

**Dewi Sant Welsh United Church**

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**Neges y Gweinidog**

**From the Dewi Sant Church Pulpit**

Dear friends,

I hope that you had a pleasant and blessed Easter. We certainly had a busy time here at the Church! On Good Friday the traditional Easter Worship service was held in the afternoon, followed by the tea and then the Gymanfa Ganu. On Easter Sunday we worshipped at the Communion table and shared a meal at breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (what an appropriate name!) then returned to the Sanctuary for the 11 am Service, was attended by over 150 congregants. What a wonderful experience for those who attended some, or all of the celebrations. I am sure that there will be a report on these events in this month's Gadwyn, with all the details of each service, but I would like to state how grateful I am to those of all ages who worked hard, using their various gifts, to ensure that those who worshipped did so in the right atmosphere and spirit.

I speak as if the period of Easter is over, but of course it is ongoing. We have the misconception that Easter Sunday is the end of the festival, but it is not so. The period of Easter begins as Lent finishes, then continues for seven Sundays, right up to the Feast of Pentecost. Unfortunately we also have the misconception that Easter Sunday is the end of the Story, whereas in truth it is only the beginning, a glorious beginning that has no end, thanks to the Resurrection.

The Easter Story is one of Hope and Faith, of Love and Kindness, of Sacrifice and Soul-searching. There are many who suffer and call out for help and solace, and it is our duty, no, our God-given honour, to answer the call of the lowly and to comfort the sad and lonely in our midst, both through prayer and practise.

Pob Bendith Blessings,  
Deian Evans, Gweinidog / Minister.

## Easter 2010 At Dewi Sant.

Easter weekend. This is a very busy weekend in the life of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. Many times I have heard people from over the North American Continent say how very lucky we are in Toronto, having a Welsh church in which to worship. Many of them have to worship at local churches of their choice, without hearing a word of Welsh, a familiar hymn or even a Welsh accent. Those that are able, will travel across states to be at a Welsh church, many of which are dotted across America. The hiraeth," is very evident. Yes indeed we blessed.

The Easter worship starts on Good Friday afternoon. This year Ms. Glenys Huws conducted the bilingual service with Shalom Gao at the organ. The Reverend Deian Evans ably looked after the Welsh side of the service. Merched Dewi were are hand with their contribution. Diolch.

Down stairs in the fellowship hall some of the UCW had been working hard to produce the mouth watering meal that we enjoyed. Thanks go to Nina Smith, Joy Bailey and Wendy Vandervort. That was far too much work for three ladies, but the results were most gratifying. Diolch yn fawr. Then it ws upstairs to the sanctuary once more for the annual Gymanfa ganu.

I have heard it said that one should not sing on a full stomach. Well in this case I really have to disagree! Our conductor for the evening, Betty Cullingworth had us nearly raise the rafters with some of the "repeats!" Betty is becoming a much sought after conductor on the, "North American Circuit." Shalom was at the organ for his very first "Gymanfa" experience. No one would know by his performance that he was very nervous. Soon he will be an honorary Welsh man! He also accompanies Merched Dewi. Da iawn Shalom.

Gaynor Jones Low was the guest soloist and as usual we were given a treat. With her husband David Low at the piano, Gaynor as always her excellent self. This Good Friday saw "three children of the church," come and do what they do best. Glenys preaching, Betty conducting and Gaynor singing Diolch yn fawr ladies. (Did I hear mention of the Three Musketeers, somewhere????)

Sunday morning started with a communion service led by the Reverend Deian Evans, with Shalom at the organ.

This was followed by a breakfast prepared by Gaynor McConnell and Mabel Hastings. Quite a few people were in attendance.

The usual morning service started at 11.00 am with Deian, Shalom and Merched Dewi. As Deian mentioned in his message there were over 150 worshippers. What a positive experience it was to see Dewi Sant so full. There was a joyful feeling throughout the service, which was, as usual, followed by some social interaction over a "cup of tea." Many old friends greeted and visited once again. There was so much chatting, hugging and laughter. Praise God for a most gratifying Easter weekend to the glory of his name.

**THANK YOU.** Deian and Annette would like to thank those who sent messages of congratulations on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary on April 18<sup>th</sup> and also to the members of the Board of Session who honoured them with lovely Tulips.

***Heartfelt congratulations from all of us to you. May there be many more joy filled, healthy years.***

***Penblwydd priodas hapus i chwi.***

### **COMMITTEE**

A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

## **NONAGENARIAN SERIES**

This month's honoree is **Marjorie Tsipuras (nee Pritchard).**

Marjorie was born in Pontypridd on May 16, 1915 at a time when it was forbidden to speak Welsh in the schools. As a result, both of Marjorie's parents spoke English only as did Marjorie although her grandmother spoke a little Welsh at home. Marjorie's mother, Ellen, was a teacher and her father, John, ran a confectionary shop in Pontypridd.

In 1920, Marjorie's uncle, a mine superintendent, was tragically killed in an accident in the coal mine. Her father who was with his brother-in-law on an inspection in the mine was spared. Although not seriously injured physically, the emotional trauma resulting from this tragedy caused Marjorie's father to decide on a move to Scranton, Pennsylvania where two of his sisters and many Welsh miners had already settled.

Marjorie, her brother and her mother followed her father to Scranton several months later. Marjorie's mother was 'more than reluctant' to leave her native land of Wales and when the family of three left the Pontypridd train station, a large number of the townspeople sang, "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again" as the train departed. For the 2007 Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu, when asked along with other octogenarians to choose a favourite hymn, Marjorie answered without hesitation that she wanted to hear 'God Be With You'. This is a seminal memory of her childhood in Wales.

In Scranton, Marjorie's parents opened 'The Golden Rule' bakery, Her mother could not pursue her career as a teacher since married women were not allowed to teach in those days. The family became totally immersed in Bradley Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church with its large Welsh congregation; there her mother taught Sunday School and her father was superintendent. Marjorie has been involved in a number of roles within her home churches ever since that time. When she was ten years old, Marjorie became ill with rheumatic fever and spent six months in bed.

In 1931, during the depression, Marjorie's family moved to New York City where the family worshipped at Featherbed Lane Presbyterian Church in an area of the

city made famous during the American Revolution. Unfortunately, Marjorie suffered a severe relapse of rheumatic fever and her formal schooling was impossible to pursue through recurring bouts of this illness. The silver lining in this cloud was that Marjorie became a voracious reader, a hobby she pursues to the present day. Marjorie's stay in New York City lasted eight years; by the end of this time she had become a beautician in an upscale Broadway salon. It was the love of a young man from Montreal that brought Marjorie to Canada and her new life. Marjorie's husband, John, was a Greek Canadian who attended both the universities of McGill and Concordia from which he graduated with a degree in chemistry. After a five year engagement, Marjorie and John had two wedding ceremonies; one in the Greek Orthodox church in New York and one in Featherbed Lane Presbyterian church the following day. Marjorie explains, "in this way, both families were satisfied that we were properly married!" Their married life began in Montreal where her husband was employed by British American Oil. Work with this company brought them to Clarkson, Ontario for seven years, but eventually the family returned to Montreal. By this time the family had expanded to include two sons, Dennis and Christopher (sadly died in 1968) and two daughters, Risti and Joanna. Risti Jensen, Marjorie's oldest daughter, is an active member of Dewi Sant and a valued chorister in Merched Dewi.

After retirement in 1991, Marjorie and John moved to Wellington, Ontario where Marjorie was involved in Wellington United Church. After her husband's death in 2001, she moved to Toronto to be nearer to her daughters and it was at this time that Marjorie became a regular attendee at Dewi Sant, although she had previously attended services when visiting family in Toronto and many years earlier she had donated an afghan to a Dewi Sant auction that she had read about in the Ninnau.

Marjorie's life has been filled with volunteer service. Being married into a European family that felt a woman's place was not in the work force, Marjorie used her time fruitfully in the care of her family and in volunteer work, much of it centred around her leadership roles in the various churches she has attended. She also volunteered for the war effort through her work with the Canadian Red Cross and the Greek Canadian Red Cross.

Learning to knit in New York some eighty years ago, Marjorie has made literally thousands of teddy bears for the Teddies for Tragedies organization and for Sleeping Children Around the World. This is an ongoing project and as a proud owner of one of these teddy bears, I can attest to her continuing skill in both crocheting and knitting.

Interestingly, an e-mail enquiry to [info@dewisant.com](mailto:info@dewisant.com) in March 2009 requested knowledge of Marjorie Tsipuras. Gill Jones, the woman making the enquiry thought that Dewi Sant, the only Welsh church in Canada, might know of Marjorie's whereabouts. From subsequent e-mails, it evolved that Gill's great grandmother and Marjorie's grandmother were sisters. Dewi's Sant's role as a Welsh centre of connection has once again been confirmed.

Raising her talented family which now includes three grandsons and two granddaughters, volunteering in her church and community, cooking, knitting



*I am the author of The Stories of Rhys children's book series. A story about a young Welsh dragon and set in North Wales. It's available to read FREE. Please inform your members about the book on your website or via your newsletter. If you require a front cover image or any further information please contact me. It's a great story.....*

*Stories of Rhys - book one "The Great Orme" is now on Authonomy. Authonomy is a website run by Harper Collins publishers. It allows unpublished first time authors like myself to showcase their work and have it reviewed by readers all over the world. Each month Harper Collins cream off the top five books and review them for publishing based on the number of reviews. Please lend your support. Here is a link direct to the website. You will need to register (email and password only) to read the book and leave a review*

*<http://www.authonomy.com/ViewBook.aspx?bookid=18842> The illustrations for book one are available to view on The Stories of Rhys website free of charge at [www.thestoriesofrhys.com](http://www.thestoriesofrhys.com)*

*Please pass this on to as many Welsh communities as you can and help make The Stories of Rhys No.1 for me, for Llandudno, and for North Wales. It is North Wales' very own children's book series set in Llandudno, Snowdonia and Anglesey, and based on real locations. It is a huge story of epic proportions and a serious piece of children's literature.*

*Diolch yn fawr. Regards, .....Chris Williams [www.thestoriesofrhys.com](http://www.thestoriesofrhys.com)*

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*A book that has been recommended by "Americymru" ----- "Tongue Tied. Author Peter Griffiths. Publisher. Y Lolfa.*

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## **Welsh Genius**

After they dug to a depth of ten feet last year, Irish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years ago and came to the conclusion that their ancestors had a telephone system a 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Irish, in the weekends that followed, an English archaeologist dug to a depth of 20 feet and shortly after, a story that was published read as follows. "" English archaeologists, finding traces of 130 year old copper wire concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech telecommunications network 30 years earlier than the Irish.""

One week later, the South Wales Echo reported the following.







Please remember the Sunday School food drive. This Sunday the baskets were empty. Pet food would be greatly appreciated during the coming month as would the postage stamps that they are still collecting.

The Sunday school raised a substantial sum of money, which they donated to Ronald Mac Donald House, recently.

Pamela Evans and the children are to be commended on the great work that they are doing.

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### **For The Ladies.**

When I was little, I used to believe in the concept of one best friend,  
And then I started to become a woman.  
And then I found out that if you allow your heart to open up, God would  
show you the best in many friends.  
But whatever their assignment in your life,  
On whatever the occasion,  
On whatever the day,  
Or wherever you need them to meet you with their gym shoes on and  
hair pulled back,  
Or to hold you back from making a complete fool of yourself,  
Those are your best friends.

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The Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association, Teachers in Concert held March 28<sup>th</sup> in The Music Gallery, Toronto, was a tremendous success. The Canadian Opera Company donated two tickets to Wagner's Flying Dutchman as the door prize.

Diolch yn fawr. Jeanette Roberts

### **Dewi Sant Calender for the coming month**

Every Tuesday at 10 am. – Bible Study Class at the Church

Every Sunday at 11 am. - Service of Worship at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church  
Friday April 30 – Sunday May 2 - Ontario Festival of Wales, Stratford, Ontario  
Sunday, May 9 - Mother's Day

Sunday, May 16 at 11 am. – Blessing of Animals Service, at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

Sunday May 23 at 11 am. – Message of Peace and Good Will presented at the Church

Tuesday May 18 – Penny Auction, arranged by the Church UCW  
Thursday May 20 – Concert arranged by Merched Dewi Choir

\*\* There will be no Welsh Service / Gwasanaeth Cymraeg in May. There will be a Welsh Service on Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. \*\* **Please note that Y Gadwyn Deadline will be on May 16<sup>th</sup>. [myfanwy@rogers.com](mailto:myfanwy@rogers.com) 905 737 4399 34 Carrington Drive Richmond Hill. L4C 8A2 Diolch. Myfanwy**