



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

Ionawr/ January 2015

As you read this we are well into the cold and snow of a truly Canadian winter. That does not distract us too much: we are busy with ideas and plans for the approaching months at Dewi Sant.

Chief among those are plans for Special Music Sundays in which we will have a departure from the regular service format in order to celebrate the musical gifts of our congregation.

The first will be on Sunday Jan 25th as we celebrate the theme of "LOVE" with Sheryl Clay-Newell.

The theme on February 22nd will be "Family" with the Dewi Sant Sunday School.

Please plan to attend and enjoy these services.

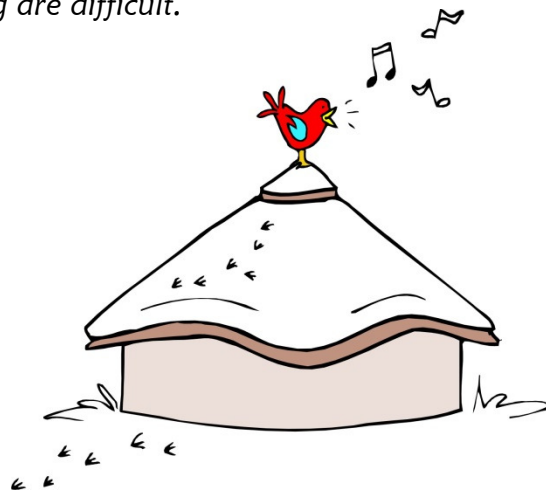
Our Annual General Meeting will soon be scheduled. All of those who are responsible for reports are asked to submit them as soon as possible: it takes time to compile the Annual Report.

Winter can be a lonely time when driving and walking are difficult.

Please let the office know if you would like a visit.

Bendithion/ Blessings

Rev Anne



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Hen Galan ~ A True Welsh Celebration.



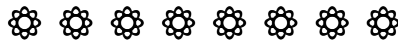
In a small wooded valley near Fishguard, the inhabitants of Cwm Gwaun (Gwaun Valley) are getting ready for the annual New Year Celebration on the 13th of January!

No they are not two weeks late—they still run according to the old Julian Calendar. The Julian Calendar was abolished, controversially in 1752 and replaced with the Gregorian Calendar which was approved by pope Gregory XIII nearly two hundred years earlier. The people of the Gwaun Valley resisted the change. In true Welsh tradition the children go from door to door singing and are given Calennig in return (that is sweets and a little money).

In Bessie's infamous Dyffryn Arms (which has been in the same family since 1840) revelers gather to share a tipple. In the mean time local cooks prepare a huge meal for the family.

Traditionally Hen Galan was a bigger celebration than Christmas, so goose and turkey were the favoured fare.

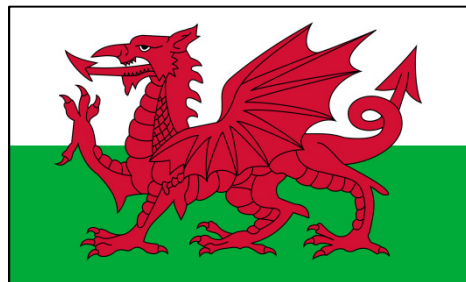
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For the love of Wales A poem written by Rowena Jones

Each morning when I wake I feel so proud to know
That this great country where I live, is rich with its beauty all on show
With our mountains standing tall, You will find at each base, the rivers and the streams
All stretching out like lace We have beaches, cliffs and coastlines
Inspiring folk from miles away, to write poems and paint pictures, and quite often they will stay.
We boast choirs and strong voices, all singing hymns and arias.
Songs like "Sospan Fach," "Calon Lan", and the great "Land of My Fathers."
We have men from down the valleys, Doctors, Farmers, Miners.
Boys all in red sweaters at the pitch side, watching an oval ball as it flies.
And then a loud roar from the crowd, as Wales gets its third Grand Slam.
Making all of them feel proud, just to be true Welsh men.
So Wales has so many qualities. There is so much to see.
It's made me who I am today. As you can see it has inspired me.

Rowena Jones



Consider this quote: “For all practical purposes Welsh is a dead language.”

This quote appeared in the Times newspaper, a reputable source of information. You may well believe it to be the case. After all, it's common knowledge that the Welsh language is either dead, or dying. Now consider the fact that the quote was written in 1866. Yes, 1866 – that's 145 years ago!

To paraphrase and misquote Mark Twain (I'm sure he won't mind): “Reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.” But the danger facing the Welsh language isn't a total myth. UNESCO considers the language to be ‘vulnerable’. It is indeed endangered, mostly because of the situation in which it finds itself – sharing a small island with the birthplace of the present global lingua franca, English. And at first glance the statistics do suggest a steep decline. At the turn of the 19th century pretty much everyone in Wales spoke Welsh. By the start of the 20th century, as a result of the mass movement of people caused by the industrial revolution, around 50% of the population spoke the language. Now about 20% do.

However what these figures don't take into account is the numbers of people speaking the language. It's worth remembering that because of the huge rise in population in Wales over the last two centuries, the numbers of Welsh speakers hasn't fallen that dramatically even as the percentage relative to the rest of the population has declined.

Despite the supposed ‘death’ of the language alluded to in the Times above, there were just over a million Welsh speakers in Wales at the turn on the 20th century – more than ever before in the history of the language. As the historian Ieuan Gwynedd Jones (1992: 56) states: “One simple but very important fact is that there were more people who could speak Welsh in 1901 than in 1801.” In the present day there are some 600,000 Welsh speakers. So even as the percentage of Welsh speakers relative to the rest of the population has fallen, there are still more actual speakers of Welsh today than at almost any point in the 2000 year plus history of the language.

For the first time in centuries, the Welsh language is being promoted rather than actively discouraged. The most recent 2011 census showed that 42.2% of people between 10-14 years of age in Wales could speak Welsh. That's a higher percentage of people of that age than could speak it during the 1911 census (39.7%) – over 100 years ago.

This has given rise to hopes that the percentage of speakers has at least stabilized, and could yet rise quickly in future. The challenge for the language now is to ensure that all these young people – almost half their population – who do speak Welsh, keep hold of the language after leaving high school. It's a matter of making it relevant to their lives. The Welsh language cannot be allowed to become a set of dusty china that is taken out on important occasions only. Lots of people being *able* to speak it isn't enough – it needs to continue to be a living, community language.

In summary, then, if the Welsh language is ‘dead’, then, it's ‘dead’ in the same way Welsh rugby was ‘dead’ after the 2007 Rugby World Cup – i.e. in a bit of a wobbly patch, but with the right people in charge, great things could yet happen.

Over 145 years since the Times declared it dead – **this language isn't going anywhere! Ifan Morgan Jones** “*Yes Ifan the language is definitely not dead and is flourishing and growing. Go into you computers and do some serious research*”

Myfanwy

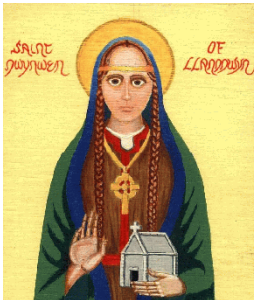
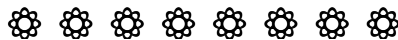
Dwynwen

This day of Valentine has come so fast,
A time for sweethearts, friends and all who love.
But yet another day has just gone past,
Another day of love from God above.
As Welsh we celebrate St. Dwynwen's Day,
A Princess fair, King Brychain's Royal line
To Mona's lovely Isle she found her way,
And founded there a Nunnery so fine.
Now Dwynwen soon became Welsh lover's Saint
And brought about a well in rock and sea
Where sweethearts went to see if hearts were fair
And swirling fish foretold their love to be.
So in Saint Dwynwen's name I pledge my heart
A few days late dear one, we'll never part.



The late Tom Pinion Jones

Betty Jones



Dydd Santes Dwynwen, Welsh for St. Dwynwen's Day, is considered to be the Welsh equivalent to Valentine's Day and is celebrated on 25 January every year. It celebrates Dwynwen: she is the Welsh saint of love.

Much of Welsh history is based on stories and songs which were traditionally passed on by word of mouth. As such, the original tale has become mixed with elements of folktales and Celtic stories, and so there are a number variations on the tale.

The story goes that in the 5th Century Dwynwen fell in love with Maelon Dafodrill. Maelon returned her feelings but for an undetermined reason, they could not be together. Three hypotheses are that a) Maelon raped Dwynwen despite her wish to remain celibate until after marriage, b) her father forbade the marriage, or c) her father had already promised her to someone else. Dwynwen, distraught by her love for Maelon, prays to fall out of love with him.

After falling asleep, or possibly while still awake in a woods she had run to in her distress, Dwynwen was visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice. God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. First she wished that Maelon be thawed, second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers and third that she should never marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

Gadwyn Donations

*Shirley Evans, Laverne Horner, Brian & Joan Huges, Joan Mathews, Ann McConnell,
Megan Wynne McKee, Gordon Nodwell
Sincere thanks. Your contributions are gratefully received.*

Llanddwyn



St. Dwynwen's Church
Llanddwyn

Dwynwen became a nun, fulfilling her wish to never marry. She left for the island of Anglesey and built a Church, which became known as Llanddwyn, literally meaning "Church of Dwynwen". Its remains can still be seen today on the island of Llanddwyn, off the coast of Anglesey. The smaller island also contains Dwynwen's well, where, allegedly, a sacred fish swims, whose movements predict the future fortunes and relationships of various couples. Another tradition claims that if the water boils while visitors are present, then love and good luck will surely follow.

Myfanwy

Here I am on my soap box! I strongly feel that we all (WELSH PEOPLE), should have a smattering of knowledge about our roots and heritage. It is not important, in this case whether you speak Welsh or not. THAT should not be a hindrance to your knowing a little something about where you came from. M



A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

OLWEN MORGAN



With sadness we advise you of the death of Olwen Morgan, on January 3, 2015, in her 91st year. Olwen was a faithful member of Dewi Sant and will be greatly missed by all of us. Olwen religiously visited two Dewi Sant members every week, for years. Although both are totally unaware of their surroundings. Such love and devotion needs to be applauded. Olwen leaves behind two sons and two daughters, plus devoted grandchildren. Olwen was a very well educated lady who had travelled to most corners of the earth. Cysga yn dawel. Sleep peacefully in your well earned rest.

Something < I bet that you didn't know!!!!!!(Be honest and let me know if you did !) Jack Daniel's WELSH whiskey? Original recipe for famous drink 'discovered in dusty book by ancestor of distillery's founder'

By Leon Watson. The original recipe for legendary American whiskey Jack Daniel's has been discovered in a dusty old book - in Wales.

Businessman Mark Evans, 54, was researching his family history when he discovered the recipe for legendary American whiskey Jack Daniel's in a dusty book of herbal remedies in Llanelli, South Wales. 'I was doing some family research, looking at photographs and things, and I wanted to look at the family bible. At the bottom of the bookcase was this book.' It was written in 1853 by his great-great grandmother who was called Daniels and was a local herbalist in Llanelli. Her brother-in-law left the Welsh town at about the same time to move to Lynchburg, Tennessee, where the Jack Daniel's distillery was opened three years later. And the Jack Daniel's website states the founder of the distillery was from Wales.



Mr. Evans' grandmother Lillian Daniels Probert, who is 97 and living in Llanelli, can recall her own grandmother using the book to make herbal remedies and ointments. He said: 'My great, great-grandmother wrote in the book in 1853, and Jack Daniel's is dated 1866, so it predates it. 'There is a link, because my grandmother's grandfather's brother - my great, great uncle - left for America and nobody ever heard from him after a couple of letters.

'That was during the time that Jack Daniel's was set up, but more important than that, he was called John 'Jack the Lad' Daniel's.' We know he went to Lynchburg, Tennessee, and I'm pretty sure he used great-great grannie's recipe to start off the whiskey business.' Mr. Evans says the ingredients in his great-great grandmother's recipe match what goes into the best selling whiskey in the world. He said: 'I'm pretty sure I've discovered the original recipe in great-great grannie's book.

Jack Daniel's is the world's best-selling whiskey, but its history is a mystery because the distillery's early records were destroyed in a courthouse fire. A spokesman for the company said: 'We know our founder was from Wales - we would love to see the book and the recipe.'

JACK DANIEL: THE MAN WHO MADE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR WHISKEY

Jack Daniel was born Jasper Newton Daniel in September 1850 in Moore County, Tennessee. He was one of 12 children (or 13, depending on the source).

When he was age seven his mother, Lucinda Daniel, passed away and then at the age of 10, his father decided it was time for him to leave home, learn a trade and go to work. Jasper was put under the guidance of family friend and Lutheran minister, Reverend Dan Call, who owned a dry-goods store in Lynchburg, Tennessee.

It was there he learned the traditional 'sour mash' method, along with a complex filtering process he used to make his famous whiskey. As a boy Jack, as he came to be called, became a formidable brewmaster, able to rival the talents of his employer. Then, when Jack was only 13-years-old, Rev Call handed over the keys to distillery to his young prodigy and the rest was history

Myfanwy

And now, for the **HERE and Now Welsh activities**

ROBAT ARWYN COMES TO NIAGARA FALLS

“Who is Robat Arwyn?”, some of you may ask. Only the best known, most prolific, most respected musician in Wales today! Those are a lot of superlatives, but, believe me, he deserves every positive superlative you can throw his way. There isn't a choir in Wales or a North American Welsh choir that does not have Robat Arwyn's compositions in their repertoire. In addition to his frequent broadcasts and television programmes and his adjudicating at the highest level, Arwyn is the director of Côr Rhuthun – the guest choir at this year's Ontario Welsh Festival. So mark your calendars now. **April 24-26, 2015. Location? Marriott Gateway on the Falls hotel. Don't leave it too late to reserve your room or you may not get that Falls view room that you covet. Rooms with a view of the Falls cost \$145 and City view rooms are \$125.**



Don't forget to mention that you are with the Ontario Welsh Festival in order to get that special room rate. Phone numbers are 1-800-618-9059 or 905-374-1077. **March 24 is the cut off date.** Please do not ask The Board to help, because the bookings are not in their control.

In addition to the musical feast provided by Robat Arwyn and Côr Rhuthun, there will be a wealth of other events to enjoy. The Market Place will be full of temptations from Welsh CDs and tea cloths to endless cups of tea, Welsh cakes and Bara Brith. There will be a Noson Lawen in which I am sure some of our Welsh visitors will take part on Friday Night.

Please come and support our children at Awr y Plant on Saturday morning (after you've been to the AGM of course!) After the feast provided by Robat Arwyn and Côr Rhuthun, there will be a wealth of other events to enjoy. The Market Place will be full of temptations from Welsh CDs and tea cloths to endless cups of tea, Welsh cakes and Bara Brith. Brith. (after you've been too the AGM, of course!) Seminars will be offered on Saturday afternoon.

At the annual banquet the winner of the Gold Award will be honoured. We are delighted to report that this year's recipient is **Harold Woodey**. Harold has not been blessed with the best of health recently but we are keeping our fingers crossed that he will be well enough to attend. Then on to the much anticipated concert with Robat Arwyn.

Sunday's Gymanfa Ganu is the main reason for the weekend, of course, and along with Côr Rhuthun, we will sing our praises to the Lord. All too soon we will be singing "God be with you till we meet again" and bidding farewell to our many friends until next year.

Hefina Phillips

Saint David's Celebration

*The Saint David's Society Of Toronto is holding their **Annual Banquet on February 28th** This is to celebrate our Patron Saint. We have a lively night prepared for you with entertainment after the dinner. Please come to celebrate your heritage this one night of the year*

The venue: Thornhill Golf and Country Club on Yonge Street,

Cocktails 6.30. Dinner at 7.00. Cost. \$80 per person.

There is plenty of free parking.

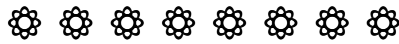
For more information contact: Elizabeth Stroud, Peter Lloyd-Jones, or Myfanwy Bajaj

AWR Y PLANT : CALLING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!



!Please mark your calendars: April 24-26. Awr y Plant is such a favourite part of the weekend, but its success totally depends on you to bring your children and grandchildren to the Festival. Without you, there would not be a Children's Hour. This is an opportunity for the children to showcase their talents whether they be instrumental, recitations, singing, dancing or joke telling. We have a special treat for the children this year. "Laura Secord" will visit us, and after her presentation she might well distribute samples of her delicious chocolates

Hefina Phillips



..My Latest "Find"

No-one could ever describe me as a "foodie". I have friends who belong to gourmet groups and others who can whip up a super meal in a flash. I don't even watch the Food Channel on television though I do anticipate with eagerness the most recent edition of the LCBO glossy magazine and drool over the photos of delicious looking meals. But I rarely actually attempt to make them!

However one of my gastronomic delights is cheese. After a crazily busy day what can beat a glass of smooth red wine accompanied by a soft white cheese, especially if it has a blue vein or two running through it. Total bliss!

When I was in Wales this past autumn I naturally gravitated to Swansea Market. After checking out the local delicacies, rhython a bara lawr (cockles and lavar bread), I made my way to the cheese stall. What a feast! This particular stall specialized in Welsh cheeses – none of your ubiquitous Caerffili (which is made in England now, anyway) but a variety of unusual cheeses. The owner

recognized my obvious delight and invited me to sample whatever took my fancy. (I tried not to be overly greedy!) My favourite? Perl Las (blue pearl), which not only tasted delicious but also looked gorgeous with streaks of blue running through it (hence the name). Definitely to be recommended! Do not go searching for this fabulous cheese in your local Loblaws or Whole Foods. The stall owner told me that one cannot buy it even next door in England. What is it about us Welsh that we don't market ourselves? This cheese beats anything that I've eaten here in Canada therefore we should be shouting about it from the rooftops. I have been complaining for a long time that Wales is not sufficiently recognized abroad. But whose fault is that? (More on my current pet peeve another day!) So next time you go to Wales, search for Perl Las. You don't like "blue" cheese? It has a sister called Perl Wen (white pearl). Tell the guy in Swansea Market I sent you!

Bon appétit.

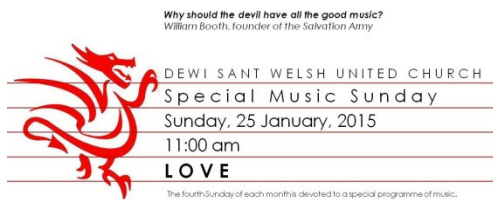


Hefina Phillips

There are several members and friends under the weather at this time. We pray for their speedy recovery.
Megan Morris. Nêst Pritchard's sister in Australia, Ram Bajaj, and Rita Hoffman If I have missed anyone please let me know. M

DEWI SANT SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

At the congregational luncheon meeting in November, a group of interested congregants volunteered to form a committee to consider events to be added to the church calendar to help encourage increased attendance. To date this group includes Colin Christie, Peter Lloyd Jones, Nia Davies, Hefina Phillips, Clarice Terry, Betty Cullingworth and Rev. Anne Hepburn.



The first initiative has been to add a special music service on the fourth Sunday of each month. On these special Sundays, the featured musician/s will work with Rev. Anne to highlight the chosen theme. The result should be an enriched and enriching service for all. Sheryl Clay Newell will be the guest artist in January where the theme will be love. In February, family month, the Sunday School will be featured and in March, Merched Dewi will highlight the work of William Williams Pantycelyn. We hope to

carry this initiative through the spring with different featured musicians and themes each month. Please mark your calendars and make a special effort to attend each of these services. We thank Rev. Anne for her enthusiasm in pursuing this initiative.

Although fund raising is not the explicit goal of this committee, it never hurts to add to the coffers and to this end **Dewi Sant Church** in conjunction with the **Ontario Gymanfa Ganu Association** (the OGGGA) will **cohost a dinner/auction** on **Saturday March 28th**. Further information will be forthcoming but please mark your calendars for this event that is sure to be great fun for all.

Would you like to join our merry band of volunteers? The committee will be sufficiently unstructured that you can come and be involved in those events of interest to you with no obligation to be at every meeting. Please watch for announcements of the meetings and join us whenever you wish. There is an open invitation to all to come and bring whatever ideas you feel will enrich your congregational experience here at Dewi Sant. If you are unable to attend in person, all suggestions will be gladly received by any of the committee members as listed above. Hope to see you at one of our meetings!!



Betty Cullingworth

The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and the Burlington Welsh Male Voice Chorus

*Firstly please note that the Welsh Service will be held a week later, at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. The Welsh language service on the first Sunday of the month will not be held in on March 1st. (as was decided prior to last year, due to the Canadian climate.) In March there will be a Welsh language service on the second **Sunday: March 8th. at 7 p.m. - with Rev. Elwyn Hughes officiating.** There will be a special concert by the combined Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and Burlington Welsh Male Chorus on St. David's Day, March 1st. In order to accommodate those involved with this concert, or wishing to attend, it has been decided to postpone the Dewi Sant Church service until the following week. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance at both these events celebrating our patron saint.*

FEBRUARY 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Christingle Sunday 11 am Communion 2 pm Hope Church	2	3 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group	4 7 pm TWMVC	5	6	7 2 pm Hope Church
8 Epiphany 5 11 am Worship 2 pm Hope Church	9	10 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group	11 7 pm TWMVC	12	13	14 2 pm Hope Church Happy Valentine's Day! 
15 Epiphany 6 11 am Worship 12:30 Session meets 2 pm Hope Church	16 Family Day 	17 Shrove Tuesday 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group	18 Ash Wednesday 7 pm TWMVC	19	20	21 2 pm Hope Church
22 Lent 1 11 am Special Music Sunday - Family 2 pm Hope Church	23	24 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group	25 7 pm TWMVC	26	27	28 2 pm Hope Church 6:30 pm St. David's Dinner