

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

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Neges y gweinidog. Message from the Pulpit.

What a month it has been since you last received the Gadwyn! It is always busy at the Church, but the last four weeks have been a real 'roller coaster' of events. Lent began in mid February, and this being one of the major periods in the Church calendar you can imagine the celebrations and business associated with this time of meditation and reflection as we prepare for Easter.

Then we had the 'usual' events that occur at the Church, such as the Lunch Bunch, now arranged by the UCW, and the weekly Bible Study class. This month saw a first for the Bible studiers as they were responsible for the major part of the March 14th Sunday service. And, of course, they took part with the dignity and high standards we expected of such spiritual persons. Well done, students!

On March 14 the Annual congregation meeting was held, which accentuated the fact that Dewi Sant Church is a strong, vibrant and forward-looking community. I left that meeting with a positive feeling, because such events show how many of the members work to such high standards on behalf of the Lord.

And then we had the St. David's day events. Or should I say St. David's DAYS events. It started on February 28 with the themed service on the Sunday morning, then followed with the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir concert on March 1st, the Grand Banquet on March 6th and culminating with the Welsh service on the evening of March 7th. These two events deserve special mention.

We were treated to a wonderful evening at the Thornhill Golf Club, with the Rev. Eldon Phillips as the guest speaker. But there is one event will stand out for me more than the rest that evening and that is, my great honour to be able to announce the engagement of Murray Black and Rosemary Murray. They intend to be married later this year, and the whole community wishes them both every happiness in their future together.

The Welsh service was something special. One hundred people in attendance. We even had to print extra Orders of Service and we ran out of hymn books! **Wonderful.** The service was led by Merched Dewi, as usual, and also by members of the Welsh Learner's Classes, who are taught by John Otley and Annette. They all did an admirable job, and praise must go to John Otley who prepared them for the service. Da iawn pawb a Diolch i John! The traditional literary competition was of a high standard again this year, and the competing learners were honoured during the service. Search the Church Website for more information and photographs.

If you missed any or all the above events, and other events that I have not even mentioned, then you must, by now realize that you have missed out on a tremendous opportunity to share in the joys of a wonderful community. And you should be more determined than ever not to miss out on these events in the future.

Bob bendith,

Deian.

OUR NONAGENARIAN SERIES

This month's profile of our ninety year + members features **Olwen Dunets.**

Olwen was born on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales in January, 1919, but by the early 1920's, her family had moved to Camarthen where her father managed a farm. At the age of six, Olwen went to school in Camarthen where she was taught English in the cloakroom of the school house; however, she attributes her ultimate learning of the English language to the comic book, Chick's Own, that she bought faithfully each week. Back in Anglesey by the age of seven, Olwen received most of her education in North Wales, attended St. Mary's Teachers' College in Bangor and subsequently went to Liverpool to teach elementary school. There, in 1940, when the bombing began in earnest, Olwen vividly recalls sleeping under the dining room table every night as German planes flew overhead. As a young woman, Olwen came to understand well the meaning of the word 'fear' and to have a renewed appreciation of the verb 'to quiver'.

In 1941, Olwen returned to Anglesey and it was there that she taught our own Tom Jones' brothers, John and Henry. After the war, while still in Beaumaris, Olwen was asked to teach English to the men of a demobbed Polish battalion; the translator of that group (knowing about ten English words) was to be Olwen's soulmate throughout life....George Dunets. George's early life was filled with adventure and courage and deserves its own article. Suffice to say, that he spent two years in a gulag in Siberia and then joined the British forces in Tehran, having walked there from Siberia.

Olwen eventually came to Canada in 1949 and was reunited with George who had emigrated a year earlier. Being determined to see the west of Canada and to visit with family who were already established in British Columbia, Olwen, after a brief stopover in Toronto, took the train west and marveled at the sheer size of her new country, Canada. Much as she delighted in the west and in meeting her mother's brother for the first time, she knew that a school, SS20 Mariposa, in Manila, Ontario awaited her as teacher at the start of the school year; and so with no money and living on sandwiches and bananas, Olwen made her way back by train to Ontario. Her country school was near Little Britain where she learned to skate. This was when Olwen feels she truly learned to be a Canadian.

Olwen and George were married in Dewi Sant Welsh United Church on Clinton Street by the Reverend Heddwyn Williams in 1950. Olwen was introduced to the church by her father's cousin, Dan Jones and his wife, Anne. (I well remember Dan acting as a lay preacher at the church during my youth.) Olwen managed to combine both family life and a professional career. After teaching for three years in North York, she stayed home for five years to raise her family and then completed a 23 year stint for the Etobicoke Board of Education (Meriel Simpson was a student). During the 50's, Olwen attended the Welsh services at the church on Clinton Street twice a month. During this time, I still recall Olwen acting as an adjudicator of the recitations at the biannual eisteddfodau. When the new

("God is Love"). I was only about three and was, naturally, very concerned about my pronunciation. But all was well; I still remember the lovely smile and nod of approval that Grandpa gave me when I'd finished.

My other grandfather, Robert Prys-Jones, was born in Bala. His mother, Anne Prys/Price (with what justification I'm unsure) claimed descent from Rhys ap Iaredudd, who fought with Harri'r Tewdwr/ Henry Tudor at Bosworth and distinguished himself by retrieving Henry's Red Dragon banner (and waving it aloft again) when Henry's official standard-bearer was killed -it's said - by Richard the Third himself. For a while Taid assisted his younger brother John (J.R.Jones), the headmaster of Pentrecelyn School in beautiful Dyffryn Clwyd and then became co-principal of the Boys' section of Love Lane Infants School in Dinbych/Denbigh. The co-principal of the Girls' section of the school was Anne Davies, a pretty young school-teacher from Llandderfel, near Bala.

The bard Dewi Hafesp, passing through Llandderfel, heard her singing one day and wrote the poem "Llais Ferch" ("The Voice of a Maiden") in her honour. Robert and Anne fell in love and married. They had four children until, sadly, Anne died of appendicitis before surgeons learned to remove appendices. Taid later married Catrin Roberts, Anne's closest friend and they had four more children.

Taid subsequently became a temperance lecturer in Pontypridd and was a deacon at Penuel CM Chapel. By an unfortunate coincidence, there was a brewery at the end of the street when Taid and Nain lived and, as a toddler, my Uncle "Owi" (Olyfyr) became a big favourite of the brewery employees. Once Taid was walking along the street with a group of visiting temperance dignitaries when a horse-drawn brewer's dray came rattling down the street. Uncle Owi, seated between two brewery employees, waved and called out "Helo Dadi" to my embarrassed grandfather and the astonishment of the temperance officials.

When Taid retired he and Nain retired to his beloved Bala. They bought a lovely house, "Glantegid", on Tegid Street just a short distance from Tegid Street Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, where Taid became an elder. I have very happy memories of large family reunions at "Glantegid" and Bala is one of my favourite places in the whole world. I've often asked myself why I, a somewhat anglicized Welshman, have such a fierce love of Wales and the Welsh language. There are many, many reasons for this, but among them are my affection and admiration for my two grandfathers. John is buried in Glyntaf Cemetery, Treforest and Robert in the quiet churchyard of Llanycil, on the shores of beautiful Llyn Tegid/Bala Lake. I spend a few quiet moments with them whenever I am in Wales.

John Robert Graham Jenkins is named after his two grandfathers. He is a former member of Dewi Sant Church and was president of the St. David's Society. He lives in Waterloo, Ontario and Monterey, California.

Diolch yn fawr John. Thank you for this contribution.

The Dewi Sant family have a wealth of history and stories to tell. Please don't wait, until down the years Betty will interview you as a nonagenarian!!!! Don't hesitate. Drop me a few interesting lines. Myfanwy.

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Change of Address.

Megan Morris, #510 - 1801 Valley Farm Rd., Pickering, ON L1V 0A5. Phone: (905) 421-1510 ***At the time of writing Megan is being treated for a broken shoulder. She will not be back in her new home for several weeks. You can get news of Megan from Donna. We all wish Megan a very speedy recovery so that she can return to enjoy Spring in her new home. Our thoughts are with you Megan.***

Who was St. David, anyway?

On the morning of March 1st I went to my local supermarket to pick up a pot of daffodils. Rather disappointed to see only miniature daffs, I asked the florist for large, "proper" daffodils. In a heavy mid-European accent, she explained that they didn't have any. This is how the conversation then proceeded:

Me: " Oh! That's too bad. Today is St. David's Day, the patron Saint of Wales. The daffodil is our national flower and I'm sure all the local Welsh people will be in looking for daffodils." Florist: " Who is the saint?" Me: " St. David."

Florist: " And he's the protector of Whales? How interesting!" **Hefina Phillips.**

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15th Anniversary Gala Concert!

Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir celebrates their '15th Anniversary Gala Concert' with guest soloist, Mireille Asselin. Saturday, May 15th, 7:30 pm, St. Anne's Anglican Church, 270 Gladstone Avenue, Toronto Tickets: \$25.00 Contact: 416-410-2254 or 1-877-410-2254 (905/705 only). www.ticketweb.ca

Poster available www.twmvc.com

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Smile awhile *When parking on the north side of the church please park on an angel. During the absence of our pastor we had the rare privilege of hearing an excellent sermon by our guest speaker, rev. Alfred Watts. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. The new loudspeaker system installed in the church has been given by Adam Smith in honour of his wife! Ladies don't forget the rummage sale, a great chance to get rid of things around the house that don't work. Bring your husbands. Today we welcome Rev. Jones a caring pastor who loves hurting people. There is a signup sheet for those wishing to be baptised on the table in the foyer. Eight new choir robes are needed due to the addition of new members and the deterioration of some older ones. The Bible study on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Janice Lee remains in hospital having trouble sleeping. She has requested C.Ds of reverend Johnston's sermons..... Well yes most of these items have a serious side, but a bit of humour never hurts. You may want to check your bulletin carefully this week! Most of all, may you be encouraged and inspired by the faithful preaching of the Word of God at your church. It is our Scriptures that are our true source of guidance, hope, understanding and perception. (Psalm 119.)*

(Thank you for all the work that you put into the Gadwyn Myfanwy.)

Dorothy Wilson .

Up Coming Event

The Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association, Toronto Branch, is holding their Teachers In Concert, in support of Scholarships for music students, at the Music Gallery, 197 John Street (near the Ontario College of Art) March 28, 2010 at 2:30pm. The programme includes: Joseph Ferretti, piano - compositions by composers Maria Case, Susan Griesdale, and Maxine Willan - Norma Churchill, soprano - Lara Solnicki, Jazz soloist - Heidi Saario, piano, Jeanette Roberts, soprano with Jennifer Wong, plus more. Call Jeanette – **416-485-4564**

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Easter Schedule at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

Sunday, March 28th

11.00 a.m. - Palm Sunday Service.

Friday, April 2nd

3.30 p.m. - Good Friday Service – led by Ms. Glenys Huws

5.00 p.m. - Good Friday Dinner

7.00 p.m. - Gymanfa Ganu – Conductor - Betty Cullingworth
Soloist – Gaynor Jones- Low

Sunday, April 4th

9.00 a.m. - Easter Sunday Communion

For those **attending the Communion**, the breakfast will be available, at a cost of \$6 per person. See Gaynor McConnell to reserve a place

11.00 a.m. - Easter Sunday Service (Bring a flower to place on the Cross)

Tuesday, April 6th

11.00 a.m. – LUNCH BUNCH

Sunday, April 11th

11.00 a.m. - Morning Service

7.00 p.m. - Welsh Service, Y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg

Note for your Calendar

The ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL is held from Friday, April 30th to Sunday, May 2nd at the ARDEN PARK HOTEL and PARKVIEW UNITED CHURCH, STRATFORD, ONTARIO. Therefore there will be NO WELSH SERVICE, GWASANAETH CYMRAEG, IN MAY.

However, a **Welsh Service, Gwasanaeth Cymraeg WILL be held on the FIRST SUNDAY IN JULY, at 7.00 p.m., namely JULY 4th.**

Gadwyn Donors.

Edward Morgan- Swansea; Doreen Beckett; Josie and Owen Jones; Phyllis McCleod; David Jones; Jean McRae; Anne Johnston.

We are ever thankful to you for your donations. Diolch yn fawr unwaith eto.

