

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

Neges wrth y Gweinidog---Message from the Minister

In my message to you for this month I would like to share some personal experiences and emotions, all occurring in one day, Sunday, May 2nd, 2010. On that day I experienced a mixture of emotions that would probably be enough to fill a series of T.V. shows.

First came the buzz of anticipation from the Ontario Welsh community and beyond as those who had come together for the OGGA weekend congregated at Parkview United Church in Stratford for the first of two sessions of Gymanfa Ganu. Then the joy of standing before a 'full house', listening to the sound of the first hymn, with the Sopranos and Altos before me and the Tenors and Bass voices of Cor Llangwm behind me. For the next hour I was on a spiritual 'high'.

As we filed out at midday I began to meditate upon my two year tenure as Chair of the OGGA. It had been a whirlwind of a tenure, filled with highs and lows. Sometimes I had wondered why I was so foolish to accept the position, but by now I see it as nothing short of a great honour. My main emotion at this time, though, was gratitude to all those who had supported me throughout my time in the Chair and had made my work so much easier.

And so it was with great sadness that I handed over the Pittsburg Bible, the Gavel and the Chain of Office to Betty Cullingworth, sadness and satisfaction that I had done as well as I could to honour that position. And relief! That chain had proven a heavy weight, literally and symbolically!

The Gymanfa ended with joyful sadness as we bade farewell to friends who went their own ways, believing that we would meet again soon, yet knowing that in some cases this would not be so. A case in point is the dearly departed and beloved John Grattan Roberts, whose funeral I attended and led that evening at 7pm. A room at the hotel had been booked by him for the Gymanfa Weekend, a room that remained empty.

On the way back to Toronto we stopped off at Stratford to bid farewell to Cerwyn & Nora who returned to Wales the following day, again an emotion of sadness tinged with gratitude for having such wonderful company. Then, as I left Stratford, I received a message from Annette of the sudden illness of her Uncle Tom, taken to hospital in Bangor, Wales. There came over me emotions of concern for his well-being and worry for Annette, alone in Toronto, unable to contact her family to find out how he was.

From morning to past midnight I experienced deep emotional highs and lows. What I have shared with you is just a few examples of many. So what got me through the day? How did I cope with such experiences, feeling and emotions? In a word – **prayer**.

Bendith Duw arnoch oll. May God's Blessing be upon you all.

Deian.

SESSION REPORT TO THE OFFICIAL BOARD. MAY 2010

50 Years on Melrose Avenue

The Board is working on events that will commemorate this special time in our history and welcomes any input from members of the congregation. Our plans include a special service at 10.30 on June 13 and a service in October to mark the time when the first services were held in the Sanctuary.

Gold Award The Session has supported the idea of a Gold Award to a person who has represented the Welsh Community. This award will be given by a committee from the OGGGA, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, St Davids Society and Ottawa Welsh Society. The committee members will be chosen by each group sending one person and from the Session this person is Sally Lewis and if you have someone to nominate could you please contact Sally. More information will be posted on the website as it becomes available.

Worship Committee This committee held a meeting on April 25 of this year to address a response from the Board of Session in regard to the Mandate of the Worship Committee. It had been suggested that a name change for this committee would better serve the needs of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, but after discussions it was agreed that this committee as it stands would be disbanded and suggestions and ideas from the congregation will now be channeled directly to the Board of Session.

Welsh Services It was decided not to have a Welsh service in May this year because of conflict with the OGGGA weekend, but to have one on the first Sunday in July.

Shut-ins and members who are sick

Rev. Deian is thankful to those people who assist him on a regular basis by letting him know of members needing his attention, but if you know of someone in need you can always speak to any member of Session and they will contact Rev. Deian for you if he is unavailable at any time. Members of the Board attempt to keep in touch with the people on their lists, but sometimes it is possible that someone could slip through the cracks and then Rev. Deian does not get the information in a timely manner.

Vacation Rev. Deian will be on vacation for 2 Sundays in July and 2 Sundays in August and the names of the pulpit supply will be in the Sunday morning bulletin.

Sunday School

The Sunday School is busy getting ready for their year end graduation and the admission into full membership Jade Thomas as she completes the studies in the Sunday School. We are grateful to the congregation who faithfully help the children with the Sleeping Children Around the World project by their Sunday penny collection and we are also grateful to the Sunday School for spearheading the monthly project for outreach collections.

Sunday Morning Readers

A list has been placed on the notice board for anyone who would like to read and we hope more people will place their name on the list.

Clarice D. Terry – Clerk of Session.

50 YEARS ON MELROSE AVENUE

Sunday June 13 2010 will be marked by a special 20 minute service at 10.30 a.m. outside the Church to commemorate the 50 years since the cornerstone was laid at 33 Melrose Avenue. Please come early to take part in this special event which will be followed by the regular service at 11.00. During the regular

service at 11.00, which will be a communion service, the Sunday School graduations will take place and Jade Thomas will graduate from the Sunday School to be confirmed as a full member of Dewi Sant. We hope to see you there. **Clarice D Terry** – Clerk of Session.

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UCW MERCHED Y CAPEL.

As usual the ladies of the church are busy planning ahead .Please note down the dates and more information will be forthcoming.

A Penny Auction within the final Lunch Bunch for the season will be held on Tuesday June 1st at 11:00 am. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved in this monthly event not only with the setting up of the “theatre”, the ticket sales, the soup and tea preparation but the individuals who have loyally attended and brought friends to share in the fervent singing, observe the oratorical talents of our participants, the information sessions and when all else failed to raise the bar, the wonderful camaraderie amongst friends in the faith.

Celebratory luncheon

In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the church on Melrose a celebratory luncheon is in the planning stages at the Rosedale Golf Club Sunday October 17th. Our thanks to Betty Cullingworth and Leona Francis for planning this event.

Concert.

On October 20th the Toronto Welsh Male Choir has agreed to contribute a fundraiser concert which will enrich the community’s celebration of this extraordinary milestone in the history of Dewi Sant.

Bazaar.

November 13 is the Annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale. Please plan ahead for wonderful items from the attic which might be contributed to the cause. By now you know what goodies we like on the stalls. Today is not too early to start filling a box as you come across things unexpectedly, that could become someone’s treasure.

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Blessing of Animals Service

We had intended for this event to be a traditional biennial event at the Church, but the success of the first service in 2009 moved the congregation to ask ‘when is this year’s service taking place? And so, on May 16th the second Blessing of Animals Service was held on the green space on the East side of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church.

What an event it turned out to be! And what a turnout! The 30 chairs set out for congregants was well short of the mark. Church members, friends and a few from the local community turned up, some curious, some in support but all fulfilled as we sang, heard stories and messages, had competitions and prizes, but most of all received God’s blessing, both the humans and animals alike.

As I closed the service with a blessing and an invitation to share the Sunday School-arranged refreshments, on the front lawn of the Church I looked out over the sea of faces before me—and each face had a full smile of joy and satisfaction. Isn’t that how we should always feel when we leave a Church service?

My gratitude to all who helped arrange, prepare for and help out on the day (No names, in case I omit one or two), and to all who turned up to worship and celebrate the wonder of God’s Creation.

The following message was written by a Veterinarian Surgeon, and was read by Leona Francis as part of the service. I would like to share this message with you. **Deian.**

“Good morning to all the Members of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. I understand that we are gathered here today for the blessing of our animal companions. This should be a fun event for the whole congregation.

One of the great Anglican theologians of the 20th century, Archbishop William Temple felt that God made us the caretakers of this world and all his creations – not just in charge of the earth with no regard for anything except ourselves. Our pets have a way of reminding us of our place in this world. They make us feel loved and valued and yet may allow us to realize that we are not the end all and be all of God's creations. In my profession as a Small Animal Veterinarian I see every day how they have enriched our lives. They help us through many difficult times in our lives – whether it be the death of a loved one, a family breakup or a lengthy illness. I have seen numerous times where the pet has in effect “helped save the sanity or life” of a person.

They teach us caring, responsibility, compassion and an understanding of life. It is unfortunate that they do not live as long as we do but perhaps God designed it that way to help us comprehend our own mortality.

I have read that there was an edition of the Book of Genesis discovered in the Dead Seas Scrolls which if authentic sheds light on the question, "Where do pets come from?" If not authentic it is still a very good story. Here it is.

“And Adam said, "Lord, when I was in the garden, you walked with me everyday. Now I do not see you anymore. I am lonesome here and it is difficult for me to remember how much you love me." And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and who will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will know I love you, even when you cannot see me. Regardless if how selfish and childish and unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourself."

“And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam. And it was a good animal. And God was pleased. And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and he wagged his tail. And Adam said, "But Lord, I have already named all of the animals in the Kingdom and all the good names are taken and I cannot think of a name for this new animal." And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG." And Dog lived with Adam and was a companion to him and loved him. And Adam was comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.”

“After a while, it came to pass that Adam's Guardian Angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam has become filled with pride. He struts and preens like a peacock and he believes he is worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught him that he is loved, but no one has taught him humility." And the Lord said, "No problem! I will create for him a companion who will be with him forever and who will see him as he is. The companion will remind him of his limitations, so he will know that he is not always worthy of adoration."

“And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam. And Cat would not obey Adam. And when Adam gazed into Cat's eyes, he was reminded that he was not the supreme being. And Adam learned humility. And God was pleased. And Adam greatly improved. And Dog was content and wagged his tail. And Cat did not care one way or another.”

And so I feel that blessing the animals is the least we can do today to remind us of the tremendous contributions they make to our lives every day. My best wishes to all those who are present today and their pets.”

Dr. Joanne Reichertz DVM, Wellington Veterinary Services, 0320 Mill Street East, PO Box 488, Elora ON.

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL, ARDEN PARK HOTEL,
STRATFORD, APRIL 30- MAY 2, 2010

What a truly superb weekend! I had an absolutely fantastic time. Trying to write this report is very difficult because I have run out of superlatives.

Cor Meibion Llangwm, was the visiting choir. (Llangwm is a small village very close to Bala.) I must admit that I knew very little about them, other than they are National Eisteddfod winners. Due to the over-active Icelandic volcano, air travel from the UK was uncertain, so I was anxiously awaiting their safe arrival. At 9 PM, a scant 24 hours after their arrival in Toronto, I received a phone call from Bethan Smallwood, their director. They were all enjoying themselves in a pub - with Tom Jones' favourites being sung in the background. I quickly figured out two things – a) it was then 2 AM Welsh time, and b) we were in for a great weekend. (I was correct on both!)

The choir was truly excellent, with an interesting and varied repertoire. The soloist, baritone Trebor Lloyd Evans, defies superlatives. He was the winner of the Blue Ribband in last year's National Eisteddfod in Bala. He wowed us all! (Trebor will be in Portland in September.) The choir willingly participated in the Noson Lawen (emceed by Myfanwy Bajaj), joined us around the piano late into the night as we "practiced" the hymns for the Sunday Cymanfa, and, accompanied by Rhian Jones on the piano, thrilled us with their concert on Saturday evening. Bethan, their director, was dynamic, talented and had a wicked sense of humour. A great time was had by all.

The Saturday Banquet was the best ever. The meal was delicious. The guest speaker, Geraint Wyn Davies, delighted his audience with his witty, entertaining account of his life as an actor. Geraint is a fixture at the Stratford Shakespeare Festival and this year is performing "Do Not Go Gentle", an account of Dylan Thomas' life, and as Stephano in The Tempest. His beautiful partner, Claire Lautier, is also an actor at the Stratford Festival. The two proudest people at the Banquet were Geraint's parents, Rev.Dr. Cerwyn Davies and Nora Davies, and I did see Nora wipe away a tear!

David Prosser, also of the Shakespeare Festival, returned for the second time to enthral us with the history of the Festival. And in the middle of dinner, who popped in to officially welcome us to Stratford but the Mayor, Dan Mathieson! In the midst of his crazily busy schedule he had made time for the Ontario Welsh.

Trish Stevenson is to be congratulated on assembling a prodigious amount of Welsh cakes and Bara Brith for the tea room, and a huge "Thank You" to Joan Hughes for running the Bake Sale. An even bigger "Thank You" to those of you who contributed all those delicious goodies. Kudos to all the Board members for their hard work throughout the year and thus ensuring the success of the weekend.

I heard comments that the singing at the Gymanfa was "the best ever". With Alan Thomas of Ottawa at the organ, Bethan Smallwood as conductor, and the backing of the Llangwm choristers, we sang every hymn with gusto. Trebor and the choir entertained us in both services- Trebor maintaining that he had sung about 86 songs during the weekend!

During the afternoon service, President Deian Evans handed over the Chain of Office to our incoming President, Betty Cullingworth. The Chain (now two years old) is an exquisite symbol of the Ontario Welsh Festival. The Pittsburgh Bible and the gavel are also now in Betty's keeping for the next two years.

The weekend did have its sad moments. When we arrived on Friday we learned of the sudden death of the Rev. John Gratton Roberts. I personally can't remember a Gymanfa without John, and every Noson Lawen he would sing a Welsh song, accompanied on the piano by his wife. They had indeed reserved a

Soon Sheryl will be married
She's such a lovely girl
Her upcoming wedding
Has us in a whirl!
We wish her all the best
Of happiness and love,
May all her dreams come true
With blessings from above.

{Risti }

Our Sheryl is turning quite red
As she opens the gifts for their bed.
Poor Ed stand no chance-
Just prepare for romance
And a lifetime of bliss when you wed.

{Hefina}

Too soon we had to say our “goodbyes”, leaving a very happy bride-to-be. I can't remember such a fun evening. I was so exhausted that I had to take the 407 home (less traffic) as I didn't think I'd be safe on the 401! A great, great evening.

Hefina Phillips.

And.....we look such a solemn group when we are singing..... “hmm.”

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Message of Peace and Goodwill from Wales to the World

Message History

This year the Peace and Goodwill Message is 88 years old, and since 1922 the message has been motivating and inspiring and international humanitarian activity. The first message sent by Rev Gwilym Davies. He was a great pacifist who was instrumental in establishing the Welsh Union and later the United Nations UNESCO. He believed in bringing together the children of all nations, and conceived the idea of utilizing youth in announcing a message to eliminate ignorance and prejudice that existed between the nations. The message was broadcast for the first time on the BBC in 1924 and today the message appears in thirty-four languages on the web, reaching the four corners of the world.

This year's message was once again read at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, on the Sunday following the traditional date of the announcing of the message, May 18th. This year the message was announced from the pulpit in five languages. The message is an appeal that should be read, considered and followed by everyone, and therefore we deem it important enough to be included in this month's Gadwyn.

Goodwill Message

Tick-tock, tick-tock. Time is running out and we have reached a crossroads. Climate change is a real problem and we must act now.

If things continue as they are, the Arctic will no longer exist in its current form in three years' time. **Fact.**

If the planet's temperature rises by 4 degrees C, the Sahara desert could stretch as far north as France. **Fact.**

On average every person in Wales creates 11 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. **Fact.**

On average every person in Kenya creates 0.2 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year. **Fact.** You can't say that you didn't know we're using too much fuel. That we're stripping the Earth of its minerals. That we're being wasteful and throwing far too many things away. That we're killing the Planet.

Our message was the same last year and the year before that, but time waits for no-one.

We invite young people around the world to join us, the young people of Wales, in facing the reality and making our voices heard. Let's make climate change an issue for action now. We call on you to choose the right path at the crossroads. There's no point in looking back at what has happened. Today is a new opportunity and tomorrow is full of promise.

Tick-tock, tick tock. Can you hear the clock ticking?

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A photographer on vacation was inside a church taking photographs when he noticed a golden telephone mounted on the wall with a sign that read '\$10,000 per call'. The American, being intrigued, asked a priest who was strolling by what the telephone was used for. The priest replied that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 you could talk to God. The American thanked the priest and went along his way. Next stop was in Atlanta. There, at a very large cathedral, he saw the same golden telephone with the same sign under it. He asked a nun passing by what the telephone was used for.

She told him that it was a direct line to heaven and that for \$10,000 he could talk to God. 'O.K., thank you,' said the American.

He then traveled to Indianapolis, Washington, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York.

In every church he saw the same golden telephone with the same '\$10,000 per call' sign under it.

The American, upon leaving Vermont decided to travel up to Canada to see if Canadians had the same phone.

He arrived in Canada, and again, in the first church he entered, there was the same golden telephone, but this time the sign under it read '50 cents per call.'

The American was surprised so he asked the priest about the sign. 'Father, I've traveled all over America and I've seen this same golden telephone in many churches. I'm told that it is a direct line to heaven, but in the US the price was \$10,000 per call. Why is it so cheap here?' The priest smiled and answered, 'You're in Canada now, son. It's a local call.'

KEEP SMILING. This reminds me so much of Cerwyn!

Sandy Ross

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GADWYN DONORS

Rev. Cerwyn & Nora Davies: June & Tom Edwards: Laverne Horner: Edward Morgan:

Dilys Stevens: Steve & Lilian Stephens

Diolch yn fawr. Thank you very much.

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Change of address.

Meriel Simpson - 18 Watling St. Etobicoke, ON M9P 3E9 mel.simpson9@gmail.com 416-578-6592

John and Pam Thomas - pthomas1@cogeco.ca

'Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight.'

'Mankind has a perfect record in aviation – we have never left one up there!'

******Welsh Tenor in Concert.******

GWYNDAF JONES, WELSH TENOR AND FRIENDS SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 7:30PM
GLENN GOULD STUDIO 250 FRONT STREET WEST, TORONTO, ON TICKETS \$35 - \$15
AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.GLENGOULDSTUDIO.COM OR AT THE DOOR.

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The infinity quote is from William Blake.....Auguries of Innocence

To see a world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.

A robin redbreast in a cage
Puts all heaven in a rage.

This is one of my very favourite English poems....far too long to publish here. Do you have a few favourite verses that you'd like to share in either English or Welsh? Surely most of you do!!! M!

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The Singing Revolution.

'Do you remember Macsen Wledig?... Nobody knows of him, one thousand six hundred years is too long a time for the memory.' That's a loose translation of the song that is sung at rugby games, pub nights and Nosweithiau Llawen in Wales.and all over the world where a few Welsh people gather. The song is Dafydd Iwan's famous and rousing, **Yma o Hyd**, (still here) It is but one of many patriotic songs, but there is a difference. More than any other song it signifies a public decision taken by the Welsh nation on which course to take a pivotal fork in its history. It was the song that changed history. Until The Welsh Language Act of 1967, Welsh had no official status in her own country. Some concessions had been won but the Welsh language still lived under the shadow of the 1536 and '42 Laws in Wales Act.

Dafydd Iwan was a leading light of Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg (The Welsh Language Society.) The Society was there to reverse the pernicious effects of the Acts of Union and reverse the downward slide of the Welsh language .He was also one of the first to self-consciously sing modern songs in Welsh. After all why should Welsh people sing other people's songs in other people's language? He was Bob Dylan without pseudos or Victor Jara without the guns .Dafydd Iwan did not strike a match; he struck a chord which sang through Wales.

In 1982 Dafydd Iwan had been on a moral boosting tour with the professional group Ar Log. The tour marked the 70th anniversary of Llywelyn's death in Cilmeri and the theme tune of the tour had been the yomping " Cerddwn Ymlaen." (We will Walk On) Dafydd Iwan's brain began ticking! As 1982 had been the 700th anniversary of Llywelyn's death then 1983 could be the 1,600 anniversary of the founding of the Welsh nation. It was a simple message that despite everything we were still here as a nation **a thousand and a half years later** .And that's where I think that Dafydd Iwan's song changed Welsh history. OK, not by itself, but it was a wake- up call. As Barack Obama said in his inaugural speech in 2009, 'starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and begin again'.....**the work of remaking Wales**. After all we are in the shadow of the most powerful language the world has ever known, it is therefore amazing that there's anyone still speaking Welsh!

At an important junction in our history **Yma O Hyd** made a decision and thousands of people sang that decision into life. It was a decision that we would will ourselves into being a nation and that nation would have a Welsh-speaking heart.

In 2036 Dafydd Iwan will be 92 years old !!!If he is still writing and like Saunders, looking for an anniversary, may I suggest that he or we, write another song?? That on the 500th anniversary of the Acts of Union that we set ourselves a target to totally erase from our forehead the dent caused by 500 years of the pointed finger which says 'Taffy know your place.' That we make Wales a proper nation where the majority of people can once again speak Welsh? Then we won't just be **Yma o Hyd**, but singing a new song.

I have taken words from a brilliantly written article by Sion Jobbins in CAMBRIA. Since it was 3 pages long it was impractical to copy it all here. If anyone is interested I will gladly give you the magazine to read.

Since articles are so sparse from the readership I have, to, at times, choose something that has caught my attention. This article certainly did. M

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As you may know Merched Dewi are going to sing in Wales. There is much excitement and anticipation. A concert took place in Dewi Sant recently. This was very well attended. The local critics came back with glowing tales of the performance given by Merched Dewi. It was a most enjoyable evening. Proceeds from the concert were used to purchase necessary music etc. No photocopies are allowed any more! A big thank you goes to all the soloists. Shalom Gao and Betty Cullingworth.

Every good wish for the tour. (A roving reporter.)

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Our sympathy as a Welsh community goes to Mrs. John Grattan Roberts and the family. John will be greatly missed. He performed the work of the Lord, unstintingly to the very end.

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There will be a June/ July Gadwyn published if I have enough material. Then the next will be in September.

**Myfanwy Bajaj 34 Carrington Drive, Richmond Hill, Ont, L4C 8A2 905 737 4399
myfanwy@rogers.com**

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Scheduled Church Activities

Dewi Sant Church Services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

Y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg/The Welsh Service – July 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Sportball classes : - The Fellowship Hall is rented as follows: -

- Thursday afternoons 3:30-5:30 p.m. now until June 24
- Friday afternoons 1:15-2:15 p.m. now until June 25
- Saturday mornings 9:00-12:00 p.m. now until June 26

Hope Korean Church - The Sanctuary is rented as follows: -

- Friday evenings 7:00–9:00 p.m. (followed by refreshments in the Hall)
- Saturdays 6:00–7:30 a.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m. (followed by refreshments in the Hall)
- Sundays 2:00-5:30 p.m. (followed by refreshments in the Hall)

Bible Study Class - Tuesday mornings – 10-11a.m. until end of June, held in the Clinton Room

Merched Dewi – Thursday evenings – practice in the Sanctuary