



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

November Tachwedd 2014

Greetings from the Ministers Desk November 2014

It is wonderful to be back from my trip to Wales and find colours changing and the weather still warm and dry (generally!). As I write, I am keenly aware that we are fully into autumn in Toronto: which means that colder air and wetter weather is soon to be upon us. Fall is as true a predictor of winter on the way as anything.



Many people find winter difficult at the best of times and the latest winter forecast gives little to be cheerful about.

Yet into every life some rain must fall.

Our Christian tradition tells us that God is with us always. We are not alone.

This is comforting when we go through bad personal or professional times. (or in Canada, bad weather!)



The community of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church is a blessing with the warmth and the generous spirit of the members offering friendship and a sense of home that is needed and appreciated by all.

Please plan to join us in all the exciting activities that November and December will bring. From Bazaar to Concert to Advent and Christmas celebrations and the St. David's Christmas dinner, there is much to enjoy and many to share in the joys.

May the cheer of approaching holidays celebrations lift our hearts and bring joy to our lives and our outlook.

Rev. Anne

Rev Anne's Trip to Wales September 26 - October 10, 2014



Our trip to Wales was a big success. I am so glad that we got there and grateful for the extremely good weather. We picked up a rental car from Manchester airport and drove to Llandudno. We were staying at a lovely hotel overlooking the Bay and the Irish Sea.

Great Orme offered a chance to walk/hike for the better part of a day and we saw the copper mine up on the hill. It was an impressive discovery and very absorbing for me and Bill although he is better with small passages and deep, damp spaces than I am!

We next went to Caernarfon where we enjoyed the castle and stayed at a very old Inn! It was beautiful but even so there were a lot of timber beams capable of causing serious concussion!

The next day we drove to Anglesey Island and had a wonderful time exploring Penmon Priory, Puffin island and the lighthouse overlooking Great Orme.

We drove on to Criccieth which was not too far. It is a great town to walk around and on the shore. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet up with Deian and Annette because they were away at the time we were there. But it was nice to see the town where they live.

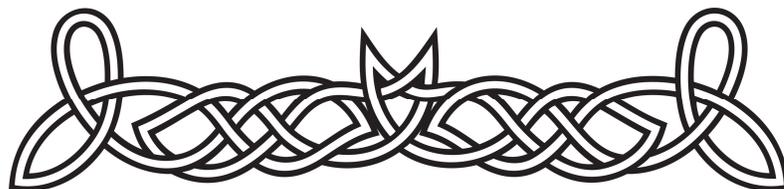
We drove to Dolgellau next and were blessed by particularly good weather, so we walked on the beach at Barmouth and took a lovely walk along "The Torrent"

Twice while at Dolgellau we ate dinner in old jails-beautifully restored with thick stone walls and excellent food. I doubt the previous "guests" enjoyed such a nice time as we did!

After a long drive we arrived at Haverford West where we stayed overnight. We went to St David's which was absolutely stunning: even on a damp day, the peaceful setting was engaging.

We ventured to the place where Dylan Thomas lived and wrote at Laugharne. It was not too busy so we saw the little shed where he wrote and the house clinging to the side of the hill where the family lived. It was a day of extremely low tides so many fishermen were out enjoying the sunny, warm weather. Driving on to Cardiff we stayed near the wharf. This was a weekend so there were lots of people out having a meal and walking with their friends and children. A very social scene! We spent time at Cardiff castle and walked around the St David's area until our feet hurt! From there it was off to the airport to turn in our trusty little car and go home! We both learned a bit of Welsh and tried to use it to considerable amusement!

We had an amazing time in Wales. It is even more beautiful than I could have imagined and my hope is to return some day soon. It is not surprising that you all love it so much and return so often!



Remembrance Day (also known as **Poppy Day** or **Armistice Day**) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth countries since the end of World War I to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty. This day, or alternative dates, are also recognised as special days for war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries.



Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November to recall the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month," in accordance with the Armistice, signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning. ("At the 11th hour" refers to the *passing* of the 11th hour, or 11:00 am.) World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.^[1] The day was specifically dedicated by King George V on 7 November 1919 as a day of remembrance for members of the armed forces who were killed during World War I.^[2] The Initial or Very First Armistice Day was held at Buckingham Palace commencing with King George V hosting a "Banquet in Honour of the President of the French Republic"^[3] during the evening hours of 10 November 1919. The first official Armistice Day was subsequently held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace on the morning of 11 November 1919. This would set the trend for a day of Remembrance for decades to come. The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of Remembrance Day due to the poem "In Flanders Fields". These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, their brilliant red colour an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

The national *Poppy Campaign* kicked off Friday, October 31 in support of our nation's veterans and their families. Millions around Canada don the scarlet red poppy on their lapels for Remembrance Day, showing their support and appreciation for those who have served, fought or died on history's battlefields.



While volunteers and veterans alike hand out poppies by donation across Metro Vancouver until Tuesday, November 11, the history of the Remembrance Day poppy symbolizes a century-long movement to acknowledge the sacrifice of soldiers around the world.

The link between the red poppy and war dates back to the Napoleonic wars of the 19th century. After the battles, once desolate fields became saturated with lime from desecrated rubble seeping into the earth. Thriving from this unique addition to the soil, blood-red poppies began to bloom, flowering over the remnants of war and loss. Nearly 100 years later, Lieut.-Col. John McCrae, a Canadian doctor on the World War One front, observed this cardinal blooming and wrote "In Flanders Fields" to document the tragic beauty of the poppy.

Not long after, Moina Michael of the New York City YMCA started to wear a poppy on her lapel in memory of the millions who died in the First World War. The custom spread internationally to France and beyond when others began selling the poppies to raise money for the children of war, and Canada adopted the custom in 1921. Today, the Poppy Campaign distributes over 18 million poppies worldwide to raise money for veterans and their families in times of need. The Royal Canadian Legion/BC Yukon Command is now distributing poppies on streets, outside of businesses and government offices and next to some cash registers. The suggested donation rate is \$1-2, and you can text POPPY to 20222 to donate \$5 to the Legion's Poppy funds.

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.,
Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.
He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.
Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?



The politician's stipend
And the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that he gives.
While the ordinary Veteran,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Veteran,
Who would fight until the end.
He was just a common Veteran,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.
For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
**"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."**

By Geraint Roberts

And Death Shall Have No Dominion

*And death shall have no dominion. Dead man naked they shall be one
With the man in the wind and the west moon; When their bones are picked clean and the clean bones
gone,*

*They shall have stars at elbow and foot; Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea they shall rise again; Though lovers be lost love shall not;*

And death shall have no dominion.

And death shall have no dominion. Under the windings of the sea

*They lying long shall not die windily; Twisting on racks when sinews give way,
Strapped to a wheel, yet they shall not break; Faith in their hands shall snap in two,*

And the unicorn evils run them through; Split all ends up they shan't crack;

And death shall have no dominion. And death shall have no dominion.

No more may gulls cry at their ears Or waves break loud on the seashores;

Where blew a flower may a flower no more Lift its head to the blows of the rain;

Though they be mad and dead as nails, Heads of the characters hammer through daisies;

*Break in the sun till the sun breaks down, **And death shall have no dominion.***

Taken from *The Poems* (published by Dent), used with the permission of David Higham Associates

This is one of Dylan Thomas' most famous poems. There are great celebrations all over the Known Welsh World, commemorating Dylan's 100th birthday.

The Movie, "under Milk Wood," has been shown by many Welsh Societies. We, here in Toronto are planning to show the film soon, in order that we join in the celebrations. Although Dylan wrote in English he has been acknowledged as one of Wales' most honoured poets. His works are included in many university courses.

To be asked to write about Dylan Thomas is like being asked to write about what it's like to be alive.



There is no other writer whose work can exhilarate me like his. No one whose vision of this life can fill me with the same sense of awe and appetite. No one whose words can make my mouth water as much, or whose images demand such mousing. The combustible mixture of sly parochialism and exotic sensuality, underpinned by a roiling pagan intelligence, has a vitality and immediacy that can hit you like a slap on a cold day.

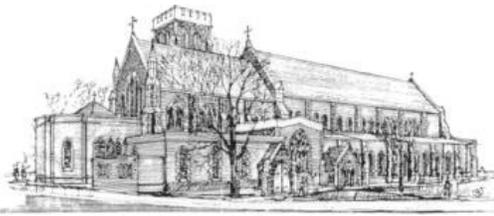
*Welsh poet and playwright Dylan Thomas.
Photograph: Francis Reiss/Picture Post*

That Dylan Thomas' life and work are being celebrated so fully this year is a great boon to us all.

To emulate its dark magic you would have to drink from the same enchanted waters that Dylan himself did, strike the same infernal pact with whatever Welsh devil he met at the crossed paths of

A swirling life he had. The stories and the legends are legion, of course. The bookshops are stocking up, the hotels undergoing spring-cleans and the pubs preparing to welcome guests keen to follow in the footsteps of Wales's most famous poet and hellraiser.

Admirers of Dylan Thomas are expected to descend in droves on South Wales this year not just from across the UK but from the US, Europe and the far east to join a year-long celebration marking the centenary of his birth. At the same time, as part of the Dylan Thomas 100 festivities, the Welsh government and the British Council Wales are organising a series of cultural events and education initiatives across North America, India, Australia and Argentina to further spread the word about Thomas – and Wales.



Jeff Towns, who runs Dylans Bookstore in Swansea, city of Thomas's birth in October 1914, said he was expecting the centenary to reinforce the poet's global reputation as well as providing an economic boost for the region. "The Americans took Thomas to heart after his death in New York, especially after the likes of Richard Burton and Bob Dylan made their admiration for him clear," said Towns. "He was elevated to an icon alongside the likes of James Dean."

Towns, such a fan that he sports a tattoo of the Thomas line: "Oh as I was young and easy in the mercy of his means", said continental Europe came to love the writer not for his roistering image and rock'n'roll early death aged 39, but simply for his poetry.

"I've always found that Europeans, especially Scandinavians, took to him without the prejudice that he has faced in England and Wales. They are more interested in the work on the page rather than the man."

But Thomas's reputation has not always been as solid in Wales as in other parts of the world. One theory is that as a non-native speaker he was considered not Welsh enough in Wales – but was regarded as too Welsh by the English. Towns also believes that his reputation as a womaniser and drinker upset the puritanical element in Wales.

However, it sounds as if Wales may be ready to finally embrace Thomas. The first minister, Carwyn Jones, is a big fan, revealing to the Guardian that his favourite character from Under Milk Wood is the blind Captain Cat, who dreams of his long-gone shipmates and lost lover Rosie Probert in Thomas's play for voices.

The first minister chuckled as he pointed out how Thomas's fictional village in Under Milk Wood – Llareggub – spelled out something rather rude backwards. "That shows the devilment of the man."

*Jones has launched the Dylan 100 international programme – Starless and Bible Black – a phrase from Under Milk Wood. The idea is to put on a series of cultural events and also to offer teaching notes about Thomas to schools across the world to spread the word even further. **M***

I grew up with practical parents. A mother, God love her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen before they had a name for it. A father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one hand, and dish-towel in the other. It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more.

Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away...never to return.. So... While we have it..... it's best we love it.... And care for it... And fix it when it's broken..... And heal it when it's sick.

This is true. For marriage..... And old cars..... And children with bad report cards..... And dogs with bad hips.... And aging parents..... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special..... And so, we keep them close!



I received this from someone who thinks I am a 'keeper', so I've sent it to the people I think of in the same way... Now it's your turn to send this to those people that are "keepers" in your life.

When you die, 9 things GOD won't ask you:

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
4. God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
5. God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
6. God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
7. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
8. God won't ask about the color of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.
9. God won't ask why it took you so long to find Him and ask Him into your house, He'll lovingly take you to heaven and not to the gates of Hell .

Dave Pugh

DEWI SANT CHRISTMAS DINNER SATURDAY DECEMBER 6, 2014

5:45 PM FOR 6:30 DINNER

Come and enjoy a delicious home-cooked turkey dinner with all the trimmings

Tickets: \$20. For adults, \$10. For children 12 and under.

Contact: Elizabeth Stroud , 416 -465-1814, or
Arleigh Quesnelle, 416-483-6870 , e-mail arleighquesnelle@sympatico.ca

PLEASE NOTE THAT TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO THE EVENT

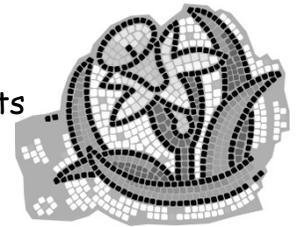
There will be light entertainment after dinner.



VOICES OF WALES

**A Wonderful evening of
Welsh Music and Literature on November 22 at 7:30 pm.**

Four notable Canadian performers will present a programme of Welsh songs, stories, poems and snippets from plays. The performance will be mostly in English, often with a Welsh lilt and always with "hwl" - which is Welsh for "soul".



Gaynor Jones (*soprano*), David Lowe (*piano*) Robert Missen (*tenor*) and Vivienne Muhling (*actor*) will include work by beloved eighteenth century Welsh composers as well as noted twentieth century writers like Dylan Thomas and Emyln Williams. Capel Dewi Sant's rafters of will ring to the well-known marching beat of Men of Harlech and to the sometimes naughty words of Dylan Thomas. From the stirring hymn "Cwm Rhondda" to well-loved folk songs and the forward-looking lines of playwright Emyln Williams, this promises to

Please put this date in your calendars and plan to attend with friends, neighbours and family. It is a great (early) Christmas gift!

**Contact the Church Office by phone (416) 485-7583
or email info@dewisant.com to reserve tickets**

The Saint Davids Society Of Toronto

The **annual banquet** will be held at the **Thornhill Golf Club** on **February 28th 2015**.

Please keep this date in mind when you are booking holidays to faraway places in the sun.

We need as many people as possible to help us celebrate our National Day. It is only one day out of a whole year !!



For your information



*It takes a great deal of work to keep our church running smoothly. It is time to thank the unpaid devoted volunteers who spend hours weekly working for Dewi Sant. They get little thanks, if any. The ONLY people on the church payroll are, the minister, the secretary and the cleaner. **A very big thank you to the rest of you***

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Gadwyn Donations

*Joan Humphrey, Anne Johnston, David Jones, Megan Little, Sybil Pugh, Robert & Dilys Stevens, Anne Tanner
Sincere thanks. Your contributions are gratefully received.*

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Winter is at our doorstep and the nights are getting longer. This is the time for your creative juices to be flowing onto paper and into **Y Gadwyn**. **Let's make the next issue one written by YOU not ME!!!** myfanwy@rogers.com 905 737 4399

I'll make the deadline the 1st of December. Diolch yn fawr. *Myfanwy*.

Cawl Cig Eidon Sir Benfro.

Pembrokeshire Beef Cawl



Ingredients:

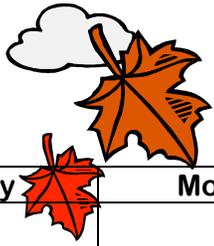
Savoy Cabbage, a couple of sliced onions, beef marrow bones (optional), stewing beef, turnip, carrots, potatoes. Sliced leeks in circles, parsley chopped.

*Quantity is up to you. Everything is cut up and put into the pot in the **above order**. Add the washed leeks about ten minutes before you are going to serve this. Boil for a few minutes and then add the parsley. If you want to give it a little more kick, add*

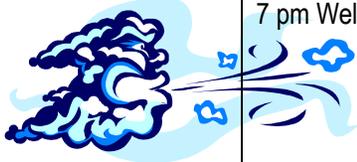
*Swiss Knorr Leek Soup (Optional) This can be made with a Ham hock a leg of lamb or chicken. This was a meal that was prepared for the farmers dinner (lunch) before going out again to the fields. The meat was removed and served after the cawl with dumplings and some of the vegetables from the Cawl. There are no measurements !!!The Lunch Bunch enjoyed this on Tuesday. **M***

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A big thank you to Fiona Vipond for artistic inserts. They make the Gadwyn look so much better. **M**



NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9 am Welsh Class 2 pm Hope Church
2 Pentecost 21 11 am Communion 2 pm Hope Church 7 pm Welsh Service	3	4 10 am Bible Study 11 am Staff Meeting 11 am Lunch Bunch	5 7 pm TWMVC	6	7 7 pm Welsh Class	8 9 am Welsh Class 9:30 - 1:30 Annual Bazaar & Rummage Sale 2 pm Hope Church
9 Remembrance Sunday 11 am Worship 2 pm Hope Church	10	11 Remembrance Day  10 am Bible Study	12 7 pm TWMVC	13	14 7 pm Welsh Class	15 9 am Welsh Class 2 pm Hope Church
16 Pentecost 23 11 am Worship <i>Rev. Rob Metcalf</i> 2 pm Hope Church	17	18 10 am Bible Study	19 7 pm TWMVC	20	21 7 pm Welsh Class	22 9 am Welsh Class 2 pm Hope Church 7:30 pm Voices of Wales
23 Reign of Christ Session Meets 11 am Worship 2 pm Hope Church	24	25 10 am Bible Study	26 7 pm TWMVC	27 	28 7 pm Welsh Class	29 9 am Welsh Class 2 pm Hope Church
30 Advent 1 Board Meets 11 am Worship 2 pm Hope Church						