

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

DEWI SANT CHRISTMAS

Here is a high level overview of the Christmas activities in church. More details and pictures follow below.

The Ladies of the Church held their annual Christmas Service on Nov 27th, the first Sunday of Advent rather than a midweek evening, to allow more people to attend. Under Mabel Hasting's capable direction, it was a huge success with many participating with music poetry and song. Advent continued throughout the month of December with the Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles by church members and families. These included Lyn Jones and Clarice Terry, Risti Jensen and Family, Myfanwy Bajaj & Family, Elyiecia Homer Acosta & Angela Homer, and Dec. 24th Christmas Eve, Zoe and Chris Mulhall & Clarice Terry.

On Dec 4th we had our annual White Gifts service. We were delighted with the generosity and cash donations which have been given to the Food Bank.

On Sunday Dec 11th, there was a great energy all around the building as the Family Christmas presentation began, written and directed by Hefina Phillips and supported by Pam Evans and others. Lots of parents and children and grandparents participated and the place was alive and attendance was high. It was impressive to see and hear them as they told stories, took collection, danced on pointe, sang solo and duet, played piano, introduced hymns and lit the Advent wreath.

On Dec 18th, we had a Special Music Service with our own gifted soloist Sheryl Clay-Newell singing many of her favourites. As always, it was a lovely meaningful service!

Dec 18th was the last Sunday possible to donate gift cards to teenagers under a new initiative coordinated by Betty Cullingworth and Donna Morris. This programme is intended to support teens who typically are under-served in donations at Christmas time. We hope that all recipients and donors felt the warmth this year!

Christmas Eve Service was on Saturday. This was well attended by not just our Dewi Sant members but many from the surrounding neighbourhood. We had communion and lots of familiar readings and carols followed by the candle lit "Silent Night" finale. What would Christmas be without Sheryl singing "O Holy Night"?

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make the season so special as well with tea time treats, Santa visits and gifts. Many thanks also to those who generously donated to the Christmas flowers which graced the sanctuary. On such days as these, I am filled with hope. Hope for the future of families at Dewi Sant, hope for the preservation of the Welsh culture and hope that perhaps another young person will be called to ministry because of the powerful influence of this faithful, hardworking congregation.

Diolch yn Fawr,

Rev. Anne Hepburn

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Here at Dewi Sant we are used to the Sunday School children being the focus of the annual Christmas pageant. But this year it was families that brought the Nativity story alive. The



familiar story - with a somewhat different slant - was shared between several families, with several generations participating.

Christine Campney and son Kyle opened the service and were followed by three generations of the Cullingworths - Ross and Betty, Lisa and baby Hunter- appropriately dressed as an angel! Other three generational families included the Jones (Huw, Katie, her husband and very vocal baby Alexander!), the Thomases (Theresa, her son Mike, grand-daughters Tegan and Jade - who else can perform Herod's song??- and, of course, Daniel, dressed as a prince. The Quesnelles- Arleigh, Shannon, Gilbert and Ian read the shepherds' part of the story with Katie

Ava dancing down the aisle

singing the French carol, D'où viens-tu, bergère? Thanks to Sheryl Clay Newell for her role. Singing the first two lines of each verse of the carol from the balcony was very dramatic. Nest Pritchard, Sheila and Lewis ended the pageant. It was lovely to have the Christian family participate as Patricia has undergone nasty back surgery recently. Tara, Madison, Amira and Keiran represented the Bajaj family and Morgan Phillips and Alastair Frank the Phillips family. Alastair's piano solo - Liszt's Liebestraum #3 in A flat- was appreciated by all. Peter Lloyd Jones also took part and wasn't Ava totally spectacular as Gabriel? She is such a talented dancer.

Merched Dewi participated in the pageant for the first time, singing the Welsh carol "A Welaist ti'r ddau a ddaeth gyda'r hwyr?" The words tell of the Inn keeper's dilemma when the young couple arrived from Nazareth, totally exhausted, but with no room at the Inn. What were the highlights? So many! But for me personally it's everyone's willingness to participate. It makes producing the annual pageant so very easy. Special thanks go to Pam Evans, whose hard work, organizational skills and wisdom make me very envious! And also to Betty Cullingworth who is always ready with her support and suggestions.

After the service the families had their own special party with Santa and gifts and a table of treats.



Hunter conversing with Santa, with some help from mom Lisa.



Hefina Phillips

SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY

This special Sunday once again featured Sheryl Clay Newall singing with Matthew Coons accompanying. The music is cleverly interwoven with the overall theme of the Sunday worship. These are always a musical educational as well as so uplifting to hear. The pieces Sheryl sang were The Little Road to Bethlehem by Michael Head, Come Unto Him by G.F. Handel (from The Messiah), When A Child is Born by M. Boney and Gesu Bambino by Pietro Yon.

The Editor



Sheryl singing for us, with Matthew

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT

Thank you to everyone who contributed this holiday season to our “Take a Tag” and “Teen Angel” campaign. In total, 19 gift cards (\$405 cash value) were dropped off at Community Centre 55 and 36 bags of food were delivered to Lansing United Church Food Bank (LUCFB) in the month of December. A special thank you is extended to Rita Hoffman and Mabel Hastings who regularly collect and transport food items and monetary donations for LUCFB throughout the year. In 2016, their efforts culminated in 98 bags of food and in excess of \$500 being donated to LUCFB. Well done ladies!

In speaking with Rita, I’m advised cash is still king! Because the LUCFB purchases food items in bulk, it can purchase twice as much as we can individually donate and it’s much easier to transport! Something to be mindful of as we continue our outreach efforts in the new year. Diolch yn fawr iawn!

Betty Cullingworth and Donna Morris

DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY

J. F. Kennedy once said “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country”. I am using this quote with regards to our church as we celebrate our 110th Anniversary in 2017 - “Ask not what Dewi Sant can do for you, ask what you can do for Dewi Sant”.

You have no doubt read impassioned pleas from Hefina Phillips and Betty Cullingworth about supporting the church by attending the regular service on a Sunday. If you were at the magnificent Family Service or Cheryl Clay Newell’s special musical Sunday or the Christmas Eve service you might believe that the congregation numbers on a Sunday are good, and why are we encouraging you? Our regular congregation is about 24 people for a Sunday morning and less than 18 for a Welsh Service. This is disappointing for those regular attendees who are trying to keep the church “alive and well”. We ALL want Dewi Sant to be there for us for high days, holidays and baptisms, but the other days need us too - so this year 2017 - can you help us be there for you?

The 110th Committee is working hard to put together a varied, interesting programme to stimulate attendance and celebrate the existence of our church in Toronto. We welcome your input and would be grateful for ideas and offers of help. Just let anyone on the committee know if you would like to be a part of the events: Reverend Anne, Betty Cullingworth, Anna Dunets, Risti Jensen, Gaynor McConnell, Clarice Terry, Ken Mitchell or me.

To start with: we have designed a commemorative pin for the 110th anniversary which will be available for sale for \$5 in the new year.



A new programme - "Just a minute with Dewi Sant" will feature every member of the church talking for 1 minute (only!) about "I remember about the church". One person will talk each week with the Committee going first and then volunteers from the congregation will be asked to take part. The last Sunday in the month will feature an interview by Gaynor McConnell with a long-standing member of the congregation and shown on the T.V. screens. This is also a way of preserving the past and building the future of the church. We will keep you posted as to upcoming events and look forward to celebrating with everyone our Welsh Heritage.

Lynette Jenkins
Chair of the 110th Anniversary Committee

ANNUAL MERCHED DEWI EXTRAVAGANZA

Every year the Merched Dewi throw themselves a Christmas Party to celebrate the successes of the past year. We are all grateful for their hard work and their many successes and the joy they bring to our services and other events in which they perform. Ross and Betty Cullingworth organise this event and host it with the main courses (famous beef tenderloin and salmon), with members bringing spectacular pot luck additions. Afterwards there is always a gift exchange/game and participants end up with surprising, cute or fantastic gifts. Many thanks Betty and Ross for your overwhelming generosity in hosting.



Look forward to many special activities for the Merched Dewi in this 110th year.

The Host and Hostess with the mostest, Ross and Betty (plus Kevin did the beef BBQ outside).

sang Christmas Carols and Sheryl sang a song to her own “Santa Baby”. Everyone went home with big smiles on their faces.

Thank you to the following people that contributed to make this such a big Christmas holiday success.

- Gaynor for setting up the tables, and Lynette for decorating them.
- Julie for organizing the dessert table, and arranging for the prizes, and games
- Betty Cullingworth for organizing the entertainment, and Hefina for being the M.C.
- Sheryl for her lovely music contributions
- Santa for attending again this year
- The cleanup crew – thank you all
- The kitchen crew – Shannon, Louise
- The bartender – Gil
- All the people who contributed desserts
- Everyone who took part in the entertainment portion of the night
- All the food servers
- Anyone else I have missed

As you can see, lots of people were involved, which I think is just wonderful.

As you are probably aware, Peter and Trisha’s daughter Kelly runs a Soup Kitchen in the Barrie area. As they did last year, Peter and Trisha took home most of the leftovers, including several turkey carcasses, and made a wonderful soup which they delivered to the Soup Kitchen. A perfect way to complete the evening!

Arleigh Quesnelle





SAVE THE DATE! The St. David's Society of Toronto will once again be holding its annual St. David's Day Luncheon Banquet at the Old Mill.

Date: Saturday February 25th
Time: 12:30 p.m. for 1:00 p.m.

Further details to be announced in the next edition of Y Gadwyn.

Donna Morris



S'mai pawb:

Cymdeithas Madog is excited to announce that registration is currently open for our 41st annual Cwrs Cymraeg, Cwrs y Seintiau - The Saints' Course - at Siena College in Albany, New York, July 16-23, 2017!

Albany is within driving distance of New York City, Boston, Montreal, and the Adirondacks and is steeped in Colonial and Revolutionary War history. We hope to see you there for a full week of Welsh language and culture! You can register online at the Cymdeithas Madog website <http://madog.org/gwefan/index.php/cwrs-cymraeg/cwrs-cymraeg-2017-registration>.

Also, if you're unable to attend the Cwrs this summer but still want to help Cwrs Cymraeg remain the best place to learn Welsh outside of Wales, please consider joining the Friends of Madog. All proceeds from the Friends of Madog go toward scholarships for Cwrs Cymraeg, so by donating you will be helping us sustain and grow the Welsh language, *yr iaith y nefoedd*, the language of heaven, in North America.

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

A Johannesburg, South Africa, filling station has become quite a landmark with its daily #PetrolPumpWisdom – uplifting quotes written on a chalkboard. Some motorists say they deliberately travel this route just to read the quote which brightens their day. One that we should keep in mind for the new year.



Julie Wenz

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. Thanks very much to donors from November and December: Bill Davies, Bill Hall, Elwyn & Nancy Jones, John Jenkins, Laverne Horner, Unknown, and Mary Williams.

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

