feel that since money is being donated, the pages should be filled with a variety of interesting topics; once I have put all the church news in. Please help.

The cookery book produced by Gaynor was a tremendous success. There is no reason why another one could not be produced in a couple of years or so. Fresh new recipes from Y Gadwyn could be kept with that thought in mind.

How about news of your families, successes, exploits, adventures etc. New babies etc. etc.

I know that I had to curtail travel stories, which although in some cases were brilliant; they were too long. Shorter versions would be very acceptable. Ladies how about humourous tales of shopping exploits etc. ? As a church family we should be able to enjoy each other's stories.

If you don't like writing, send me a rough copy, I'll edit it and send it back to you for approval.

Please help avoid my headaches and sleepless nights the nights before Y Gadwyn is due to be printed.

Diolch yn fawr. Thank you. Myfanwy.

The next deadline is Sunday December 16th.

myfanwy@gogers.com. 905 737 4399 34 Carrington Drive,. Richmond Hill. Ont. L4C 8A2

The Music continues...

The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir continues to sing with a purpose for “**Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life**”. On Saturday, November 24th, the Choir delighted the audience at the “Sleeping Children Around the World” Concert.

In Cobourg, the Choir received a standing ovation at the World Premiere of Hilda Morgan's orchestral arrangement of “Nidaros” performed with the Northumberland Orchestra and Choir on Sunday, November 25th.

The annual Cyngerdd Nadolig, Christmas Concert will take place at Eglinton St. George's United Church, 35 Lytton Blvd. on Wednesday, December 5th, at 7:30 p.m. and again in Ajax as a fundraiser for the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation. The Concert will take place on Saturday, December 8th, 7:30 p.m. at the J. Clarke Richardson / Notre Dame Community Theatre, 1355 Harwood Avenue North, Ajax
Contact: 416-410-2254 for Tickets or www.Ticketbreak.com .

Then on Saturday, March 1st, 7 p.m. at Metropolitan United Church, the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir with the Northumberland Orchestra is presenting a St. David's Day Concert, Cyngerdd Dydd Gwyl Dewi. Come and hear “Nidaros”, and other Musical Guests the Choir has asked to participate in this special Event. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Welsh heritage.

Give the gift of music this Christmas with Tickets to the St. David's Day Concert, Cyngerdd Dydd Gwyl Dewi. Contact 416-410-2254 “**The music in my heart I bore, Long after it was heard no more.**”

November Night.

Listen.....

With faint dry sound,

Like steps of passing ghosts,

The leaves, frost-crisp'd bark from trees

And fall.

Adelaide Crapsey 1878-1914.