



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

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Neges y Gweinidog From the Dewi Sant Church Pulpit

I thought that I might use this occasion for me to introduce my faithful readers to the Right Rev. Gary Patterson, the United Church's 41st Moderator. He hails from Vancouver, B.C., where he served many pastorates, including First United in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, at Ryerson United and, most recently, at St. Andrew's-Wesley in downtown Vancouver. He was elected during the General Council in August of last year and will hold office for three years. I knew him many years ago but, unfortunately have since lost touch with him.

On his website, Gary says that he "believes that The United Church of Canada must discover once again what 'being church' really means for us. What are the practices that sustain and shape our faith? How can 'church' model a different kind of community, so that people want to be a part of that? How do we share our faith with visitors, strangers, and the community? What is United Church evangelism?"

He continues, "If we aren't excited about our faith, then why would anyone want to 'come and see?' How do we speak to the spiritual hunger of a younger generation, people who are more interested in following Jesus than becoming church members? How do we reshape our 'outreach ministry' so that people will also say, 'See how much they love the world – I want to be part of that!'"

Good and vitally important questions, all, especially at Easter time when we celebrate the incredible, impossible mystery of the Resurrection which Christians since the beginning have claimed to be core, the foundation of our Faith.

In his Easter Message in the United Church Observer¹, the Moderator writes,

Easter stories surprise me. "Appearances," the Apostle Paul calls them. Fleeting, confusing, frightening – I sometimes wish for something more substantial and ongoing, as detailed perhaps, as the stories about Jesus' death. Now that was convincing! But resurrection? Well, often Jesus isn't even recognized: Mary mistakes him for the gardener; Cleopas and his friend, en route to Emmaus, spend an afternoon in Bible study with the risen Christ and have no idea with whom they are journeying; Jesus appears at dawn walking down the beach of the Sea of Galilee, and only after much squinting through the morning mist does one disciple finally cry out, "It is the Lord." Though even then, I hear a question mark at the end of that statement.

But perhaps this tells us something about how we ourselves might encounter the risen Christ this Easter: an elusive glimpse that cracks open our hearts, that requires openness and attentiveness, imagination and faith, and a willingness to discover Jesus in a garden or an upper room, on the shoreline or the road, at a table where bread is broken, or wherever we find ourselves in the day-to-day.

I like what Gary writes very much: the resurrection is an incomprehensible mystery we can never understand, that "requires openness and attentiveness, imagination and faith..."

At the same time, the mystery happens around us all the time: this morning, I saw two robins, even though as I write this it is beginning to snow again. The two birds are a sure sign of the spring

that is to come: the resurrection of the winter-dead earth. New life is just around the corner, we will smell it and taste it and revel in it.

Who says the resurrection is just a hoary myth? People can and do experience new life – after they have died to their old life. The people I have come to know through my son and his partner in Narcotics Anonymous, for example, are living testimony to new life and the power of new life.

I am grateful for Easter and the possibilities for new life Easter opens up for so many of us. A blessed Easter to you all!

Eilert Frerichs,
Minister.

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THE LUNCH BUNCH REPORT: The "Lunch Bunch" meet at Dewi Sant in March - June, September & December on the first Tuesday of the month (8 times a year), at 11.00 a.m. This group is open to anyone, regardless of age, or indeed affiliation to the church, as we share the spirit of camaraderie and caring that Dewi Sant is famous for. Gaynor McConnell is our leader, ably assisted by a small group of willing volunteers, and together offer an interesting and stimulating program (please see our program for the first half of this year).

We celebrate member's birthdays, anniversaries etc. and we care about those who are ill and unable to attend. Every session has singing (what good would the Welsh be without singing...?), poems, jokes and the "formal program" before we adjourn for lunch. Members bring their own sandwiches and some people volunteer to make soup for the group. Our June and December meetings have a more "formal buffet" where the organizing committee provide a feast for a small cost. Of course there is always a huge buzz of conversation as members catch up on everyone's latest news.

Our next meeting is on April 9th at 11.00 a.m. (a change in date because of Easter). It would be lovely if you would join us and share in some of the great Dewi Sant T.L.C.

For more information - please call Gaynor McConnell at 416 293 1336.

Lynette Jenkins

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DEWI SANT LUNCH BUNCH PROGRAM:

Tuesday, 9th April 2013 at 11.00 a.m. (second Tuesday in the month).

“HOW TO WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER with Lynette Jenkins.
Soup provided - \$2.00

Tuesday, 7th May at 11.00 a.m.

“LET’S GET CRAFTY”
Soup provided - \$2.00

Tuesday, 4th June at 11.00 a.m.

“ALOHA HAWAII” (dress the part!)
Island-style buffet lunch - \$7.50 Gaynor / Lynette

Umoja, The spirit of togetherness

As the daughter of a Welsh, Warrant Officer serving in the Royal Air Force, stationed in Colombo, Ceylon, where I was born, it is my privilege to write about the involvement of the Sri Lankan Army in the 2012 distribution for Sleeping Children Around the World [SCAW] in Sri Lanka.

Under the command of Colonel Jayasooriya and co-ordinated by Lt. Colonel Tennakoon and other senior officers, these soldiers have now turned from protecting the Sri Lankan people against terrorist attacks, into helping the country and the people heal and rebuild their lives. Communities have been shattered, lives lost, property destroyed, and Sri Lankans were fighting Sri Lankans.

How can we even begin to understand what these people have been going through?

But now, instead of only looking at the problems, how can we come up with opportunities for solutions? From Canada, what can we do to help? **SCAW** can help the children with donations of bedkits, which will help the whole family, and let the people know that they are not alone in their struggle. We care.

But we need help to do that. Gary will talk later about our Rotary partners who have co-ordinated the whole distribution, but the Army has had a major role in the physical aspect of this event, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks. With genuine military precision and attention to detail, their professionalism, efficiency, thoroughness and, most of all, their incredible kindness and gentleness with the children, has been inspiring.

They ensured the safety and security of every civilian involved: the Sri Lankans and our team, and indeed the bed kits themselves. They organized and transported the bedkits from Colombo to the north-eastern side of the island, manned the different stations of the distribution as you can see on the SCAW website if you view our Live Reports, at www.scaw.org, and were overwhelmingly helpful and patient with translations of our requests into Sinhalese and Tamil.

In "The Most Exotic Marigold Hotel" there is a quote, "Everything will be all right in the end. And if it is not all right, then it is not the end." So it was with us.

Traffic tie-ups in Toronto, illness of team members, photographer error, heat, fatigue -- all challenges that at some time were not "all right," but in the end 4,000 children have been given your generous gift of a bedkit to brighten their lives.

An African word I know is **umoja**, which means "the spirit of togetherness". This has been so evident in Sri Lanka. And so, not only to the Army, our Rotary Family from Colombo, the teachers, parents, my team mates, Brian, Emma, Gary, Heather and Joy, and our donors who have kept this spirit alive and well in Sri Lanka, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Ayubowan. (May you live long and well!)

Last year, at one of the "Lunch Bunch" gatherings, we had a "Penny Auction" and raised \$175.00. The "Bunch" agreed that this money was to go to providing 5 bedkits in Sri Lanka and I had the pleasure and privilege in overseeing that the kits went to 3 little Sri Lankan girls, and 2 boys. My grateful thanks to everyone involved for being so generous to these well-deserving children. Lynette



Red Dragon. The Welsh Dragon, or the **Draig Goch** as it is known in Welsh is the Welsh national flag. It shows a Red Dragon on a green and white background. Officially recognized as a national flag in 1959, however the Red Dragon had been associated with Wales for centuries and it is claimed to be the oldest national flag still in use today. The use of the Red Dragon however is no longer known, having been lost in the mists of time. The leek and the daffodil are also Welsh emblems and on St David's day, which is the 1st of March, you will often see the Welsh wearing them on their collar. **M**

TY DDEWI

Prayer at St. David's

1. Amazing blossom
 In a southwest corner
 Sprung from the rocks
 At the touch of rain,
 Coloured cathedral,
 House of Dewi
 In a sheltered valley,
 Hidden and plain.

Restorers have silenced
 Your well with rubble
 But the spring runs clearly
 Under the rocks.

2. The tower too heavy
 For your foundations
 Sags with its heraldry,
 The roof is askew.
 On the soft green earth
 Where you prayed and fasted
 Your work is unfinished,
 None fasts after you.

4. Cold water, Dewi,
 Is not for our palate,
 We keep your festival
 With foolish mirth,
 Self-praise and self-pity,
 Dragons and flagons,
 But none who will suffer
 For Wales in her dearth.

3. Our vows lie broken
 About your altar
 And your ashes on show
 In a wooden box.

5. Pray for us, Dewi,
 The undeserving,
 The spring of our virtue
 Leaks out in a fen.
 Saint of pure water,
 Instruct us in sacrifice
 That the thirst of our land
 May be slaked once again.

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Anthony Hopkins' Christmas marriage

Hopkins' Classical Dream Realised

Hollywood actor Sir Anthony Hopkins and his wife Stella Arroyave have had an extra special Christmas - with a private blessing at St David's Cathedral in Pembrokeshire.

Two of the cathedral's choristers sang at the short service on the morning of Christmas Eve.

Afterwards, The Silence of the Lambs star took time to congratulate them on the quality of their singing.

"I was quite star struck," admitted head chorister Kathryn Page.

The 19-year-old student from nearby Solva later posted a photo on the social network Twitter that the award-winning actor and his wife were happy to pose for.

Deputy head chorister Abigail Ingram joined her in singing Somewhere Over the Rainbow and the Christmas carol Bethlehem Down.

'Quite a privilege'

"Start Quote

It's not every day that you can say you have sung for someone like Sir Anthony"

Kathryn Page Head chorister, St Davids Cathedral

Ms Page said she had been asked if she was free to sing on Christmas Eve by the choirmaster but had no idea who she would be singing for until just before the blessing service, conducted by cathedral Canon Dorrien Davies.

"Just before they arrived at the cathedral, we were told who we were singing for," she said.

"We were told that they had been married ten years and wanted to have a blessing. It was a small service, and Stella's niece was also there.

"It was quite a privilege, to be honest," said Ms Page, a student at Pembrokeshire College who plans to become an occupational therapist.

"It's not every day that you can say you have sung for someone like Sir Anthony. It was really nice.

"When it was all over he came over to us and said to us both 'you have got wonderful voices'".

Port Talbot-born Sir Anthony, who will be 75 on New Year's Eve, lives in Los Angeles with his Colombian wife, but he is a frequent visitor to his homeland.

The Christmas eve blessing was kept private on the day but the star was in the UK earlier this month for the London premiere of his latest film Hitchcock.

The Woad Song

To the tune of Men of Harlech ~~~~~Anon.

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|--|---|
| 1. What's the use of wearing braces
Hats and spats and boots with laces
All the things you buy in places
Down on Brompton Road
What's the use of shirts of cotton
Studs that always get forgotten
These affairs are simply rotten
Better far is woad! | Anything as good as woad to fit on
Knees or neck or where you sit on
Tailors you be blowed! |
| 2. Woad's the stuff to showmen
Woad to scare your foemen
Boil it to a brilliant blue
And rub it on your back and your abdomen.
Ancient Britons never hit on | 3. Romans came across the channel
All dressed up in tin and flannel
Half a pint of woad per man'll
Dress us more than these
Saxons you can waste your stitches
Building beds for bugs in britches
We have woad to clothe us which is
Not a nest for fleas! |

4. Romans keep your armours
Saxons your pyjamas
Hairy coat were made for goats
Gorillas, yaks, retriever dogs and llamas

Tramp up Snowdon with your woad on
Nevermind if we get rained or snowed on
Never want a button sewed on
Go it, Ancient B's!

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Lynette

This is an Ancient Briton's song; after all we are Ancient B's.

"Dear Lord, So far today, I am doing all right.

I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed any minute, and I think that I will need your help then."

Hefina Phillips

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Silly titles!!!!

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cliff Tragedy | By Eileen Dover |
| Spies and Agent | By Sawyer Lookin |
| Sadness | By I. B. Blue |
| Blooms and Blossoms | By Flora Bundi |
| Making Sandwiches | By Rowland Butter |

These are from Mary and Bill Hall. Can you send me some book titles and their authors Please? This could be quite funny. Put your thinking caps on! You have been challenged by the Halls!!

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Yes this is the last reminder that you need to book NOW. Don't get caught with higher room prices in April!!

The Ontario Welsh Festival, April 26-28, 2013

Only a few weeks before we make our way to Niagara Falls for the annual Welsh Festival. Have you reserved your hotel room(s) yet? No?? You do not want to be disappointed and find that the Falls view room you've set your heart on has already been booked. Call the hotel now and tell them you're with the Ontario Welsh Festival in order to get your special room rates. Their number is 1-905-374-1077 for their direct line. The special room rates are \$119 for a city view room and \$139 for a Falls view room. A warning! There is a cut off date for these special rates: March 31 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first.

There is complimentary self parking at the hotel.

By the way, there are two Marriott hotels in Niagara Falls. Make sure you book into the **Marriott Gateway on the Falls.**

It is possible to reserve on line. Go to our website (www.ontariowelshfestival.com) and click on the 2013 Festival for contact addresses.

This year's guest choir is Côt Meibion Taf, a male voice choir from Cardiff. The tradition of Male Voice Choirs is alive and well in Wales, I'm delighted to report, and this relatively new choir is a wonderful example of what Wales has to offer. Maestro Robert Nicholls started the choir in 2004 and they have gone from strength to strength. This will be their first visit to Canada but they are very familiar with European countries. They are winners of the National Eisteddfod competitions and Rob, their conductor, is also a much sought after organist. He was one of the official Eisteddfod organists last August at the National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan. Definitely not to be missed!

The Board is proud to announce that we offer two seminars this year. Mary Muckle of Ottawa will talk about the History of the Harp in Wales and entertain us with her playing. Dr John Ellis of Michigan University will talk about the Welsh novelist and patriot, Owen Rhoscomyl. He was quite a character and worked as a cowboy in North America and a mercenary in Patagonia, Cuba and S. Africa. Apparently he also worked as a spy for David Lloyd George during WW1.

What else is happening during the weekend? Our usual Noson Lawen will be held on Friday evening. In addition to our Ontario "regulars" members of the visiting choir will also participate. Please support the children at Awr y Plant on Saturday morning, 11 AM Friday (after the AGM). The concert will be on Saturday evening and Sunday, of course, is the main reason why we are there- the two Gymanfa sessions.

What have I forgotten? The Banquet! Since 2011 a special Award is presented annually to a person deemed to have contributed extensively to the Welsh of Ontario. The winner of this year's Gold Award is the **Rev Dr Cerwyn Davies**, now of Stratford but previously of Toronto. Cerwyn is the former minister of Dewi Sant Welsh Church and has played a prominent part in the Welsh life on our province. Llongyfarchiadau Cerwyn. Please attend the banquet to support Cerwyn and his wife, Nora. He will be presented by Myfanwy Bajaj, winner of the 2012 Award.

And don't forget your hymn books-yes, at the banquet! There will be a competition again this year to see which table can entertain us the best. Last year we had several versions of Calon Lan. What awaits us this year, I wonder!

Hefina Phillips

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In Memoriam

Er Parchus Gof.

Doreen Bray.

It is with sadness that we learnt of the passing of Doreen Bray. Many of us in Dewi Sant Welsh United Church remember her well.

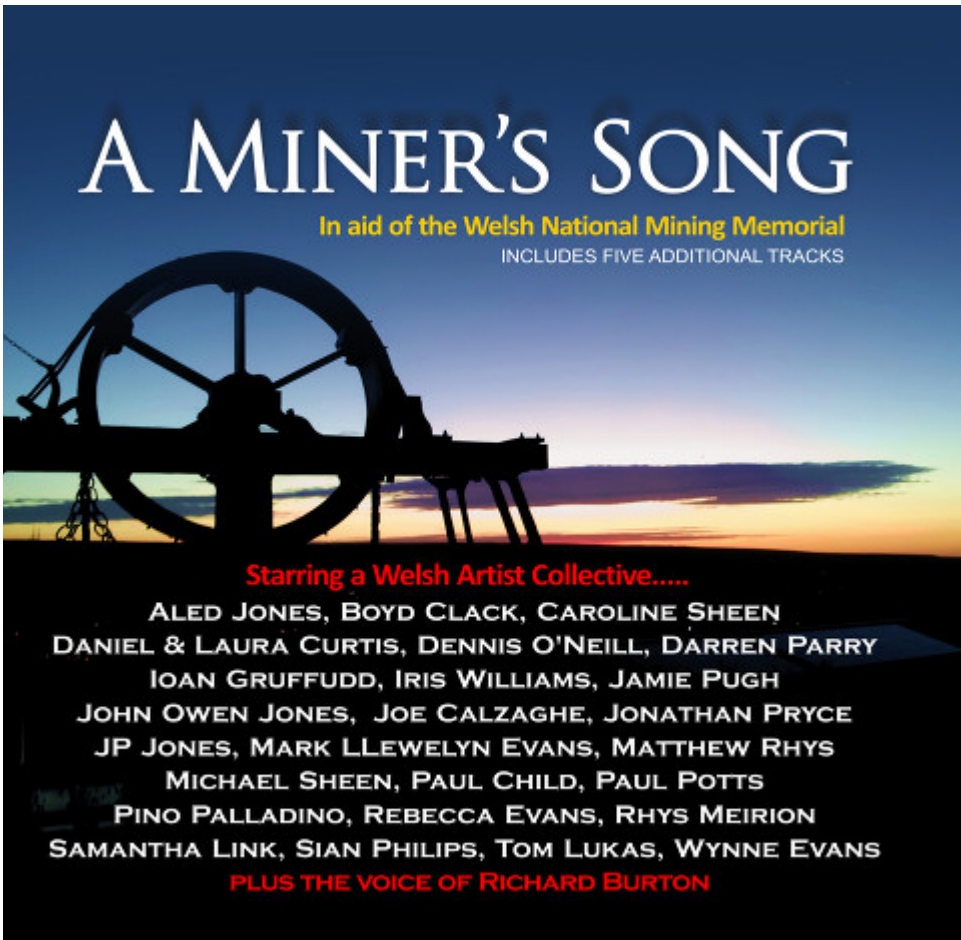
We send condolences to Doreen's family on behalf of our church community.

Doreen passed peacefully away with her family by her side, at The Georgian Bay General Hospital on March fourteenth. Doreen was in her eighty ninth year and was the wife of the late John Franklin Bray.

Doreen had seven grandchildren and seven great grand children.

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Remember to bring in those unwanted, dusty pennies. I'm sure that most of you have enough around the house to purchase a whole bed kit for some needy child.



For orders Call us on: 020 456 789 Mail us on: pinetrail@email.com

I was asked to let Gadwyn readers know about this. It is for a good cause and well worth possessing...Myfanwy.

'A Miner's Song' video was released yesterday.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkkmE_vWI2k
 The link to buy the song is: www.nationalminingmemorial.co.uk

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On The Move

Rick and Barbara Owen. 49 Prince Edward Road. Woodstock . Ontario.N4V 1G8

New Email Address for Trisha and peter Stevenson. trishapeterstevenson@yahoo.ca

TEA TIME

Dewi Sant ladies are asking that people sign up for refreshment making on a Sunday morning. It is not a very demanding task and there are plenty around willing to pitch in and help if it is needed.

You all enjoy the weekly fellowship, just think how different it would be without any treats!

Gadwyn Donors

William and Mary Hall, Shirley Evans, John Jenkins , Albert and Doreeta Lusk and Joan Humphrey. *We thank you for your donations.*

It is quite expensive to print and postage. As you must be aware , postage costs creep up. If any of you would like to receive Y Gadwyn on line please let us know and we will put you on that list instead of the mailing list

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LENT AND EASTER AT DEWI SANT WELSH UNITED

Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 pm

Holy Thursday

Foot Washing and Holy Communion
Exodus 12” 1-4; 11-14; John 13: 1-17; 31b-35

Friday, March 29 at 3:30 pm

Good Friday

Isaiah 53: 1-6; John 18: 1-19;42
Preacher: The Rev. Elwyn Hughes

Dinner at 5pm

Gymanfa Ganu at 7:00 pm

Conductor: Sheryl Clay-Newell

Sunday March 31 –Easter Sunday

9:00 am – Holy Communion followed by the Easter Breakfast

11: 00 am –Easter Service with Children’s Presentation

Sunday April 7th

7.00 p.m. - Welsh Service, Y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg

8:f

Subject: 9 months later!!!

Keith decided to go skiing with his buddy, David. So they loaded up Keith's minivan and headed north.

After driving for a few hours, they got caught in a terrible blizzard. So they pulled into a nearby farm and asked the attractive lady who answered the door if they could spend the night.

'I realize it's terrible weather out there and I have this huge house all to myself, but I'm recently widowed,' she explained. 'I'm afraid the neighbours will talk if I let you stay in my house.'

'Don't worry,' Keith said. 'We'll be happy to sleep in the barn. And if the weather breaks, we'll be gone at first light.' The lady agreed, and the two men found their way to the barn and settled in for the night.

Come morning, the weather had cleared, and they got on their way. They enjoyed a great weekend of skiing.

But about nine months later, Keith got an unexpected letter from an attorney. It took him a few minutes to figure it out, but he finally determined that it was from the attorney of that attractive widow he had met on the ski weekend.

He dropped in on his friend David and asked, 'David, do you remember that good-looking widow from the farm we stayed at on our ski holiday up north about 9 months ago?'

'Yes, I do.' Said David.

'Did you, er, happen to get up in the middle of the night, go up to the house and pay her a visit?'

'Well, um, yes!,' David said, a little embarrassed about being found out, 'I have to admit that I did.'

'And did you happen to give her my name instead of telling her your name?'

David's face turned beet red and he said, 'Yeah, look, I'm sorry, buddy. I'm afraid I did.' 'Why do you ask?'

'She just died and left me everything.'
(And you thought the ending would be different, didn't you?... you know you smiled...now keep that smile for the rest of the day!)

myfanwy@rogers.com 905 737 4399 ***I'd love to hear from you!! Myfanwy.***