

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

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Neges wrth y Gweinidog---Message from the Minister

When you receive this message the title above may well be redundant, because by then the likelihood is that I will be known as the 'past minister'. At the end of September I will be bidding a fond farewell to my friends in Toronto, then, in October, receiving a welcome from members of my new pastoral charge at Bro Lleu in North Wales.

It has been six years since Annette and I made the move from Cricieth to Toronto. Six wonderful years have elapsed, when new friendships have grown and flourished, new experiences have been played out and challenges and goals have been reached from a personal and professional standpoint. The years have certainly flown by!

There have been good times, there have been great times, and of course there have been less than good experiences. And yet, as I look back over the recent years, I cannot really recall a time that was so bad that it has remained in the memory. Only the happy, joyful, worshipful events come to mind as the important milestones on my life's journey over the past six years.

During my time here I have often been asked if I ever regretted making the decision to emigrate to Toronto and lead a Welsh congregation overseas. My answer has always been the same – an answer that is borne of life's experiences – a definite NO. I have not regretted the decision at all. I take the attitude that one should only regret the things that they did not do rather than the things that we have done. Life is too short to pass by any opportunity we have to enrich our experiences. As a friend back in Cricieth told me when I spoke about moving to Canada, 'Go for it, Deian, this (life) is not a rehearsal'. If we wait for the 'second chance' life may well pass us by as we wait.

But, of course, my leaving will be a sad event. Annette and I have built up many friendships in different areas of the Toronto community, within and outside the Church. It saddens me to think that we may never again see some of these people. But I believe that friends remain friends, despite the miles, and that when we again meet we will still consider our friendships a lasting and precious commodity.

You may notice that I have not named a single person in my list of gratitude. To name one or a few would be an injustice to the many, many people who have enriched our lives with their presence these last six years. To one and all, Annette I thank you for making my life just that little bit more joyful and eventful.

And finally, I wish Dewi Sant Welsh United Church every blessing as you travel a new route in faith into the future. I depart as a Minister but leave as a legacy a Church that is vibrant, successful and forward-looking, a Church with a great future ahead, led internally by a caring, loving group of members who are determined to keep Christ's Cause alive and well in a Welsh cultural atmosphere. The Church is losing its Spiritual Leader, but it is a Church with a mission, not orphaned, knowing that the Heavenly Parent will always ensure good care and protection.

Thank you all for being there with me and for me. I will miss the particular Canadian atmosphere that I have grown to know and love, but you can be sure that this is not a final farewell, that we are sure to meet again,

Haulwen Edwards

The final installment (for now at least) of our nonagenarian series features Haulwen (Tommy) Edwards (nee Thomas) born in November 1919 in Abercwmboi, a small mining village in the Aberdare Valley. Tommy, as she is affectionately known, has been in Canada since 1948 and during that whole period has been a loyal member of Dewi Sant.

Born into a family of three girls and raised by her mother after the early death of her coal miner father, Tommy went to county school on scholarship and eventually became a nurse. The phrase 'it takes a village to raise a child' comes readily to mind as you hear Tommy's story. Her mother was helped by both family and friends in their closely knit community as she struggled to raise her girls. Her mother's untimely death at the age of 47 meant that Tommy who was then but 15 years of age and her sisters managed on their own from that time forward.

After her original foray into the world of nursing care at the Edmund Putter Convalescent Home in Bolton, Tommy eventually made her way to London in 1939 where she entered training at St. James Hospital. After graduating in 1943, Tommy decided to do midwifery training in London at St. Alfeges and it was in this hospital that she met Jen Miles. Both of them by this time were ward sisters and together planned a trip to Canada under the George Drew scheme.

The year was 1948 and together they flew over to Canada on the North Star. This was a most exotic means of transportation for most of the emigrants from Wales in that period traveled by boat. The Drew Scheme encouraged nurses and other skilled workers to come to Canada and the price was right.....a mere \$60. Although the original intent was to work for a period of time and then return home, such was not to be. Both Tommy and Jen (along with Jen's sister, Margaret and Joy Usher David) decided to pursue their careers and stay in Canada and all four nurses became vital members of the Dewi Sant Church that I remember as a child.

When Jen and Tommy arrived in Toronto they were billeted at the Red Cross Lodge and to their good fortune and that of Dewi Sant, the volunteer on the desk was none other than Nellie Griffiths, one of the stalwart members of the church. Nellie told them about Dewi Sant (then at 54 Clinton Ave.) and the very next morning they went to the church service where Heddwyn Williams was the preacher. Tommy has been coming to Dewi Sant ever since although in recent years her health has prevented regular attendance.

During her early years in Toronto, Tommy worked along with the other three gals at East General Hospital but eventually all were lured by the princely sum of \$5 a day into the world of private nursing. While travelling by bus to chapel one Sunday, Tommy met Peter Edwards who was on his way to Dewi Sant as well. They were married in the church in 1954. After living for a few years in Gananoque and Kingston, Tommy and Peter returned to Toronto where Peter spent the next many years as the Head of Mathematics at Newtonbrook High School in North York. Dewi Sant was an important part of the social lives of the Edwards. In 1981, Tommy was one of the original group that sang penillion at a church eisteddfod. It was from this group that Merched Dewi developed. Tommy also was a soprano for many years with the Dewi Singers. Tommy served as the secretary of the UCW during the presidency of Anne Croombs and generally supported all things Welsh attending the National Gymanfa Ganu when possible. Lately Tommy has been unable to attend church regularly for health reasons but she keeps a watchful eye on events through careful perusal of the Gadwyn and through phone calls from friends who are still able to attend more regularly. She is lucky to have daughter Jane who provides love and care for her and brings her to events when possible.

I have been saving something very special with which to close the article. I am an avid golfer. Tommy's husband Peter also loved the game. (I seem to remember him winning at some of our church organized tournaments!) Peter decided to teach Tommy the game and although she never developed his attachment for the sport nor his skill level, she does have an accomplishment to which few golfers can lay claim. Tommy scored a HOLE IN ONE while Peter was giving her instructions as to how to hit the ball at a par three. Some other golfers in the vicinity enquired as to 'who was teaching whom' when they saw the ball go into the hole. That story alone puts Tommy into the category of role model for me.

Actually the opportunity to interview all the special people that are 90+ in the congregation has been a very special treat for me. Their stories revive my early memories of the church and the church family. It is with real sadness that

In addition to all the above “first”, we had a guided tour of the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff and the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. We toured Pembrokeshire, stopping off at Pentre Ifan, Melin Tre Gwynt (a Woollen Mill), Porthgain and St. David’s. On the final Friday we toured Gwynedd, visiting Conwy, Llanberis via Betws y Coed, Caernarfon, to Biwmaris, LlanfairPG, Bangor and back to Llandudno. All the travel arrangements in North Wales had been arranged by Glenda, Mairwen Thornley’s sister. Her help was totally invaluable. Diolch o galon, Glenda. Oh yes! Another first – the weather was great (well, for most of the time!)
Hefina Phillips.

ODE TO HEFINA (sung loosely to The Ash Grove)

We all sing the praises of our friend, Hefina,
Who organized so ably our choir trip to Wales.
She collected our money, sent e-mails quite funny,
Her administrative prowess, no one can assail.

We started in London, went by bus to Cardiff,
Then on to aberteifi, that’s where we would sing.
From A-a ber’s lib’ry to St.David’s cathedral
Our Hefina was in charge—we needn’t do a thing.

She MC’d our concerts, sang alto with gusto,
Kept the audiences smiling, in short...was a hit.
She felt happiest when in charge, so her duties she could discharge,
She kept us in line with her considerable wit.

It was in Llangollen while at the eisteddfod
We found something for you that suits to a T,
This trip was a treasure, we’ll remember forever,
We’ve all had a great time.....we now set you free!!
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Gadwyn Donors.

Haulwen Edwards: Shirley Evans: David Jones: Maureen & Ceiri Jones: Amy & Percy Jordan
Donna Morris: Hilary Rider: Harold Rowland: Sybil Mather
Thank you very much. Diolch yn fawr.

Changes

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Be kinder than necessary because everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

A sharp tongue can cut your own throat. Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important

The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge

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Er Parchus Cof In Memoriam

Joy David. 1915 – 2010

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and the Toronto Welsh community was deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Joy David, in her 96th year.

Joy was not only a faithful member of the Church but was also an active member, serving in many capacities, in the UCW, the Session, events co-ordinator to mention but a few of her duties.

There was not one time I spoke with Joy without a mention of her favourite subject – her family. She was so proud of the younger generations of her family, and never missed the opportunity to share with me the success stories associated with them. I was honoured to be invited to her 95th birthday celebrations at Christie Gardens on February 21st this year. During the party letters were read out from dignitaries far and wide, from government and royalty, but although she was duly proud of such attention she was mostly honoured, she later said, by the company of friends and family at the event – people she knew and loved. And that love was obviously reciprocated.

We will miss the smiling face and the witty responses, the wealth of information and the clear recollections that were shared. She enjoyed the company of all who visited her, and we enjoyed her company. We thank God for allowing us the honour of sharing some of our precious time with Joy.

Deian Evans.

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Molly (Morfydd) Cambridge.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Molly Cambridge on September 11th, at her home at 155 Millwood Road, Toronto. Molly arrived in Toronto as a child in the 1930's. The family settled downtown and attended Metropolitan United Church. This is where Molly first took a great interest in music, one of the loves of her life since then.

Later on the family decided to become an active part of the Welsh scene in Toronto, and they regularly attended the Church, firstly at Clinton Street and then, for a while, at Melrose Avenue.

Molly was proud of her Welsh heritage, and her religious beliefs. I often visited her at the salvation Army Home at Millwood Road, where she was very well cared for by the staff. They do wonderful service there – and she always spoke of the times when she would enjoy the company and the atmosphere of the Welsh community and Church. And not once could I leave without a word of prayer.

Molly had been a 'shut-in' for many years, and unfortunately that is how I was to know her. The body had grown tired and weary, but the spirit remained vibrant. Morfydd's funeral was held on September 16th, attended by friends and Church family. She will be missed by those who knew and respected her.

Deian.

Nia Jones.

Our condolences go to Menna Jones on the loss of her dear sister Nia. The sisters had been living together for many years after their retirement. They enjoyed their many friends and the many trips that they used to take every year. They enjoyed their travel adventures for many years.

Nia past away in July after a lengthy battle with cancer. Menna – a retired nurse cared for Nia until the end.

Menna our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family back in North Wales.

Myfanwy.

*The Lord is my pacesetter. I shall not rush.
He makes me to stop for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness
which restore my serenity.
He leads me in the way of efficiency
through calmness of mind
And His guiding is peace.*

*Even though I have a great many things
to accomplish each day
I will not fret, for His presence is here.
His timelessness, His all importance will
keep me in balance.*

*He prepares refreshment and renewal,
in the midst of my activity.
By anointing my mind with His oils of
tranquillity.
My cup of joyous energy overflows.*

*True harmony and effectiveness shall be
the fruits of my hours.
For I shall walk in the peace of my Lord
for ever.*

***A modern version of the 23rd Psalm by a Japanese writer
Tokio Megastus***

Clarice Terry.

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Of Interest

When Dewi Sant Church was being Built on Melrose Avenue, the minister was The Reverend John Humphries Jones. Being very interested in the progress of the construction he visited the site very often. As he examined the foundation one day he unfortunately lost his glasses as he bent over to take a good look. Nothing phased, he said “this will be a church with a vision.” So it has been for the last fifty years!

Olwen Dunets.

Let us hope and pray that these words continue to be true now in 2010 and onwards.

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Under the weather

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Hughes family as Brian Hughes remains in hospital. He is not doing as well as it was hoped at this time. He is too unwell to receive any visitors or phone calls. Brian needs all our prayers.

On The Mend.

Reverend Elwyn Hughes and Geraint Jones are both recovering well after their surgery. We wish them both a speedy recovery. Also Mrs. Jensen, Knud’s mother, Risti’s mother in law, we wish her well in her recovery. Tom Jones is also home from hospital after quite a lengthy stay this Summer. We wish Tom a full recovery and Betty a good rest. We also wish Tommy and Betty God speed as they move into their new retirement bungalow in Wasega Beach in the next few weeks. No steps, and plenty of sky lights to help Tom move around without too many pit falls!!!

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I am “once again” starting the year by asking for some “literary help.” It would make it a much easier and more interesting task to produce Y Gadwyn. We are interested in you and your families in all you adventures. Please try!!. Deadline October 17th. Our big celebration day. Deadline means the very Last day for submissions! Please myfanwy@rogers.com 905 737 4399.

Regularly Scheduled Church Activities

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

Y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg/The Welsh Service – October 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Sportball classes : - The Fellowship Hall is rented as follows: -
Thursday afternoons 4:00-5:30 p.m. now until December 16

Friday afternoons 1:15-2:15 p.m. now until December 17
Saturday mornings 10:00-12:00 p.m. now until December 18

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