



# Y GADWYN

(The Link)

*News of the Toronto Welsh Community*

Volume #43 – 9

Mis Medi

October 2012

## Neges y Gweinidog

From the Minister's Desk...

## From the Dewi Sant Church Pulpit

From the Minister's Desk...

“To all God’s beloved in the community of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, who are called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (*adapted from Romans 1:7*)”.

Some years ago now I was serving a congregation that was deeply conflicted; more than half the members had left and those who were left behind were in deep mourning over the departure of many long-time friends and their inability to participate in a process of healing and reconciliation. It was a truly sad state of affairs. Well, All Saints Sunday came around and it occurred to me that the Apostle Paul regularly addresses his letters to “the saints” in whatever church he happened to write to – not to those who had been beatified by the Pope, but to ordinary followers of Christ in Rome, Corinth or Ephesus. Paul’s churches much like the congregation I was serving also experienced conflict and doubt and fear for their future.

So my sermon that Sunday was about the idea that, according to the Apostle, all Christians are saints, even though most of the time we don’t feel like that or believe it, even. So during the morning service I invited the people in the pews to turn to their neighbour, take their hand and say, “Good morning, Saint Peter, or Saint Mary” ...whatever their name was. People looked at me strangely and then went I went from person to person and called everyone by their name and greeted them as “saint”, they began to do the same thing, very hesitantly at first, and gradually with more and more enthusiasm. Husbands and wives greeted each other as “saint”, parents their children, those who did not necessarily like each other, still called each other “saint”.

It was a most extraordinary and blessed moment. We kept it up for most of the time I was with that congregation and it had an absolutely miraculous effect: the spirit in that church changed dramatically, as people began to accept the fact that in God’s eyes they were saints and not the sinners they had believed themselves to be. From that day, people were able to move forward with a real sense of gracefulness and discern a whole new future for themselves that was determined by their past.

I recount this story, because on November 1<sup>st</sup> the Church celebrates *All Saints Day*. Here at Dewi Sant, we do so on the Sunday closest to the first, i.e. November 4<sup>th</sup>. It is a day to celebrate and give thanks for not just those extraordinary souls whom the church over the centuries or more recently has recognized to be saints.

In the Roman Catholic tradition, such recognition requires incontrovertible proof of a least one miracle and Canadian Catholics (especially native Catholics) rejoiced recently when Kateri Tekakwitha, a Mohawk woman, was sainted. I know that we Protestants do not hold much with saints and what we consider the Catholic cult of saints. I think, however, that we miss much with such an attitude. I think we have much to learn from the examples of extraordinary faithfulness, dedication and service of saintly women and men and we would do well to celebrate their lives and gifts to the people they served.

In addition, according to the Apostle, we are all called to be saints: to give of our lives in joyful service to Christ and his Good News so that all of God's children might have life abundant, as Jesus promised. We can all lead "saintly" lives – and I do not mean lives that are exceptionally "good" in a moralistic sense, because we are still sinners, albeit forgiven ones. I am inviting us to lead lives of exceptional faithfulness and service to others which is the life officially recognized "saints" lived.

Many members of our community do that already, of course: volunteering their time and their gifts in hospitals, working with a whole variety of voluntary organizations, visiting those who are homebound or are ill. I am always deeply grateful for their faithful service. These people are genuine saints, often unrecognized and unsung. Praise God for them in this season of All Saints.

**Eilert Frerichs,  
Interim Minister.**



**Ladies of Dewi Sant-----Merched Y Capel**

**Dewi Sant Annual Christmas Bazaar**

Come experience the magic of Christmas at Dewi Sant's Annual Christmas Bazaar. There will be lots of goodies and treasures to buy including, Wanda's Woolies, Knitting and Crafts, Attic Treasures, Jewellery, Sweets and Treats, Home-Baking and, of course, Welsh items. Be sure to visit Santa's Grotto while you are here and have your photo taken with "The Man". Tired out? Sit and relax and enjoy a seasonal lunch with friends. See you there!

We would love you to donate things to sell. Welsh goods are sparse. If you have any relics that you no longer need, please bring them in. Put your donations in the cloakroom, marked Bazaar. Thank you.

Date: **Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup>** Time: **9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

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**From The Kitchen      O'r Gegin**

Here are a couple of simple recipes that you might like to try and bring them to the bazaar bake Table.

1. Noson gyflaith (The Toffee Evening) was a traditional part of Christmas or New Year festivities in some areas of north Wales earlier this century. Families would invite friends to their homes for supper and the meal would be followed by merriment, playing games, making toffee, and storytelling. When the required ingredients for the toffee had boiled to a certain degree, the toffee was poured onto a well greased slate or stone slab. The hearthstone itself was used for this purpose in some houses.

Members of the happy gathering would then cover their hands with butter and attempt to pull the warm toffee until it became golden yellow in color.

**Ingredients:** 8 cups dark brown sugar 2/3 cup boiling water 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice, pulp strained out 16 tablespoons salted butter, softened 1/2 lb

**Directions:** Using an enameled or stainless steel pan, over low heat , gradually dissolve the sugar in boiling water> Stir continuously with a wooden spoon until the sugar is thoroughly dissolved. This usually takes from 20 to 30 minutes.

Remove the saucepan from the heat, add the lemon juice and the softened butter, and stir them into the sugar. Boil this mixture fairly briskly, WITHOUT STIRRING it for 15 minutes.

Gently drop a teaspoon of mixture into a cupful of cold water. If it hardens at once it has reached the required consistency. Pour the mixture slowly onto a buttered surface, marble counter or large flat dish. Do NOT scrape the saucepan clean as the scrapings might turn the toffee back into sugar !!

Use some extra butter on your hands and pull the taffy into long golden strands while it is still hot (Be careful that you don't burn your hands. Cut taffy into small pieces. This makes about three pounds. For selling at bazaar weigh some out and put in zip lock bags.

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### Butterscotch.

2 cups of Demerara sugar, Two thirds of a cup of water, Quarter cup of butter or margarine.

Dissolve the sugar and water in a heavy pan. Boil without stirring until a drop will form a ball when dropped into cold water. Stir in the butter or margarine a lump at a time, then pour into a greased square tin- 7 inch size. Let cool before marking into squares. **M.**

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### The North American Welsh Festivals.

Did you notice the s at the end of Festivals? Yes, in 2013 Ontario will be the proud hosts of not one but two Welsh festivals. We are used to the annual Ontario Welsh Festival, which once again will be held at the Marriot Gateway on the Falls, Niagara Falls, and the last weekend of April. And, no, it's not too early to reserve your room. (Some people left it too late in 2012 to reserve a Falls view room. I'd hate you to be disappointed again! ) Just remember to inform the hotel that you are part of the Ontario Welsh Festival, not only to ensure your 'special rate' but also to ensure that the hotel has a record of our numbers for the event. (Our overall costs are dependent on an agreed number of reservations.)

What will be the main attractions in 2013? The guest choir is Côr Meibion Taf, an excellent male voice choir from the Cardiff area. They have been successful at the past several National Eisteddfodau under the baton of Robert Nicholls. Rob is a wonderful musician and this past summer was one of the official organists at the national Eisteddfod. (Can we look forward to an organ solo from Rob?)





years of service I decided to escape the NHS, where prospects were bleak for any independence and came to Canada in September of 1963 and spent the first year in family practice in Schreiber on the North shore of Lake Superior.

In 1964 I moved to Toronto to train in psychiatry and then the coincidences began: Firstly I met Ron Needs in Canadian Tire, not having seen him since graduation. I discovered that he had taken the same national service route as me, doing an extra year and being posted abroad with his family. He also followed in my footsteps to Canada. Then my youngest daughter told me that her friend Sarah Evans at school was the daughter of a Welsh Doctor named Ramon. I discovered that Ron and Ramon and I lived within a stone's throw of each other in North York. Interestingly Ron and Ramon became Directors of Pain clinics at Sunnybrook and Toronto General Hospital respectively. I worked across the street from Ramon as Director of Psychiatric Outpatient Services at the Mount Sinai Hospital. Sadly Ramon died a few years ago and I had the privilege of singing A hyd y Nos in Welsh at his funeral. In 2002 I joined the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. There I found another Cardiff graduate, namely Dr. Stephen Jones. I was soon followed into the choir by Dr. Brian Thomas another Welsh graduate from Cardiff. Brian had preceded me by 2years at Cardiff. The interesting coincidence with Stephen is that my aforementioned classmate and friend John Griffith, had been a baby sitter for Stephen during our years together at Cardiff. I am sure that other Welsh migrants have their own experiences of coincidences, but I think I have had more than my fair share

**D. Ray Freebury**

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**Lewis**

It was back on October 1998. A Welshman living in Canada had decided that he should spend the rest of his life in Brazil. In an attempt to obtain absolution for everything he had done until then, he decided to make a donation to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Toronto.

So a few days later, having earlier telephoned the Minister, he loaded his car with goodies and set off for Toronto. The "goodies" consisted of some 30 LP's, mostly of Welsh artists, approximately 60 Gymanfa Ganu programmes, both Ontario and National, and my prized **Investiture Chair**. All were donations to the Church,

*The Investiture chair has pride of place in Narthex at Dewi Sant. It is one of the first things that worshipers see as they enter the Narthex. Not many people realise that the chair was donated by Lewis. M*

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**Treasures of Wales**

It features over fifty of my black & white images of well-known, historic and cultural places and attractions in Wales, and each image has accompanying descriptive text.

The book has been published using the Blurb on-line, print-on-demand system and it can be previewed by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/3430651>

I hope that you will enjoy looking at it and maybe consider it to your members for when they are next looking for that special gift for themselves, friends, or relatives.

**Regards Robert Jones FRGS**

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**Great News.**

**Christopher Evans, son of Ronald and Shirley Evans, together with his Cambridge University Archaeological Team, has been awarded by The British Archaeological awards group the following honours. (1) The Best Archaeological project for 2012 (2) The Best Archaeological discovery.**  
*Shirley Evans*

Some more great news!!!**Great news!** The British have finally discovered “Welsh Cakes”!!! At least in Cambridge they have. Marks and Spencer is selling them, suggesting the cakes should be warmed slightly. They have added a smidge of cinnamon also! They are tasty!  
*Shirley Evans*

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**Congratulations**

**We congratulate Amira Christie on obtaining a degree in Fine Arts.( her family are very proud of her!)**

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**I am so proud of my Wales, a small but mighty Nation with a big heart**

The world renowned activist Desmond Tutu and Nobel Prize winner is at present visiting Wales as guest of the First Minister. This is to recognise the achievements of “Wales for Africa.”

“Wales for Africa” helps individual groups and communities across Wales create links and get involved in projects with countries in Sub Saharan Africa.

The initiative is the focus for Welsh efforts to help deliver the UN Millennium Development goals to halve global poverty by 2015.

In the six years since its creation the scheme has linked hundreds of Welsh communities with hundreds of African countries, influenced the school curriculums, and supported Wales to become the World’s first Fair Trade Nation, and delivered a world leading climate change project in Uganda with the UN.

This week there will be festivities with Desmond Tutu and children from the Rhondda and other Welsh valleys.

Congratulations Wales.

**Myfanwy**

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**When people talk about the best places to travel, it’s often all about a city or a country. But if you forget to think regionally you could miss some of the world’s best travel spots. Here are Lonely Planet’s picks of the regions to put on your map from Best in Travel 2012. Chosen by a panel of Lonely Planet experts, they’ve been written up by Lonely Planet**

**authors to give you that most contagious of ailments: the travel bug. Just GUESS WHERE NUMBER ONE was???** Yes Wales!

### Coastal Wales

What a wonderful thing: to walk the entire length of a country's coastline, to trace its every nook, cranny, cliff-face, indent and estuary. How better to truly appreciate the shape – and soul – of a nation? Well, in 2012 Wales will become the only country in the world where you can do just that. Due for completion in May, the All Wales Coast Path (AWCP) will squiggle continuously from Chepstow in the south to near Queensferry in the north – via dramatic serrations, sandy bays and domineering castles – making 1377 km of shore accessible. Much of it is already in place, including the spectacular Pembrokeshire coast (a national trail since 1970); a new section from Llanmadoc to Port Eynon, passing Rhossili (one of the UK's best beaches); and the Isle of Anglesey Coast Path, waving to royals-in-residence Prince Wills and Kate on the way. - *Sarah Baxter*

If you have been just about **everywhere** and would love to try somewhere totally different, here's #4 on the Lonely Planet list -:

### . Arunachal Pradesh, India

'Shangri-La is a mystical, harmonious valley', or so goes the description in James Hilton's 1933 novel, *Lost Horizon*. Hilton went on to describe a Garden of Eden on Earth: a land of milk and honey in a hidden Himalayan valley, where nobody grew old or ugly. Over the years there's been no shortage of contenders for the title of 'Lost Shangri-La', but now there's a new kid on the block: Arunachal Pradesh. Sitting exactly where India collides with Bhutan, Tibet and Burma, it's an ethnic, biological and geographical explosion of peoples, cultures, climates and landscapes – and is one of Asia's last great unknowns. - *Stuart Butler*

**Myfanwy**

### What's a Cwtsh?

**Cwtsh is the Welsh word for Cuddle, not just any type of cuddle, however, a rather special one, blessed with the warmth and generosity of the Welsh, a truly free flowing expression of love and acceptance.**

**Remember that lovely warm feeling you used to get when a special person put their arms around you? Sheltering you from the world and its pressures, at least momentarily! What a feeling.**

*Ah that's a Cwtsh!*

*In that single instant you had nothing to fear not a care nor concern in the world. All pressures, and problems were removed allowing your spirit to soar upwards free from the day to day troubles of life.*

*Pass it On!*

*That's what I give you right now!*

*This wonderful love that all encompassing feeling of warmth that reaffirms your place in the universe, not to mention your immeasurable worth as a human being, a special person unlike anyone else. A recipient of this special kind of love only found in Wales.*

*If you're Welsh then you already know about this special love, if you're not then become an honorary Welsh man or woman and pass the Cwtsh onto someone else as soon as you can. You never know they probably do need it! Life will never be the same again.*

**Merchandise: Contact Phil for a Cwtsh T-shirt - Cwtsh Mugs & Cwtsh Cards. The unique and perfect gift for that special person in your life.**

**Phil Evans is the young man who came to the saint David's banquet. Since he appeared in Toronto his career has really taken off. He has been to all the big comedy clubs in the UK. At present he is performing in Olso. Llongyfarchiadau Phil.**

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Someone asked her, are you a working woman or a housewife! She said, "yes I'm a full time Working House-Wife. I work 24 hours a day. I'm a mom, a wife, daughter, and daughter-in-law. I'm an alarm clock, a cook, a maid, a teacher, a waiter a nanny, a nurse ,a handyman, a security officer, a counselor, and a contractor

I don't get holidays, medical leaves or half days off. I work throughout the day and night. I'm on call all hours and get paid with one sentence!

**"What do you do all day at home?"**

**Myfanwy**

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**Gadwyn Donors.**

*Jean Marie Macrae, Patricia And Clive Mason, Vincent Davies and Donna Morris.*

*Thank you to the Gadwyn Donors. Your donations are appreciated. If you hand in a cheque during the Sunday collection, please make sure that it is clearly marked GADWYN. A few people have mentioned that they gave donations without specifying that they were for Y Gadwyn.*

**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS THIS YEAR THAT HAVE HELPED WITH THE OUTPUT OF THE GADWYN!**

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**The Saint David's Society and The ladies of Dewi Sant**, in a joint venture are preparing a Christmas dinner for you. It is going to be home cooked turkey with **all the trimmings**. There will be something for all those with a sweet tooth also!

**We ask that you bring a child's toy to give Santa Clause when he arrives with an empty sack!**

December 15<sup>th</sup> at Dewi Sant.. Come at 6.15 for dinner promptly at 7.00. Price \$18 and \$10 for children. It will be a night of good food, laughter and music. Make this a real Dewi Sant night. Bring all your friends.

Tickets from Arleigh 416- 483-6870 and Myfanwy 905 737 4399. Please book tickets ahead of time as this will help with the catering.

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**A small editorial.** Thank you for your continued support. From time to time a small error may appear, so please excuse me.! I do my very best.

I would like you to read this carefully. I am the **only one** writing Y Gadwyn.

Lou Ann in the church office **prints, edits and mails** my work and some very kind friends get it ready for posting. Sometimes your articles span from one page to the other. This at times is unavoidable, although I do what I can to avoid it.

Articles are need and would be most appreciated!

**Thank you. Myfanwy**

**Next Gadwyn deadline is November 21<sup>st</sup>. (Please get things to me before that date as it will be sent to the office for printing within 2 days.) 905 737 4399 myfanwy@rogers.com**