



Y GADWYN
(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

December/Rhagfyr 2016

Advent and December bring us to our new church year. Advent signifies the hoped-for return of Christ to the world.

The Nativity is the story of Baby Jesus’ arrival and the beginning of The Holy Family. It is a very special and intense time in the church when we prepare to celebrate once again the Christ Child’s birth. We have advent services each Sunday as well as a Welsh service on Dec 4th in the evening. This year, Christmas falls on a Sunday. At its meeting on November 27, the Official Board decided that the church would not be open on the 25th and there would be no service. We will have the usual Christmas Eve service with Communion at 8 pm on Saturday December 24th.

We as Christians, like so many of our neighbours of other faith traditions, gather with co-workers, friends and family at this time of year. One of the reasons is to celebrate, eat goodies and enjoy libations such as egg nog! In past times, one might drink wassail- an old fashioned tradition- which might now be substituted with punch. We will gather on Dec 3rd for the annual Christmas Dinner shared by Dewi Sant and the St David’s society.

If we don’t see you over this festive season, be assured of our continued affection for you all and our very best wishes to you and yours!
Nadolig Llawen!

Bendithion / Blessings
Parch./Rev Anne



DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

65 YEARS - CELEBRATIONS!

Sunday, November 6th had been excitedly anticipated. Everyone loves a birthday party, but this "birthday" was different - this was to celebrate Rev Dr Cerwyn Davies' 65 years in the ministry. Fourteen of those 65 years were spent as minister of Dewi Sant Welsh church here in Toronto therefore it was appropriate that it was at Dewi Sant that we should hold this celebration.



Sheryl Clay-Newell sang "You raise me up..." specifically to Cerwyn, which set the tone for the remainder of the service. Betty Cullingworth addressed Cerwyn and his wife, Nora, in her own inimitable way. Taking the initials of their names, Betty supplied a list of adjectives that so appropriately described Cerwyn. C, caring, N, notable, D, Diolch yn fawr iawn, A, ageless, V, very, in all its manifestations, I, inimitable, E, excellent adventure, S, sharing and service.

Nora was a founder member of Merched Dewi and Cerwyn wrote several songs for the choir. One such song was a

translation of the English "Hymn of Promise" which we sang on Sunday morning. We continued with a tribute written by Betty.

Eirwyn George is one of the chief Welsh bards and just happens to be Cerwyn's first cousin. To commemorate the period Cerwyn and Nora spent in Wales a few years ago, Eirwyn had written the poem "I'r Parchedig Ddoctor Cerwyn Davies". This was read by Hefina Phillips, much to Cerwyn's surprise and delight. An English translation was shown on the AV system.



Holy Communion, presided over by Rev Anne Hepburn, Rev Meriel Simpson and, of course, Rev Dr Cerwyn Davies, was then celebrated.



Lyn Jones led into the theme of Cerwyn's homily by reading about Samuel being called by God. Cerwyn examined why he became a minister, asking himself if he would "do it again". Just as Samuel had heard God's voice calling him, Cerwyn was also "called" despite not having had the slightest inclination to become a minister. He had had two ambitions: to become a pilot or an actor! (Their elder son, Emyr, took up that profession and Geraint, their second son, is an extremely well known actor.) Would he do it again? That, he replied, would depend on God. Would he again receive a "calling"? Of course he would, we all agreed!

A reception followed in the Fellowship Hall where the happy couple, Nora and Cerwyn, shared the beautiful celebratory cake with us all. We are truly blessed to have enjoyed Cerwyn's ministry and their continued support and love for Dewi Sant.

Hefina Phillips

I'r Parchedig Ddoctor Cerwyn Davies

(ar ei ymdeoliad fel gweinidog eglwysi Bro Cerwyn)

Daeth atom law yn llaw â Ha' Bach Mihangel
Yr haul yn ei lygaid, a'i wyneb yn wên i gyd,
Ei hiwmor fel awel iach yn cynhesu'n calonnau,
A grym ei ymroddiad yn ein tynnu ynghyd.

Esgyn i bulpud y Gair yn addoldai'r bryniau,
Ei barabl mor glir â'r ffynnon, a'i galon ar dân
Yn siglo'n meddyliau, yn bathu storïau,
A'i lais melodaidd yn dyblu a threblu'r gân.

Brawdoliaeth sgwâr Tufton roes ffagl i gannwyll ei yrfa,
Glyn-nedd a Chasllwchwr a Hwlfordd fu'n cynnal y fflam,
Cyn iddo droi'n alltud herfeiddiol ym mharthau Toronto,
I gynnal y gannwyll yn olau yn Heniaith ei fam.

Dychwelid yn lifrai'r Gwaredwr i'w hen garreg aelwyd
I estyn cortynnau'r Efengyl - a'i freichiau ar led -
le, darn o weriniaeth y wlad o dan glogyn ysgolor
I'n hybu, i'n hysbrydoli yng ngwinllan y Gred.

Dwyn i'r pulpud hen fenyw fach Cydweli,
Cnoi cul ar ddiwinyddiaeth ei losin du;
Dwyn Hympty Dympty i Oedfa Basg yn Llandeilo;
Gweld Duw ar ein meri-go-rownd yn cylchdroi yn ei Dŷ.

A heddiw, yn anterth yr haf, mae'n codi ei law mewn ffarwel
l'n gadael yn dawel-ddiolchgar heb run rigmarôl,
Ond mi wranta, fod 'na garreg ateb yn rhywle'n y bryniau,
Sy'n siŵr o alw weithiau arno'n ôl.

A rhoddwn oll ein dymuniadau dyfna'
Am haul hir oes i Cerwyn ac i Nora.

Eirwyn George



AND FROM THE CELEBRANT....

To my Dewi Sant Family,
When I was ordained into the
ministry of the Welsh
Congregational Church in 1951, I
was young enough (23 years old) to
hope that I would live to celebrate
my 60th anniversary, but to hope for
a 65th was beyond the realm
of reasonable imagination! Even if
this was possible, never did I
think in those early days that I would
celebrate it in Canada!!

However! Through the graces and
generosity of the Minister, Board of
Elders and Members of Dewi Sant,
on November 6th 2016, along with
Nora, I was fêted and "spoiled
rotten" at a special service to
celebrate the 65th anniversary of my

ordination. Yes, I enjoyed every moment! And now a week later I still relish in its glow!

To all who contributed to the service and the reception, for my personal gift (and the spirit in which it was given!!), for Nora's beautiful flowers and for the wealth of love which we both felt, our heartfelt thanks to everyone. Is it now beyond reason to hope that both Dewi Sant and I will be around to celebrate the 70th in 2021?!



*Gyda chariad
Cerwyn (ac wrthgwrs Nora)*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARJORIE (PRITCHARD) TSIPURAS



Marjorie died on October 1, 2016, with family at her side. She knew she was blessed to have 101 years on this earth, and she made the most of them, guided by her faith in the grace of God, her love and devotion to her family, and her belief in service to others.

She was a lifelong Presbyterian and a lifelong volunteer. From knitting for the Red Cross during WW II, to church and school and community activities, she was always grateful for what she had, and ever mindful of the needs of others.

Marjorie was born in Pontypridd, Wales, on May 16, 1915, and when she was five, moved with her family to Scranton, Pennsylvania. In 1940, she married the love of her life, John Tsipuras, and moved to Montreal, where they raised their family. Marjorie came to Toronto in early 2004, after John passed away. Dewi Sant Welsh United Church became her spiritual home, and she was so thankful for the opportunity to reconnect with her Welsh roots. She was especially delighted to take part in the many activities of 2007, celebrating 100 years of Dewi Sant as a centre of Welsh worship and culture in Toronto.

Her children, Dennis, Risti, and Joanna, give thanks for her long life, and for the example she set of loving kindness. As Marjorie wished, a Celebration of Life was held at Dewi Sant on November 26, 2016, and the family is grateful to everyone who participated in the service, prepared the reception tea, and offered kind words of sympathy and understanding at this sad time. Memorial donations may be made to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, 33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M5M 1Y6.

*Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.*

A Psalm of Life, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY

On Nov. 20th Matthew Coons was our Special Music Sunday musician. Matthew performed movements from the Organ Concerto No.5 in F major (Opus 4) by G. F. Handel. The movements were interspersed throughout the service starting after the Opening Prayer. From the Larghetto to the Presto, each was unique and probably new to many of us. They were “bookended” in the Prelude and the Postlude by the Sonata III by F. Mendelssohn. This was a wonderful addition to our regular service. It was also a wonderful way to celebrate the “Reign of Christ” Sunday which is the final week in the Christian liturgical calendar before the first Sunday of Advent, which is “New Year’s Day” according to Christian sacred time. On Reign of Christ Sunday, we are invited to remember that the “Kingdom of God” or “*Reign of God*” — to which Jesus constantly pointed — is as fully available now and always as it was 2,000 years ago. We are fortunate again to have an exceptionally talented musician as our organist. We sometimes forget they can do a lot more than accompany our hymn singing.

The Editor

Y GWASANAETH CYMRAEG

Gwasanaeth Cymraeg – Rhagfyr 2016 Ar y Sul cyntaf o’r mis – Rhagfyr 4ydd. am 7 o’r gloch y nos fydd y gwasanaeth Cymraeg yn cael ei gynnal. Hwn fydd ein oedfa Adfent / Nadolig, a mae neges i ni o Gymru, gan Y Parch. John Roberts, hefyd carolau, a cerddoriaeth gan Merched Dewi. Yn edrych ymlaen at eich gweld. Bydd y gwasanaeth Cymraeg nesa’ yn mis Mawrth (gan fod y Gaeaf yn Canada mor oer!) Manylion i ddilyn.

On the first Sunday of December - Dec. 4th. at 7 p.m. – we will hold a Welsh language service This will be our Advent / Christmas service, and we have a message from Wales by Rev. John Roberts, as well as Christmas carols and music by Merched Dewi. Please plan to attend! The next Welsh language service will be in March (a concession to Canadian Winters!) Details to follow. ALL WELCOME - CROESO!

Nêst Pritchard

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT

Christmas is a time of giving especially to those who are in need. This year we are hoping that the church congregation will become involved in two initiatives that will run throughout the pre-Christmas period. This is what they will look like:

Take a Tag: Each week at the entry to the church there will be a plate with tags on which the names of certain food items will be indicated. You are asked to take a tag (or more if you wish) and bring that item/s with you to church on the following Sunday and place it/them into a receptacle that will be available for you. This initiative will run on November 27 and December 4, 11 and 18.

Teen Angel: Many organizations run toy drives for children at Christmas time but, often the older kids are overlooked. This Christmas, let’s give a disadvantaged teenager a gift. We will

be collecting gift cards each Sunday from December 4th to December 18th. Please place your gift card on the plate provided in the narthex. Suggestions: Walmart, Shoppers Drug Mart, Chapters, Indigo, Tim Hortons, Starbucks, McDonalds, Subway, Pizza Pizza, Cineplex, Old Navy, Gap, Banana Republic, Hudson's Bay, Body Shop, Amazon, Best Buy, Canadian Tire, , SportChek, Forever 21, American Eagle, H & M. Many of these gift cards are available for purchase at Shopper's Drug Mart. Suggested amount: \$10, \$20 and \$25. All donations will be taken to Centre 55 for distribution. Thank you for your support!

Betty Cullingworth and Donna Morris

SOME SUNDAY THOUGHTS

As I look around at the small number of attendees in the pews, I recall that less than ten years ago we were celebrating our centenary as a church with lots of activities and reasonably full pews. Next year is our 110th anniversary and plans are afoot to make it a special year. But what of the average Sunday? We know that the notion that 'where two or three are gathered in his name' validates a small number of worshippers but there are other idioms like 'the more the merrier' that can also be brought to bear on any discussion of how many is too few or too many. This message isn't being written to encourage more givings (although they are always welcome) but rather to ask whether you can occasionally give the gift of your presence in the pews on a Sunday morning. Many of our members want to attend but can't for very valid reasons: encroaching age, ill health, ultra-busy lives. But wouldn't it be grand if you could occasionally put a Sunday visit to Dewi Sant on your calendars. Weekly attendance may well be impossible but a Sunday here and there may fit into your schedule. We look forward to seeing you in the pews sometime soon, especillay in our 110th year. Know that a warm welcome awaits.....Just some random thoughts on a Sunday evening.....

Betty Cullingworth

DEWI SANT ANNUAL CHURCH BAZAAR, RUMMAGE AND BAKE SALE



As you all know, we held our Annual Bazaar, Rummage and Bake Sale on November 5. This was our most successful venture yet. We managed to raise \$5,300 for Dewi Sant.

Needless to say, many people are involved in making this come about, so it is difficult to name individuals. I wish to thank all of those that donated items for sale. A huge thank you to all those volunteers that came out on Friday to

unpack all the goods, and setup the tables. These individuals really are True and Faithful Servants. And, of course, a thank you goes to all those who "manned" the stalls.

WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

“HALLELUJAH” SET TO WELSH

The great Canadian poet and songwriter Leonard Cohen died this past month. His famous song “Hallelujah” was played everywhere in his memory and perhaps to alleviate the general sadness of our times. In part as a result of the US elections, it seems that all around the there is a lack of tolerance, forgiveness and compassion and an increase in strife and fighting. The Welsh group BRIGYN, brothers Ynyr and Eurig Roberts from Snowdonia, have set a poem by Welsh poet Tony Llewelyn to the tune of “Hallelujah” as a Christmas song. The first and last verses are printed below. It was a big hit in Wales. You can see it performed on “haleliwia brigyn youtube” and also find the words on www.brigyn.com/english/lyrics-haleliwia.html

Mewn dwrn o ddu mae'r seren wen
Mae cysgod gwn tros Bethlehem
Dim angel gwyn yn canu Haleliwia.
Codi muriau, cau y pyrth
Troi eu cefn ar werth y wyrth
Mor ddu yw'r nos ar strydoedd Palesteina.

Haleliwia, Haleliwia, Haleliwia, Haleliwia.

....

Mae'r nos yn ddu mae'r nos yn hir
Ond mae na rai sy'n gweld y gwir
Yn gwybod fod y neges mwy na geiria'
Mai o'r tywyllwch ddaw y wawr
A miwsig ddaeth â'r muriau lawr
Daw awr i ninnau ganu Haleliwia.

Haleliwia, Haleliwia, Haleliwia, Haleliwia

Nêst Pritchard, The Editor

The White Star in a fist of steel,
There's a shadow of a gun over Bethlehem,
No white angel singing "Hallelujah".
Raising the walls, closing the doors,
Turning their backs on the value of the miracle,
The night's so dark on the streets of Palestine.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

.....

The night is dark, The night is long,
Yet there are some that see the truth,
They know the message is more than words;
That from the darkness comes the dawn,
and the music brought the walls down.
There came the hour for us to sing, "Hallelujah."

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

DEWI SANT ON TV

Most of you have probably heard about the recent filming of a TV show at our church. This is the second time this year - apparently our sanctuary holds quite an attraction for TV producers. The most recent filming took place on October 27, and Nov. 2. The show featured a marriage in Dewi Sant. This will be showing on the Fox Network (FX Channel) sometime early next year.

Makeup tables were set up downstairs, the kitchen was used as a makeup area, tables and chairs were set up to feed everybody. Camera and lightning men, and script people, and security people, and set people, were running around all over the place. I don't think I have ever seen so many people at Dewi Sant at one time. Big spotlights were setup out front, which actually made the church look very attractive. All these beautiful flowers were brought in. The pews were decorated. The list is endless. It is unbelievable what goes on behind the scenes to produce maybe five minutes on screen. As seems to be the norm in this theatrical world, filming ran two to three hours later than anticipated on both days, going to around midnight. I am sure the neighbours did not appreciate this. So we should consider how often we do this.

At the end, cleaners came in, floors were washed, and carpets were steam-cleaned twice. Like magic, everything was back to normal. And we all breathed a sigh of relief when it was over. For this, we were rewarded with a cheque for \$5,000.

Arleigh Quesnelle
(Note that Arleigh attended as a representative of the church throughout the filming, supported by Peter Lloyd Jones – Ed.)

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

The children/young people and their families will be putting on a Christmas presentation again this year on Dec. 11th – it would be great to have as many families participating as possible, and not just on this special event but year round.

The Editor for Pam Evans, Sunday School Head

TUESDAY GROUP

The next date for the Tuesday Group is NEXT TUESDAY, December 6th at 11 a.m. The theme for December is `A Child's Christmas in..... wherever you were born. It would be more interesting if each participant could bring a photograph of themselves as a child at Christmas, or even, any child/children at any Christmas. A light lunch will be provided, so there is no need to bring your own lunch. The \$2 donation will still apply. I will need to know the exact numbers of those attending in order to cater for December 6th.

Melinda Morgan

THE TORONTO WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday Dec. 13th at 7:30 p.m., Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Avenue ! Take note of this event for your Christmas calendar. You can buy tickets online - www.welshchoir.ca or call (905) 726-3341.

WHAT'S NEW @ ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF TORONTO

St. David's and Dewi Sant's Annual Christmas Dinner

Come enjoy a wonderful traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. This year to enliven the festivities we would like to encourage everyone to arrive in festive attire (e.g., your best (ugly) Christmas sweater, Christmas shirt & tie, your favourite Christmas character, etc.). Everyone who comes dressed in festive attire will receive a free raffle ticket. A prize will be awarded for the "Most Creative" outfit. Betty Cullingworth is coordinating the entertainment. If you'd like to participate, please arrange with Betty. And, of course, Santa Claus will be dropping by. Not to be missed!

Date: Saturday December 3rd

Time: 5:30 p.m. for 6:00 p.m. dinner

Tickets: \$20

Contact: Meryl Davies (416) 483-3138 or Arleigh Quesnelle (416) 482-6870 or arleighquesnelle@sympatico.ca

Donna Morris

DONATIONS TO Y GADWYN OR HOW ABOUT EMAIL?

Please contact the Editor if you wish to receive Y Gadwyn by email. If you want to keep using paper we are also looking for donations to cover the postage. We have had no donations for a while!

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

Anna Dunets, Editor. Email: adunetswills@gmail.com or 416-485-4074.

Please send in your contributions by December 25 which is the cut-off date for submissions to the next issue.

