



# Y GADWYN

(The Link)

*News of the Toronto Welsh Community*

Mis Chwefror      February Edition 2015

## **Greeting from the Minister's desk. Feb 22nd 2015**

Greetings to you all! We are now barely a week from the beginning of March.

It is symbolic that spring will begin officially in less than a month and Dewi Sant will begin to show signs of new life as well.

Sunday March 1st is St David's Day. There will be a joint concert of two welsh male Voice Choirs that day so the Welsh service will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual St David's Day Banquet will take place at Thornhill Country Club on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>.

It means the "Lunch Bunch" are back together again on Tuesday March 3rd.

For Sunday School March means March Break which gives our teachers and students a break from school work and a chance to play in this winter wonderland.

It means that spring will soon be here- a welcome change of season after a very wintry winter!

I look forward to meeting more of you as the driving and weather get easier to navigate.

In the meantime we move into Lent on Feb 22nd which is the first Sunday of the season. That is the same day as the Special Music Sunday with the theme of FAMILY. Performed by the Sunday School.

For advance planning purposes:

Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday.

April 3rd is Good Friday: our afternoon service will be at 3:30pm followed by the dinner in the hall.

The Gymnafa Ganu takes place at 7pm. Not to be missed!

Easter begins on April 5<sup>th</sup> with a brief 9 am communion service followed by breakfast in the hall.

We gather for our service at 11am where we will strip the cross of the Lenten symbols and adorn it with flowers. Not to be missed!

**Reverend Anne**

## **Bible Trivia**

Three angels are named in the Bible - Gabriel, Michael and Lucifer

There were three storeys on Noah's Ark

There is no mention of a donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem

The only domestic animal NOT named in the Bible is the cat

There are 7 suicides recorded in the Bible

Almonds and pistachios are the only nuts named

49 different foods are named in the Bible

The name "Lord" appears 1855 times in the Bible

God is not mentioned by name in the books of Esther or The Song of Solomon

"Eternity" is mentioned just the once, in Isaiah 57:15

The longest name in the Bible is Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:1)

The number of Wise Men is not given  
 500 verses mention Prayer, less to Faith, but over 2000 to money and possessions  
 According to the New Testament there are TWELVE Pearly Gates  
 The most common name in the Bible is Zechariah, 33 are named  
 The shortest verse is two words long - "Jesus wept"  
 "Grandmother" is mentioned just once, in 2 Timothy 1:5  
 Moses was 120 years old when he died  
 And how is this for a fact - In 1632 a Bible was published in England that had a major error. It missed the 'not' in the 7th Commandment and reads : 'Thou shall commit adultery' !!!  
 The above mentions just a few of my list of strange facts about the Bible. I hope you also found them interesting.  
**Bendith Revd Deian. *Diolch yn fawr ,y Parchedig Deian Evans Annette and Deian send blessings to all at Dewi Sant.***

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**To Members of Dewi Sant Welsh Church**  
 Although you may not be Welsh speaking, I'm sure you'll agree that keeping the monthly Welsh language services alive is essential to our heritage at Dewi Sant. Traditionally services are held on the first Sunday evening of the month but because of the difficulty of travelling during the nasty winter evenings we no longer meet in January and February. But we renew our programme with enthusiasm at **7 PM on March 8th** when we look forward to a service led by the **Rev. Elwyn Hughes**. (This will be a week later than St David's Day so that we can support and attend the March 1st concert of the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and the Burlington Welsh Male Choir.) Maintaining our traditional Welsh services is challenging but thanks to technology and the support of past ministers such as Rev Dr Cerwyn Davies and Rev Elwyn Hughes, we are able to continue to offer Welsh language services once a month. Our new, splendid AV system enables us to see and hear recorded sermons from ministers in Wales, the first being from the Rev Deian Evans. Thanks to Peter Lloyd Jones for his technical help. Please, please make every effort to attend these services thus making all the hard work of arranging and preparing these services worthwhile. And by so doing you are also doing your part to preserve an important aspect of Welsh culture and traditions in Toronto. **Diolch yn fawr.**  
**Hefina Phillips**

## **Welsh Thumprints on the pages of North American History Part One.**

**Cerwyn has written this document in three parts. As Welsh people this is a very interesting document and Quite important for us to see where we here in North America fit into the scheme of things. M**

Many times on picking up the phone, someone on the other end would say, "oh I love your accent, where is it from.?" To which I would reply, "I will give you three guesses!" They would 95% of the time start with "Irish, then "Scottish," Then with "your not English, then "Jamaican" or "South African!!." When I would say, "I am from Wales" most of the time their reply would be, "Oh Princess Diana!!! NO, I am afraid that of all the Celtic nations, Wales is the least known in North America. The best known being Ireland, and this is not essentially because of contribution, but rather because of the vast numbers of Irish who emigrated. They beat the Welsh 26 to 1. !!!  
 When March 17<sup>th</sup> comes around America goes green, a river in Chicago is mixed with green dye, and of course green beer flows in all the pubs. Everyone knows St. Patrick, and we the Welsh are quick to remind them that St. Patrick, by birth a Welshman who was kidnapped by a band of thieving Irish men!!  
 Robbie Burns day on January 25<sup>th</sup>, is celebrated worldwide, but come March 1<sup>st</sup>. And it's 'business as usual' nothing for poor old Saint David, apart from a few diehard Welsh people and even then the

attitude seems to be “so what? No one seems to care a hoot about March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ask Americans, “who is the patron saint of Wales?”and they’ll probably say , “Tom Jones.”

NO the Welsh are not very well known in North America, and yet it is officially recorded in the records from the United States, House of Representatives that no nation in **proportion to its size** has contributed more to the American development of the USA than have the Welsh!!

20% of the Pilgrim Fathers who sailed on the Mayflower were Welsh including the captain Christopher Jones. If you were to visit Ottawa the capital city of Canada, and went to the Senate chamber in the Houses of Parliament (The equivalent to our House of Lords),you would see engraved into the ornate ceiling a Red Dragon, to signify forever the contribution of the Welsh, in founding Canada.

When did the Welsh begin to emigrate across the “pond”?

:Legend has it that probably it all started in the 12<sup>th</sup> century with Prince Madog who came over with a convoy of thirteen ships. He was so impressed that he went back for another eight loads. He landed back and was never heard of again! Legend says that a band of Welshmen penetrated deep into (so called) Indian country and integrated with a band of Indians known as the Mandan, a branch of the Sioux.

For centuries there were people who said they had seen fir skinned Indians with blue eyes who spoke a dialect very much like Welsh.

Scholars have, through the years dismissed this as a mere legend, but recently the debate is heating up again. Those interested in genealogy are now once more saying that there is more truth in the legend. DNA examples are now said to prove a definite link.

However the first registered Welsh man to land in Canada was in1612 when a certain Sir Thomas Batton was sent over by the English throne to discover a way through the Northwest Passage!

However, the first effort at colonizing was around 1812 when a certain John Matthews persuaded some 385 people to join him to form a settlement in Ontario, near what is now called London.

However by the late 1870’s the Welsh character of the colony had all but disappeared .from a settlement

The Cariboo gold rush brought over a wave of would be gold seekers from Cymru fach!

In the USA the first registered Welshman was Howard Powell, from Breconshire who settled in Virginia in 1642. In the following days emigration was very much on individual basis. but when King Charles 11 was returned to the English throne in 1660 things began to change drastically because of his sheer religious intolerance.

The first Quakers acquired a tract of 40 thousand acres around the Delaware river !

The first real Welsh colony was established in Pennsylvania and was given the name “Cambria”. BY the way, Pennsylvania was supposed to have been called New Wales, but was changed to Pennsylvania which may have nothing to do with William Penn, but rather that “**pen**” is taken from the Welsh “**head**” or “summit”. It is named after a hill in that region called Sylvania! So “they” say!

Even America may not have been named(as is believed) after Amerigo Vespucci but rather after a Welshman who was one of the chief investors in the second Transatlantic voyage of John Cabot. His name was **Richard ab Meurig!** **Part 2 to follow in the next edition of Y Gadwyn**

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Did you know that 2015 is the sesquicentennial of the Welsh immigration to Patagonia? In 1865 a small ship left Liverpool, England with 162 intrepid Welsh patriots whose sole purpose in making this journey was to establish a Welsh colony thousands of miles from “home”. I’m sure you know that if you travel to certain parts of Argentina today you will find people with whom you can converse completely in Welsh? No, I am not kidding!

In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Welsh language was under extreme attack from the English government. It was banned in schools and any child caught speaking his mother tongue was severely beaten. England dominated Wales in all aspects of government, which again meant that English became the lingua franca. This was intolerable for many and some leaders began to search for lands where they could establish a Welsh colony where every aspect of their lives could be led through the medium of Welsh, without fear of repercussions. Argentina offered such land and finally The *Mimosa* was commissioned to take 162 Welsh men, women and children across the vast ocean to establish the first Welsh colony. After six gruelling weeks at sea they finally arrived in what is known today as the Chubut region of Patagonia.

By today, Spanish is the dominant language, but there is a strong Welsh resurgence. Welsh medium schools are mushrooming. There is an annual Eisteddfod. Visitors from Wales flock to the colony, known in Welsh as Y Wladfa. So, after a very rocky period under Peron and “the Generals”, things are looking up for the future of the Welsh language on the other side of the world.

Hefina Phillips

## 'They tried to create a Welsh-speaking community in a land far away from Wales': The unsung story of US trailblazer Margaret Evans Roberts

- She was one of the first Welsh people to make a real impact on the other side of the Atlantic – but her profound role in 19th century American culture has since been largely forgotten.

- Roberts' story is representative of the journeys of the hundreds of thousands of Welsh people who left Wales in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and especially women who found new lives and opportunities in America.

- She also caused a storm when she highlighted the amount of drunkenness that occurred in the industrial areas of south Wales.

•Now Roberts will be the subject of an **S4C** documentary Dylan ar Daith: O Hirwaun i Iowa, the latest in a series of shows fronted by journalist Dylan Iorwerth.

### **•From Carmarthenshire to Pennsylvania**

- Roberts' life story will be delved into by documentary makers, from her upbringing in a small village in Carmarthenshire to a new life in Scranton, Pennsylvania.
- More recently made famous as the home of the US version of sitcom The Office, Scranton was the traditional home of Welsh settlers in the United States.
- Born in 1833, Margaret Evans – as she was then – was brought up in the small village of Cynghordy, a few miles north of Llandovery.
- She later moved to Hirwaun, and, after marrying William Roberts, the couple crossed the Atlantic in the early 1860s, settling as farmers in the vast plains of the mid-West state of Iowa.
- She later moved to Iowa City and then Scranton, the capital of the American Welsh.
- The city about 125 miles north of Philadelphia and west of New York City, hosted the annual gathering of the Welsh North American Association in 2012 and is said to have once been home to the highest proportion of Welsh people per head outside the Principality
- It is also similar to many south Wales towns because of its 19th-century reliance on the coal and iron industries.
  - And series producer Catrin MS Davies said programme makers had been struck by the obvious Welsh origins of the town.'Seeing a cemetery full of headstones was very striking... Welsh has long since disappeared from the area.
- She added: "Seeing a cemetery full of headstones was very striking." "We could easily have been in Wales, and it made us think about these people trying to create a Welsh-speaking community in a land far away from Wales." "It was also very sad to see that nothing has survived except a chapel called 'Welsh Chapel', and despite the fact that a Cymanfa is held there every year, Welsh has long since disappeared from the area."
- Iorweth, whose investigation into Roberts' life is helped by the insights of historian Bill Jones from Ffairfach, near Llandeilo, who has revived interest in her story, said the programme was focusing on Roberts because of the profound impact she had.
- Iorweth added: "It's a story about breaking new ground in all sorts of ways.
- "Margaret and her husband were among the first white people to settle and tend to the land in many areas of Iowa and from seeing the land today, you realise just how brave these Welsh people were.
- "They went without knowing what was ahead of them."

### **'One of the biggest mysteries is how Margaret Evans Roberts was forgotten - until now'**

- It was only by going to the United States that Roberts was given the opportunity to broaden her education – and make a name for herself by lecturing while on her travels throughout the US and Wales, and by writing to Welsh-language newspaper Y Drych.
- The S4C documentary also delves into the history of Y Drych, which was circulated to Welsh speakers across the world – from the United States to Australia via Patagonia, among other places.
- Documentary makers are aiming to shed some more light on a period when Welsh people had a perhaps disproportionately large impact on shaping so many North American communities.
- Ms Davies added: "There are many mysteries to be solved along the way, but one of the biggest mysteries is how Margaret Evans Roberts was forgotten – until now."
- The documentary bemoans how the story of a figure well ahead of her time has been largely forgotten.
- One of her contemporaries is said to have judged that "few women from Wales were as renowned as Margaret Roberts was in America."
- Roberts died in October 1921, a decade or so after moving back to Wales. Among the inscriptions on her headstone is a simple: "Formerly of America".
- Now the story of her life and legacy will – finally – be told a new audience.
- :: Dylan ar Daith: O Hirwaun i Iowa is being shown on S4C on Saturday, January 31, at 9pm.

Also on WalesOnline I am sure that we can obtain a copy of this if there is enough interest. Please let me know. I am sure that there are many Welsh ,unsung heroes out there!!! M Thanks to **Ada Mae Lewis for this**

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## Those were the days

## A Glimpse of yesteryear at Dewi Sant.

This is a copy of a letter written by Rev. John Humphreys Jones, inviting friends and members of Dewi Sant to attend a 71st. Birthday party. Rev. Jones had returned to Dewi Sant for a year, filling a vacancy left by a previous Minister while we waited for a new Minister to come. Those who were there in 1978 may remember that Canada Post chose to go on struck at that time, so we were not able to mail out the 200 invitations we had prepared to mail to everyone connected with Dewi Sant. Rev. Jones announced our problem, he asked that everyone take with them envelopes that were addressed to houses in their area, or homes they would be passing on their way home, or on their way to work. Betty Jones stood by the front doors, having already sorted them as best she could and when the service ended, all who could, picked up their bundles of envelopes and promised to deliver the invitations. Judging by the full Church on October 29th 1978, everyone did their job. **Just another example of Dewi Sant members working together.**

**Betty Jones**

**DEAR.....**

*"Dewi Sant" is alive and well and living on Melrose Avenue. It is now seventy one years old. I think we forgot about its seventieth birthday last year, so we are arranging a big seventy first celebration to make up for the omission. We are writing to you, because at one time you were part of the story, Many hundreds of children have passed through our Sunday School. Scores of baptisms, confirmations, and marriages have been celebrated. The church is still here carrying on its mission.*

*•Do you ever wonder what some of your old friends look like now? Many of the children now have children of their own. In spite of the many changes, and the interests which have claimed you, we believe that somewhere in the recesses of your heart there is a warm corner reserved for "Dewi Sant".*

*•We invite you to join us at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday October 29 for a grand Re-union Service, with a Fellowship Hour and light lunch to follow, so that you can chat with friends of former days. Special music will be provided.*

*•Come and warm your heart at the old altar and bring the children, they will be cared for.*

*Yours Sincerely **John Humphreys Jones.(Reverend).***

## Er Parchus Gof

## In Memoriam Jim Bushell

Jim Bushell touched the lives of many people, Counseling young couples about to get married, consoling families who had lost loved ones, celebrating new life - with baptism.

But, in addition to being a minister, Jim was just a regular guy... A husband and a father. I'd like to talk about him as a dad.

My dad was one of the kindest and friendliest guys you could ever meet. An old friend of mine summed him up very well. She used to say, "Your dad is a sweetheart. He's like a big teddy bear." He's probably the calmest man ever. I think I can count on one hand the number of times he got really mad (and unfortunately those times were probably all caused by my rebellious teen years).

There are many things that dad introduced my brother Jamie and myself to as we grew up. Some of them we enjoyed and some of them we didn't.

Dad introduced Jamie and I to science fiction. The big thing was that he took us to see the original Star Wars in the movie theatre back in 1977. Around the same time, he had us watching Star Trek, Buck Rogers, Battlestar Galactica and more. If there was a show or a movie with a space ship or aliens in it, we saw it...no matter how cheesy it was. He told Jamie though that one of his favourites was 2001 a Space Odyssey because it was much more realistic. Dad was also a huge fan of the original Dr. Who series and enjoyed watching these types of shows as reruns, over and over again.

The love of science fiction is continuing on in the next generation. My children are both huge fans of the entire Star Wars saga which is still continuing today almost 40 years later.

Dad introduced us to "real" science too. He would take us to the beach in Kincardine and set up a step ladder as a support for his binoculars to view the night sky. I remember being on the beach in the pitch black and

As for me, I must have been more interested in the actual beach itself there in Kincardine. For as long as I can remember I've always felt most at peace near the water. Much to dad's worry, I started travelling to explore the world's beaches. I did some big trips on my own...out to Thailand and down to Mexico where I met my husband Paul. I think dad was thoroughly mortified when he learned that I had taken up scuba diving. He said, "why don't you just watch it on TV?". I understand his worry, now that I'm a parent, but at the time it was kind of annoying. Especially since I probably inherited this wanderlust travel bug from him. Dad was an explorer. He loved a road trip...the longer the better. He liked to take the road less travelled and enjoy the scenery, and the bridges, and the little towns along the way and the little restaurants and the little shops. You name it, he wanted to stop and see it. And of course, he was always proud of his current car of choice. Dad had great emotional ties to all of his cars over the years. From a little Volkswagen Bug to his huge Caprice Classic.

Over the years, dad developed a few eccentricities. One that sticks out most is the way he was bothered by a draft or a breeze. He could often be found with napkins on the top of his head, his shoulders and the back of his neck. I guess he got used to knowing he'd be uncomfortable and he -\*+started to wear a toque pretty much everywhere, no matter the season. He was indeed a pillar of fashion! He enjoyed a good laugh and luckily could laugh at himself as we spent many family afternoons and evenings poking fun at his fashion sense, the multitude of things he would worry about (which some just may have been justified), and more recently how he seemed to be playing more with the grand-dog than the grand-children.

Finally, I can't talk about dad without mentioning Wales. Now, dad did embrace everything about every place he ever lived and thoroughly enjoyed the people, the towns, the community and the culture. But nowhere came close to Wales. When my parents came home for visits you could not talk about anything without my dad bringing up **Wales or the Welsh language**. He loved it so much. Both Jamie and my family had the opportunity to visit mom and dad over there and you could tell he was very proud and he just loved showing us his Green Street church.

*A beautiful, heartwarming eulogy delivered by Jim's daughter* **Christy Wain**

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# Free Trip to Wales

Written by Ian White

Drive on the **WRONG** side of the road !! Experience the **TERROR** of a traffic circle

--- all from the comfort of your own home !!

The very best way to experience Wales is to go there on vacation.

If you cannot do that then the next best way is to take a **VIRTUAL** trip care of Google Maps.

If you know all about Google Maps then skip to another article. On the other hand if PCs are part of the Techy world that you decided to let pass by, then think again because it offers great enjoyment.

If you are lost at the end of this explanation, then ask any 12 year-old kid and they will set it up for you !Here is a pic taken from my computer screen:



Obviously it is Caernarfon Castle taken from the West side of the river. So how do you get to see the same image??

Follow the steps:

In your computer's browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox etc for PCs and Safari for Macs) enter the address [www.google.com/maps](http://www.google.com/maps)

In the entry box at the top left of the window type in "Caernarfon".

Several choices will appear so just pick "Caernarfon, UK" and you will see a detailed map of the roads in Caernarfon.

You can zoom in and out using the + or – buttons at the bottom right and you can drag the view in any direction across the page.

Now for the neat part.

When you have a very detailed road map on the screen, click on the little yellow man at the bottom right, and almost all of the roads will turn blue. This shows which roads you can choose to get a pictorial view.

Drag the little yellow man over to a road you are interested in and when the blue circle is over the road then just unclick and the screen will change to a street picture.

You can then move the controls to move along the street, swivel round, magnify and do a bunch of other things. It can be a bit tricky until you get used to it but it is well worth the effort.

By doing this you can take a virtual drive along almost any street in Wales (and most of the rest of the World, but that is of much lesser interest!).

Here is a pic from a simple drive down the Rhondda valley in downtown Treorchy:



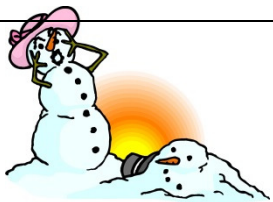
As all of these pics have been taken in the last three years, it lets you see the real Wales as it exists today.

Obviously this can be a source of entertainment for those with a Welsh background. You can travel through space and see the "Land of my Fathers", check out sites of interest, see real traffic jams etc.

One of the more interesting ways of using this is to tie it in to your genealogical history. I have no connection with this guy but here is an example:



*Sincere thanks. Your contributions are gratefully received.*



# MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Lent 2</b> <b>St. David's Day</b>  11 am Communion 2 pm Hope Church <b>2 pm Concert</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group 11 am Lunch Bunch	<b>4</b> 7 pm TWMVC	<b>5</b>	<b>6 World Day of Prayer</b> <b>1:30 pm</b>  <b>St. Timothy's</b>	<b>7</b> 2 pm Hope Church  <b>DON'T FORGET!</b> <b>TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!</b> 
<b>8 Lent 3</b>  11 am Worship 2 pm Hope Church  <b>7 pm Welsh Service</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group	<b>11</b> 7 pm TWMVC	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2 pm Hope Church
<b>15 Lent 3</b> 11 am Worship <b>Annual General Meeting</b> 2 pm Hope Church	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group Presbytery meets	<b>18</b> 7 pm TWMVC	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 2 pm Hope Church
<b>22 Lent 4</b> 11 am <b>Special Music Sunday</b> <b>Session Meets</b> 2 pm Hope Church	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group	<b>25</b> 7 pm TWMVC	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <b>Dewi Sant &amp; OGGA Dinner &amp; Silent Auction</b> 2 pm Hope Church
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 11 am Worship <b>Official Board Meets</b> 2 pm Hope Church  	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 10 am Bible Study & Discussion Group  <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>H O L Y      W E E K</b> </div>				