Ionawr / January 2012.

Neges y Gweinidog From the Minister's Desk:

2011 finally is passed and gone and I am not sorry to have seen it go, because for me the beginning of a new year is always an exciting time filled with hope; it is a time for new adventures, new discoveries and new possibilities. I trust that my readers feel the same way.

In terms of the church year, we are now in the season of Epiphany which is the season, immediately after Christmas, when we recall and celebrate that God has made all things new in the "manifestation" or "epiphany" (in Greek) of the Christ, the Messiah in Jesus of Nazareth. On January 6th, the actual feast day of the Epiphany, we retell the story of the sages from the East who have seen a star and follow it all the way to Bethlehem and "are overwhelmed with joy" when the star stops over the house where the baby and his parents are staying. They fall on their knees and pay royal homage to the child. Did you feel "overwhelmed with joy" this past Christmas? Or was it just another Christmas, busy with family, food and friends?

For some members of our church family, the past Christmas season was also a time of sorrow and grieving. But the coming of that child in Bethlehem means precisely that God shares our sorrow and makes it holy. As Charles Wesley wrote in his Christmas hymn: ... "God and sinners (are) reconciled..." In that child, God comes to be with us wherever we are and whatever happens with us. That is the Good News Christians have proclaimed and have attempted to live for two thousand years now.

As we begin 2012, it is only natural to wonder whether this year will really be different and new; so far that does not seem to be the case. The Gospel we proclaim is needed in this world, in our communities and neighbourhoods as much as ever. Because we are reconciled with God in Christ we are called to bring that same reconciliation to our world: into the conflicts that will continue, into the disasters that will surely happen, into the refugee camps that continue to be needed, into hunger and homelessness in our cities and communities. This becomes even more urgent as governments at all levels and in so many countries slash budgets and cut back on much needed human services. It is profoundly saddening to note that these cut-backs rarely touch so-called defence budgets in any serious way. Whatever happens, our ability to make war must continue.

And that is not the Good News of the Prince of Peace, whose coming among us we celebrate during Epiphany.

A new year is also a time to give thanks to God and to one another. I, for one, give thanks to God for having brought me to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. You have welcomed this stranger in your midst and made me one of yours during the past year. For that, I am profoundly grateful. I love working with you, even though it is only part-time. I have been priviledged to meet wonderful people of deep faith and open minds, eager to learn more about the mysteries of our faith.

My prayer for us in this family and household of God is that all may be well with us and that God will continue to bless us.

Eilert Frerichs,

Interim Minister.



The Nonagenarian Series: Ken Hughes

In this issue of the Gadwyn, we welcome **Ken Hughes** to the nonagenarian family at Dewi Sant.

Born on October 2nd, 1921, in Pantyscallog Village (Pant) near Merthyr Tydfil, Ken's Welsh roots run deep. A genealogical work still in progress, the family tree goes back to the 1700's in Llanidloes, North Wales, where at least two ancestors served as local mayors. Listening to Ken recount tales of his childhood when epidemics of diphtheria and scarlet fever were prevalent, I was awed by the incredible strides made in health care over the last 90 years. Ken, who was sickly as a child, had to share a hospital bed with his younger brother in the Merthyr isolation hospital. Parents of hospitalized children visited from outside the hospital through the windows. Poor health forced Ken to leave school at 14 years of age and take sundry jobs as available. It was the time of the Great Depression and when the steel works closed down, 78% of the work force in Merthyr were unemployed. Children in rags and without shoes were a common sight on the streets. In 1936, Ken moved to Cardiff where new steel works were opening up. He was lucky enough to get an apprenticeship in the same company where many other family members were employed and fortunately by this time, his health had improved. However, the sea beckoned to Ken and at age 20, he joined the merchant navy as a junior engineer. Imagine plying the seas during World War II when enemy submarines were a constant threat. Ken travelled widely and made trips to New York and the Middle East during his service. In 1946, Ken left the merchant navy and returned to the steelworks in Cardiff. It was love at first sight when Ken met Irene two years later. In only two weeks, Ken asked Irene to marry him and although she was at first noncommittal, after four overtures the answer was yes. Having already celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, they obviously chose each other wisely albeit quickly. Their daughter Trish Stevenson (long time and hardworking member of Dewi Sant, the OGGA and of Merched Dewi) was the only one of the three Hughes children born in Wales before the family emigrated from Cardiff to Canada in 1954. Two sons were born in Canada and all three children were baptized by the Reverend John Humphreys Jones in 1961 at our church on Melrose. Soon after his arrival in Canada, Ken began working for the CBC and remained with them for more than thirty years. It was during the ministry of Reverend Cerwyn Davies that Ken and Irene became members at Dewi Sant. They brought their granddaughters to church regularly and as

Sunday School superintendent, I remember the girls receiving their attendance badges for multiple years without absence.

Ken has always been ready to help with any technical projects as needed and it is his handiwork on display in the Christmas star that adorns our sanctuary each December. If you remember the black light show that commemorated our 75th anniversary, Ken played a central role in its technical development.

Family is central to both Ken and Irene as they continue to live in their family home. They have made regular pilgrimages back to Wales through the years, the most recent being just a couple of years ago. What a delight it was to spend time with them and reminisce. Both Ken and Irene welcome visitors; we are indeed fortunate to have them both as members of our church family.

Betty Cullingworth.



Dewi Sant Sunday School Pageant December 2011

To all the great young children and the growing young people (and to all the helpers behind the scenes):

Just thought we would thank you all for a truly great performance at Dewi Sant in December. It really brought the great Christmas message to us all. We're sure the whole congregation enjoyed the "show" and especially congratulate the "actors and actresses" who performed and sang so well without even referring to their scripts. One of the best we have seen for a long while.

Heartfelt thanks to Hefina, Pam, Betty, Stephanie, Tara Sian, Ed (not recognized in disguise) and others (unknown to us, but still to be congratulated), and of course the helping parents and grandparents of the children and young persons who must have been beaming with pride!

It was nice to see (and hear!) them all enjoying the party afterwards.

Thanks to The Rev Eilert too for being so good with the kids every Sunday. It is our future and that of Dewi Sant so it is nice to see that.

Best Wishes for a Happy New Year from **Brian & Joan Hughes**-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-

Good Friday at Dewi Sant Church.

The Board of Session has voted to make a change to the order of services on Good Friday this year!

As a <u>Trial run</u>, we have decided to hold the Bilingual worship service at 11.00 am. This is to replace the afternoon service. In the afternoon the Gymanfa Ganu will be held- instead of in the evening. Lunch will be served between the two services. This in answer to many requests by people who now are not able to drive long distances at night. Tickets will be on sale in March for lunch. This **just this once** until we get feedback as how it is liked.

Board of Session.

Room Reservations at the Marriott.

Are you coming to the **Ontario Welsh Festival at** the end of April? Now I don't want to worry you, especially as April seems so very far away, but I strongly urge you to book your rooms at the Marriott Gateway on the Falls as soon as you can. I was told last night that many of the rooms have already been reserved, so as soon as I have sent off this email to Myfanwy Bajaj, I will be making sure that my "View of the Falls" room" is booked! The phone number(s) are 800-618-9059 or 905-374-1077. Please make sure you quote The Ontario Welsh Festival so that you not only receive the "special" room rates but that your reservation is included in the contractual obligation we have with the Marriott. There are two Marriott hotels in Niagara Falls. Please make sure you're at the Gateway on the Falls!

The Board is very excited about our up-coming programme. There are some new additions to the usual events. Check our website (ontariowelshfestival.com) and read the Registration Forms carefully when they arrive in the mail. Registration forms are also available from the website. If you have any more questions, don't hesitate to contact one of the Board Members.

The guest choir, **Cor Cwmni Da** from West Wales, is extremely excited about their visit. They come highly recommended and I am looking forward very much to hearing them perform. See you in Niagara Falls.

Hefina Phillips.



OGGA - Pub Night and Auction (Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association.)

Bring Your Appetite and Cheque Book!

Following the resounding success of last year's fundraiser, the OGGA is hosting a Pub Night and Auction on Saturday March 24th, 2012.

The event will feature a traditional "Pie and Mash" dinner, Pub Quiz and Live Auction.

Last year we received an impressive array of goods and services to auction. Please consider donating your time, talents, goods, services, again this year.

Date: Saturday March 24th, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m. Dewi Sant Fellowship Hall

Tickets: \$15/Adult; \$10/Children.

To order tickets and/or to donate items for auction, please contact Donna Morris at **(416) 756-1249** or donnamorris2010@hotmail.com



The Linguistic Diversity of Wales

As a child, did your rig-out include daps or a Dai-cap? Did you and your butty mitch to chwarae alley bomper or buy some losins from a shop popeth? (Rough translation: Did your outfit include running shoes or a flat cap? Did you and your friend skip school to play a marble game or buy some candies from a general store?) If you didn't need a translation and these expressions brought back some memories, you may enjoy a book by Simon Elmes, who has spent 25 years investigating regional speech across Britain for the BBC.

In his preface to <u>Talking for Britain:</u> A <u>Journey Through the Voices of a Nation</u> (London, Penguin Books, 2006), Elmes recalls travelling around Britain uncovering local language stories for a BBC Radio 4 program called "Talk of the Town, Talk of the Country", and for a Radio 4 program called "The Routes of English". The book provides a panorama based on those investigations. The research undertaken to capture the voices of Britain entailed over 50 field workers interviewing groups of local men and women of all ages and walks of life. Questions ranged from "What do you call your mother and father?" to "What do you call a young person in cheap, trendy clothes and jewellery?" Answers to the latter question demonstrate the variety of words used to express the same thing across Britain, from a relatively new term, "chav", to "spides" and "hoods" in Northern Ireland, "scallies" in Liverpool, "charvers" in Newcastle, "neds" in Glasgow, "Trobos" in Trowbridge, "trevs|" or "Common Jack" (Bethesda) "gwennie" (Holyhead), and "townies" and "wannabes" in other places. My children were amused to learn that they'd be known as "clicky", "keggy", "caggyhanded", "cloddy-handed", "corry-fisted, "pally-jukered", "carry-pod", "cack-handed" or "coggyhanded" (Welsh), among other names for left-handed people, in various parts of Britain. Suddenly, being called a "lefty" doesn't seem so bad!

Elmes notes that the notion of "standardization", ("some form of absolute gold standard of English to which one could aspire") has been around for a long time. Many of the people he surveyed talked about having teachers who "beat the dialect out of me", or of parents who told their children to "speak properly" because a regional accent was somehow considered inferior to a more neutral one. "Clearly, attitudes to accent and to an extent to regional vocabulary have much to do with feelings about social class, and a "purer", less regional speech has for 200 years been seen as the essential concomitant of self-improvement....Happily, <u>Talking for Britain</u> takes no such issue with correctness or otherwise. The richer the diversity, the happier I am..." That diversity is outlined in twelve chapters that describe the dialects of various regions, each ending with a glossary. The regions are: Cornwall, The West of England, London and the South-East, Wales, The Midlands, East Anglia, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cumbria and Liverpool, Northumbria, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

The chapter on Wales begins by describing attempts by the English to outlaw the Welsh language, (one of the oldest languages in Europe, dating back to around the sixth century), starting with King Henry VIII's Acts of Union of 1536-43. While the use of Welsh was no longer allowed in the courts or other forms of officialdom, Welsh continued to be the natural form of expression for most Welshmen. "(R)eligion (in the shape of non-conformism) and the development of Welsh-speaking Sunday schools did much to keep the flame of spoken Welsh alive." Following a parliamentary report on education in Wales in 1847, Welsh children "were forced by their schoolteachers to wear wooden tags around their necks, with the words "Welsh Not" or simply 'W.N.' branded into them.

As crude and undignified as a dunce's hat, they were intended as a constant reminder, chiding the child to speak not in their native language but in English."

Several of the Welsh people interviewed in this century felt judged or teased because of their accent by the English and people from other parts of Wales. One woman described leaving her village school for a secondary school in Neath. Her accent marked her as a "Valleys" girl, and she was mocked by "Townies" who considered her backwards and themselves more worldly wise. Elmes notes that "these entrenched divisions seem to be expressed more feistily in Wales than anywhere else I've described in Britain; and the more local the points of difference are, the more sharply defined." He writes, "The indigenous language is also responsible for two of the features of the English of Wales that are most imitated (and mocked), namely the melodic rise and fall of the voice pitch (usually called the 'sing-song' accent) and idiosyncratic expressions like 'come you over by here now', which are borrowings from Welsh syntax." "There's lovely" and "isn't it" tacked on to the end of sentences are other common examples of what happens when an idiom from the Welsh language is directly translated into English.

The glossary consists of Welsh terms that have been adopted by the English-speaking community in Wales. Since almost everyone who speaks Welsh also speaks English, a lot of shared language exists. With over 55 million English speakers nearby, the influx of the English who own holiday cottages in Wales, and Welsh children who grow up with one English parent, this influence is inevitable. The surveyors found that young people in Cardiff and areas closer to the border with England shared the same slang expressions found across the rest of Britain, such as "chuffed" for pleased or "mingers" for unattractive young people. With English influences all around them, they pick up English words, even though their parents correct them all the time. They felt using the correct term in Welsh would sound "far too straightlaced" to use in conversation, while the English word sounded "more cool". In areas where the Welsh language is firmly part of the culture, such as Snowdonia, young people often offered Welsh words as the vernacular alternatives they use, such as "balch" for glad or "del" for pretty and "hyll" or "anffodus" (which means unfortunate) for the opposite. Some of the expressions found in the Valleys harken back to its mining past (e.g. "the tools are on the bar" means work is finished for the day, because miners locked their tools onto a long bar at the end of their shift). Elmes mentions the Welshman's traditional love of nicknames, stemming from the multitude of families with the same surname. The name of an occupation or a farm or location was added as an identifier ("Dai Bun" for a baker, or "Dafydd the Moor").

Some find it easier to "Welshify" an English word than search for and use the correct Welsh word. For example, the Welsh word for playing truant is "chwarae", but "mitsio", a Welshified version of the English term, "to mitch" is often used. Appending the verbal ending "io" to English words to make them function as "Welsh" verbs is common, such as "climbio" instead of "dringo" (to climb a mountain). There are levels of slang usage in Welsh, too. For example, "beichiog" is Welsh for pregnant, and used in writing, but in speech, "disgwyl" (the equivalent to "Welsh English" "expecting"—literally, "waiting") is more popular.

Many of the Welsh people surveyed said that although they borrow many English words, their language and heritage is very important to them. One young person said, "Losing the Welsh would be losing something important to your personality. I've spoken Welsh, my parents have

spoken Welsh, people have fought to keep it alive, it gives the Welsh people an element of uniqueness and we have something that the rest of Britain doesn't."

Another survey participant said, "Very often a word is far more descriptive to use in Welsh: it seems to convey something more in Welsh. There are many Welsh words that haven't got the real English equivalent. Near enough, but not quite the same. "Longing": the English word "longing". Now the Welsh equivalent to that—or *better* than that—is "hiraeth". Well, by usin' the word, to me, bein' Welsh, it conveys more than the translated version of it. HIRAETH—do you feel it?" There were two Welsh words quoted repeatedly throughout the survey that te respondents said they felt was part of them, and made them feel part of a group: "hwyl" and "hiraeth". "'Hwyl' (which means spirit or fervour, as well as goodbye) embodies an indefinable sense of the homeland, of national identity that's caught up in the people and the landscape. The other, 'hiraeth', is that sense of longing or homesickness that Welsh men and women feel in their hearts when a long way from the Valleys of the south or the mountains of the north."

The Welsh Language Act, passed in 1993, granted equal status to English and Welsh and made the teaching of Welsh in schools compulsory up to age sixteen. The linguistic and cultural diversity that the Welsh language offers is encouraged in many ways today, and around twenty per cent (20%) of the population speaks Welsh. Elmes concludes that "English and Welsh today seem to coexist remarkably comfortably within the new climate that thoroughly encourages linguistic diversity. Through many centuries of rubbing up against each other, the two traditions have been enriched with linguistic qualities drawn from both."

Meg Lloyd Jones.



Saint Davids' Celebrations in Toronto.****

I hope that this year you will make a special effort to celebrate our Saint's day. The Saint Davids Society is making a very big change. They say that a change is as good as a rest. Well there won't be any rest because you will all be too busy laughing!!

Saint Davids Dinner and Comedy Night!

Yes!! You read it correctly. We have booked **Three** of the best comedians in Wales to bring their show over to us " <u>The Dragon has Three Tongues."</u> This is a highly acclaimed show, a onetime deal!. (The entertainment is in English).

We have a new, younger group coming onto the Board Of the Society, hoping that this will infuse some new life and enthusiasm.. It is very important to keep the Welsh connection alive in this diverse city of Toronto. Please don't let it be just one more thing that we allow to wither away through neglect and indifference. We must all try to keep our identity in our multicultural surroundings.

Date—March 3rd. Place—Thornhill Golf and Country Club on Yonge Street.

Time—Cocktails 6.30pm—Dinner at 7.00pm

Tickets-- \$75 per person. Menu Salmon or Beef. You need to specify your choice when you book. Contact Myfanwy 905 737 4399, Harold Woodey 416 221 9178, Betty Stroud 416 4651814 and Mabel Hastings 416 730 8658 for tickets.

Myfanwy.



Gadwyn Donors.

Cliff and Janet Davies: Ann McConnell: Helen Taylor: John Jenkins: Brenda Jones: David Jones: Brian and Joan Hughes: Percy and Amy Jordan: Phyllis McLeod.

Thank you very much your contributions help a great deal

A Celebration Of Song for Saint David's Day.

The Toronto male Voice Choir and the Young Singers of Ajax will be in concert on February 25th at 7.30 in Christ Church Deer Park Toronto Tickets 416 410 225 or 877 410 2254 and www.ticketweb.ca

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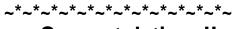
Our Appreciation and Thanks.

Since my Fall in November Geraint and I have been the recipients of so many acts of kindness. We have received many beautiful cards fro9m the community expressing love and concern, also we have had phone calls from friends as far as Wales, British Columbia and Florida.

I have been chauffeured around—return trips to the hospital O.R., keeping Dr's appointments and not forgetting the many journeys to assist in grocery shopping. Through all this, we have been well fortified with divine baking and homemade soups "to die for."

This support has meant so much to the both of us and quite overwhelming. We would be remiss in expressing our thanks if we did not mention the many friends who have made sure that we had a ride to church.

Diolch o galon. Lyn a Geraint Jones.



Congratulations!!

Andrea Baxter, daughter of Debbie and John Baxter and a former loyal Sunday School student at Dewi Sant for several years, had a banner year in 2011. She was recognized as one of the Best Forty Under Forty entrepreneurs by the Business in Vancouver magazine for her two business ventures, the Smart Cookies (TV show) and Bratface Marketing.

Andrea has recently accepted the position of Director of Corporate Marketing with Intracorp, the residential arm of Intrawest. Well done Andrea! It is great to hear and read of your successes!

Betty Cullingworth.

Condolences.

The church was saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Graham Edwards in May of 2011. Graham was the son of Mainwen and Bernard Edwards, longtime members of Dewi Sant. In his 54th year, Graham died after a very brief battle with cancer. As a church community, we send our belated condolences to Mainwen and Elaine and the entire family.

Betty Cullingworth.

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Vaughan Lewis wishes to make it known that he mistakenly credited for being the author of the item re Computer Woes!

M.

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These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

• "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

"He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial - Irvin S. Cobb

- i "He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." Samuel Johnson
- j "He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." Paul Keating
- j "In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." Charles, Count Talleyrand

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination." - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

- i "He has Van Gogh's ear for music." Billy Wilder
- i "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." Groucho Marx