

**Dewi Sant Welsh United Church**

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**Neges y Gweinidog Minister's Message.**

Do you like challenges? I really like a challenge that stretches me, mind, body and spirit. There is no better time to accept a challenge than during Lent, when we think about our situation and our relationships, and 'try to do better'.

Recently a challenge was placed before a meeting of the Congregation at the Church, following the question asked by a regular attendant - 'Where do we want to be as a Church in five and ten years' time?' This is a good question, but I would like to adapt it to ask 'Where does God want us to be as a Church in five and ten years' time?' I hope that you can see the difference between these two challenges.

But to get back to the question itself, the question of moving forward, of evolving as a Church. One answer that was suggested was to raise our awareness of the needs of society and the community around us, and move forward as a missionary church, a church of outreach. This is a noble cause, it is certainly what we believe to be what God asks of us. **BUT** is it enough? Is this the starting point? I would suggest not.

I would suggest that we should not expect any institution to survive, let alone become a mission church, without starting in worship, the place to learn how to work together. By praying together, by meeting God face to face together, **THEN** we can move forward and evolve as God wishes us to do. If we are serious about the vision and mission of Christ's Church, we **MUST** come together and worship, come together and learn how to serve together.

One day you may decide to accept the challenge of working for Christ and realize that the best place to start is at the Church, and on that day you may come to Church and find the front door closed – permanently.

And so I come to the Challenge. I challenge you to attend services. Every member of every church must ask themselves what their priorities are. The only reason for not putting church service attendance as a priority should be a **VERY** good reason. Not an excuse, but a reason. My challenge to you who do not attend regularly, if at all, is **ATTEND. WORSHIP. SERVE.**

Before we can even think of serving others, I challenge you to create a situation where the attendance at this church is doubled. Do not expect the few, the elderly, the infirm, to carry the torch on your behalf. Are you up to this challenge?

**Bendithion, Deian**

## Saint David and Saint David's Day

If you were lucky enough to be in Wales on March the first, you would find the country in a festive mood. Every self-respecting man, woman and child would be celebrating St. David's Day in one way or another. But who was St. David, and why is he so important to the Welsh?

Well, Saint David, or Dewi Sant, is the patron Saint of Wales. He was a Celtic monk, abbot and bishop, who lived in the sixth century. During his life, he was the archbishop of Wales, and he was one of many early saints who helped to spread Christianity among the pagan Celtic tribes of western Britain.

For details of the life of Dewi, we depend mainly on his biographer, Rhigyfarch. He wrote *Buchedd Dewi* (the life of David) in the 11th century. Gerallt Gymro (Giraldus Cambrensis), who wrote a book about his travels through Wales in the 12th century, also gives some information about Dewi's early life. Dewi died in the sixth century, so nearly five hundred years elapsed between his death and the first manuscripts recording his life. As a result, it isn't clear how much of the history of Dewi's life is legend rather than fact.

However, both sources say, so we can be relatively certain, that Dewi was a very gentle person who lived a frugal life. It is claimed that he ate mostly bread and herbs - probably watercress, which was widely used at the time. Despite this supposedly meagre diet, it is reported that he was tall and physically strong.

Dewi is said to have been of royal lineage. His father, Sant, was the son of Ceredig, who was prince of Ceredigion, a region in South-West Wales. His mother, Non, was the daughter of a local chieftain. Legend has it that Non was also a niece of King Arthur.

Dewi was born near Capel Non (Non's chapel) on the South-West coast of Wales near the present city of Saint David. We know a little about his early life - he was educated in a monastery called Hen Fynyw, his teacher being Paulinus, a blind monk. Dewi stayed there for some years before going forth with a party of followers on his missionary travels.

Dewi travelled far on his missionary journeys through Wales, where he established several churches. He also travelled to the south and west of England and Cornwall as well as Brittany. It is also possible that he visited Ireland. Two friends of his, Saints Padarn and Teilo, are said to have often accompanied him on his journeys, and they once went together on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to meet the Patriarch.

Dewi is sometimes known, in Welsh, as 'Dewi Ddyfrwr' (David the Water Drinker) and, indeed, water was an important part of his life - he is said to have drunk nothing else. Sometimes, as a self-imposed penance, he would stand up to his neck in a lake of cold water, reciting Scripture. Little wonder, then, that some authors have seen Dewi as an early Puritan!

He founded a monastery at Glyn Rhosyn (Rose Vale) on the banks of the small river Alun where the cathedral city of St. David stands today. The monastic brotherhood that Dewi founded was very strict, the brothers having to work very hard besides praying and celebrating masses. They had to get up very early in the morning for prayers and afterwards work very hard to help maintain life at the monastery, cultivating the land and even pulling the plough. Many crafts were followed - beekeeping, in particular, was very important. The monks had to keep themselves fed as well as the many pilgrims and travellers who needed lodgings. They also had to feed and clothe the poor and needy in their neighbourhood.

There are many stories regarding Dewi's life. It is said that he once rose a youth from death, and milestones during his life were marked by the appearance of springs of water. These events are arguably more apocryphal than factual, but are so well known to Welsh-speaking schoolchildren that it is worth mentioning them here.

Perhaps the most well-known story regarding Dewi's life is said to have taken place at the Synod of Llanddewi Brefi. They were to decide whether Dewi was to be Archbishop. A great crowd gathered at the synod, and when Dewi stood up to speak, one of the congregation shouted, 'We won't be able to see or hear him'. At that instant the ground rose till everyone could see and hear Dewi. Unsurprisingly, it was decided, very shortly afterwards, that Dewi would be the Archbishop...

It is claimed that Dewi lived for over 100 years, and it is generally accepted that he died in 589. His last words to his followers were in a sermon on the previous Sunday. Rhigyfarch transcribes these as 'Be joyful, and keep your faith and your creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about. I will walk the path that our fathers have trod before us.' 'Do the little things' ('Gwnewch y pethau bychain') is today a very well-known phrase in Welsh, and has proved an inspiration to many. On a Tuesday, the first of March, in the year 589, the monastery is said to have been 'filled with angels as Christ received his soul'.



figurines etc, knitted goods, Welsh goods including CDs and DVDs, not tapes please. Tables are available for a small fee.

We do not want any clothes or electrical goods. There will **not** be a white elephant stall this time.

When you bring in your donations please put your names on the bags, boxes etc.

It is very labour intensive and frustrating to have to take car loads of damaged goods etc to the dump

There will be a raffle, so if you have something to donate for that we would be thankful.

The Spring Sale coordinator will be **Nina Smith Morris Tel: 416 488 6445**

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### **What Are You Doing on Good Friday This Year?**

As I was choosing the hymns for this year's Good Friday **Gymanfa Ganu**, my mind wondered back to the Good Fridays of my youth. Our family never missed one of these special days, as Dewi Sant's Gymanfa Ganu was a highlight of the year for the Welsh in southern Ontario. Busloads of Welsh from outlying areas would arrive late in the afternoon (before the advent of the afternoon service) in time for the dinner. You had to buy your dinner ticket early to assure yourself a place at one of the two seatings although tickets were also available at the door for latecomers. Many people preferred to eat at the first seating so they could stake out prime seats upstairs in the sanctuary for the singing. As the time for the Gymanfa neared, chairs were placed in the aisles and in front of the first pews since seats were at a premium. Occasionally extra seats were even placed in the narthex. (The fire marshal would probably not have approved but Welsh singing can cloud the senses of even the most level-headed!) Does this reminiscence sound like a plea for a return to the "good old days"? Well, perhaps in some ways, it is. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the church filled to overflowing so that the sound of Welsh hymn singing would rebound from the rafters! I still hear, in my musings, the thrilling sound of the four part harmonies being sung so vibrantly in the small chapel on Clinton Street and later on Melrose Avenue.

You are all invited to come out this Good Friday and continue to make musical memories at Dewi Sant. **Please bring along your Gymanfa book if you have one**; of course music will be provided for those who do not have their own book.

In the afternoon service, Reverend Deian Evans will be conducting **the bi-lingual service** along with Glenys Huws. It will be a special treat to hear the message from one of the 'children of the church'.

#### **So here is a suggested timetable for a special Good Friday:**

Afternoon Bilingual Service -	3:30 P.M.
Delicious dinner – prepared by the UCW	5.00 P.M.
Evening Gymanfa Ganu –	7:00 P.M.

Hope to see you there.....

**Betty Cullingworth**

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### **Good Friday**

The U C W ladies will be serving a **hot** home cooked dinner between the afternoon worship service and the Annual Gymanfa Ganu. We will be making all effort to see that you get a good hot meal, and **plenty** of it. There will also be a delicious Sherry trifle afterwards!

We are charging \$12 for the meal, which you would not be able to get in the local restaurants at that price. We are encouraging you all to eat with us that afternoon. Know that you are also supporting Dewi Sant when you do so.

Tickets are being sold in advance to help us cater realistically for you. Get your tickets from Maureen Davies, Myfanwy Bajaj and the church office. Please support us rather than the local restaurants that may be open. Our need is greater and the cause may be worthier!

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### **Dear Welsh societies in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.**

I take it that many of you have read the news that Ninnau is reducing its distribution from 11 to 6 editions per year. Ninnau has been a stalwart in the North American Welsh community for a generation, it has been a strong supporter of all our Welsh groups and is one of the first places that all of us turn too to share our stories of what we are doing and publicise our events.











by small tank engines known as "Coal Tanks.300 of these engines were built by the London and North Western Railway in the 1800's. They were so well built that some of them lasted until the early 1950's, just before the line closed.

Happily one of the class has been preserved, in fact it is the same loco that worked the last passenger train over the line on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. 1958. This loco is now on the latter stages of restoration at Ingrow in Yorkshire and will soon be back in steam to the delight of "Railfans." This descendent of Cosher Bailey's engine is being well cared for.

**Hadrian Evans. Vernon B.C**

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**In Memoriam. Er Cof.**

It is with regret that we announce the passing of **Richard Trefor Jones** of Aurora last week in his late nineties. He had been in indifferent health for quite some time, but battled on valiantly. Although he had left Wales many many years ago and raised a family here in Canada he was a staunch Welsh man until the end. There was nothing that he enjoyed more than a chat in Welsh on the telephone especially with North Walians. He was quite partial to Welsh cakes! .Our prayers and thoughts are with his family during this time of grief.

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On March 10<sup>th</sup> **Elizabeth (Bet) Ann Morris**, of Gaerwen, Sir Fôn, the mother of Elwyn Jones, passed away aged 95 years. Our condolences are extended to Elwyn, Nancy, Angela and the family in their loss and grief.

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**"Help Sought.**

Friends, I am hoping you can be of help to me. After finding a contradiction as to the author of the quotation on the Ottawa Peace Arch on the internet, I have spent three days trying to not only prove which man is author but, more importantly, to find the poem "The Returning Man".

As for the contradiction, in case it interests you, an article at Wikipedia ascribes the poem and quotation to one John Coffin Jones from America via Hawaii. I am sure you already know the story of it belonging to John Ceredigion Jones.

My wish and hope is that you can either send me the poem or tell me where I might find it. I have a library full of poetry books, both English and Welsh and I cannot find that poem. Nor can I find more than one poem by John Ceredigion Jones (Tydu) in publication. Can you advise me, please? Thank you. H M White ( Please contact Hazel White through Dewi Sant Church office.)

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**University of Washington chemistry mid term.**

The answer by one student was so "profound" that the professor shared it with colleagues, via the Internet, which is, of course, why we now have the pleasure of enjoying it as well

Bonus Question: Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)? Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools when it expands and heats when it is compressed) or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following: First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So we need to know the rate at which souls are moving into Hell and the rate at which they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Most of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell. Since there is more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all souls go to Hell. With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand proportionately as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:

1. If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in



**Welsh classes** Friday evenings 7-9 p.m. and Saturday mornings 9 a.m. - noon  
**Sportball classes** Thursdays 3:30-5:15 p.m. and Friday afternoons 12:45-2:15 p.m. and Sat. 9-11 a.m.  
**Hope Korean Church** Friday evenings 7:00 –9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 7:00 –8:00 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. and Sundays 2:00-05:30 p.m.  
**Bible Study Class** is held every Tuesday morning at the Church from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
**TWMVC** practices every Wednesday evening 7-10 p.m.  
**Merched Dewi** practices every Thursday evening 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
**Welsh language services** resume to their normal time at 7.00 pm as from the first Sunday evening in April

**Good Friday.** Bilingual worship service 3.30.p.m ,UCW dinner 5.00 pm, Gymanfa Ganu 7 p.m.  
**Easter Sunday** Communion 9 a.m., Breakfast. 9.30 am, Regular morning worship 11.00 am  
**May 24<sup>th</sup>** Blessing of Animals Service 11.00 am

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Tu ol i'r dorth mae'r blawd	Uwch ben y cae mae'r haul
Tu ol i'r blawd mae'r felin	Sy'n t'wynnu ar bob twysen
Tu ol i'r felin draw ar y bryn	Uwch ben yr haul mae Duw sy'n rhoi
Mae cae o wenith melyn.	Y gwynt a'r glaw a'r heulwen.

**Sent in by Geraint Roberts.**

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**Gadwyn deadline April 19<sup>th</sup>.**

Thanks to all who wrote in. It makes a world of difference. In fact this time I have several small things ready for the next issue! That is the first time in years!!

Again, diolch yn fawr. Myfanwy 905 737 4399 [myfanwy@rogers.com](mailto:myfanwy@rogers.com) Please note that the deadline is a little later due to the Easter activities, therefore no late articles etc. will be accepted.  
 Diolch M

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*The heart that gives gathers.*  
*Change your thoughts, change your world.*  
*Enjoy the little things, for one day you will look back and realise that they were the big things*  
*It's choice not change that determines your destiny*  
*Sometimes in the wind of change we find the true direction.*  
 Joy is a light that fills your heart with, Faith, Hope and Love.