



Y GADWYN
(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

February/Chwefror 2017

In lieu of the regular greeting from the Rev. Anne this month, this is the United Church of Canada's message on the attack on the Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec:

Shock and outrage mingle with our tears at this horrific act of terror perpetrated against innocent, faithful people. We are holding you all in our prayers at this most terrible time.

The United Church of Canada stands with our Muslim neighbours. We share your grief, as we share your determination to stop the forces of hate that seek to divide and destroy us. Trusting in a compassionate and just God, we will resist fear and prejudice with love.

In love we reach out to you, our sisters and brothers, our fellow Canadians, to offer support and comfort. We open our hearts to you as we extend the hand of solidarity. We commit to redoubling our efforts to seek peace and justice for all peoples within and beyond Canada. We will work side by side with our neighbours of every faith and of no faith to heal the brokenness that fractures our communities and forge bonds of friendship and cooperation.

You are not alone. As people of faith across this country hold prayer vigils for the victims of the shooting and their families, know that you are embraced by the arms of love.

May the Creator, Allah, God, who gives us our common humanity, give us the strength of spirit and will to walk in unity and love in these troubled times.

*In peace and solidarity,
The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell
Moderator/Modératrice
The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada*

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DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Many of the services in January focussed on the theme of Jesus' impact when he started his ministry. The Rev. Metcalfe who has been officiating in Rev. Anne's absence, summarized Jesus instructions to us as love others, do good, and walk humbly with God. The Beatitudes also convey these messages and a



modern version of these are found in one of the Prayers for the People reprinted below. The image for this month has also been that of light with a reading from Isaiah 9 "The people have seen a great light". We certainly need to have light, at this time of year and at this time of our history, when there is so much sadness and anger and fighting. The Christingle service for Epiphany on January 29 was another reminder of the light Jesus can bring to us if we listen.

Rev. Robert Metcalf and his Christingle helpers

Prayers of the People

Happy are those who share what they have with others; God will share with them

Blessed are those who give to the poor; they will find happiness.

Blessed are those who trust in the goodness of others; their trust will be justified.

Blessed are those who appreciate the good things God gives; their lives will be full.

Blessed are those who clean their rooms, finish their homework, do humble tasks well; they will find everything they need in God's kingdom.

Happy are those who identify with the unfortunate; they are part of God's family.

Blessed are all who study God's word; their time is not wasted.

Blessed are those who have courage to do what is right; your courage will inspire others.

Blessed are those who find delight in children; they will be repaid in their old age.

Happy are those who do not waste or litter; they do their part in caring for God's world.

Blessed are those who stand up for what they believe in; they will make a difference.

Blessed are those who make time for good works; they will never be bored with life.

Blessed are those who think things through and pray for guidance; God will make their choices wise.

Blessed are those who are not afraid to cry; they shall be comforted.

Happy are those who take action to protest wrongs; they shall eventually be heard.

Blessed are those who think for themselves and don't go along with the crowd; they will be true to their beliefs.

A CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS

On January 15 we celebrated the birthdays of four special ladies with a wonderful cake and great fellowship, after the church service. The ages range from 13 to 98 and add to 280, so you can work on that arithmetic puzzle if you want to find the in betweeners.



Ava Lloyd Jones, Myfanwy Bajaj, Olwen Dunets, Iona Rees

DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY



The 110 Anniversary Committee is delighted to share with you the pin that they designed for this year's Anniversary. They may be purchased from Gaynor McConnell at the church, after Sunday service, or you may call her at 416 293 1336 to place an order. If you need them to be mailed, she will arrange the price of postage with you.

The "Just a Minute with Dewi Sant and ..." started this January and the "JAMs" are reprinted below (except for Ken Mitchell). On the last Sunday in January Clarice Terry was on our (church!) T.V. being interviewed by Gaynor McConnell. Coming up in February we will have Risti Jensen, Clarice Terry, Reverend Anne, and Pam Evans. In March, Rita Hoffmann, Hefina Phillips, Rosemary Black, and Ross Cullingworth.

"Just a Minute with Dewi Sant"

Lynette Jenkins

For the 100th Anniversary of Dewi Sant, there was a concert by the Welsh Male Voice Choir. I sat behind Cerwyn Davies and Sheryl Clay Newell, and heard Cerwyn talking about being a Welsh Bard.

By the time my Dad was three months old both his parents had died and his aunt and uncle took on the huge task of caring for Dad, his brother and sister. This uncle, David Glanamen Jones, was a Welsh minister at the chapel in Pontadawe and a poet and had won 11 out of 13 Eisteddfods. In those days, the winner was awarded a "Bardic Chair" and our family had been given 3: Dad's was in the chapel and I had 2 at home.



I had already decided to leave my chairs to Dewi Sant when I died, but when I heard Cerwyn talk, I decided that as the chairs were dated 1906 and 1908, and here we were in 2007 celebrating a 100th anniversary, the chairs should go NOW to the church. I am so pleased my two Bardic Chairs have a special home at the chancel of Dewi Sant.

Gaynor McConnell

35 years of memories in 1 minute - what a task! I remember with affection the many women, and some men, with whom I have worked in the church kitchen. Faithful, loyal, supportive and loving people who prepared food with care for all kinds of occasions - Victorian teas, funeral teas, St. David's and Christmas dinners, Easter breakfasts, birthdays, showers and so on. Many firm friendships have been formed over the washing-up.



I believe the heart of Dewi Sant is in its kitchen, where food and fellowship combine, and where for over 100 years, joy and sadness have been shared over cups of tea.

Betty Cullingworth (see a picture of Betty in Welsh Community News)

My memory focus today is on 'the bus'. Buses (the plural use here is accurate) arrived every Good Friday afternoon at Dewi Sant for many years (both on Clinton and the early years on Melrose) carrying members of the Welsh diaspora in Southern Ontario to the annual Gymanfa Ganu. So many attended yearly that chairs had to be set up in the aisles (against fire regulations I am sure) and there were two seatings for dinner. The Welsh came to raise their voices in worship and song and to rekindle memories of their homeland.

I remember the annual bus trip in June to our Sunday School picnic held at an out of town park. It engendered great excitement at a time when travel was much more limited than it is today.

More recently there was our bus trip organized by Donna Morris during our centennial celebration that highlighted the role of the Welsh in the cultural and financial life of Toronto over many years. Stay tuned for a repeat performance this year!

Who would believe it! BUSES....the stuff of dreams and memories.....

Anna Dunets



The first thought that came to my mind when I was asked to speak about Dewi Sant Church was that coming here has always felt like coming home. In part that is because I have been coming here since I was small - maybe 6 or 7. But it is also because I always felt accepted here and there was never a time when someone did not enquire about how I was, what was I doing now, how my parents were and now lately how now husband is. There has always been a constant level of caring. I knew that even if I were worried or stressed about something, in Dewi Sant I would, for an hour anyway, be surrounded by an hour of calm. And of course there was always the singing. Even though I have sung them a million times there are some hymns which are still a thrill to sing. I have been especially

lucky to have been brought up in a congregation that sang in 4 part harmony – like being full time in a choir but with no practices! Being part for a congregation for which singing great music is still an important part of worship, has been a great gift.

Lynette Jenkins
Chair of the 110th Anniversary Committee

NONAGENARIAN SERIES CONTINUES

VAUGHAN LEWIS

This month's honoree, Vaughan Lewis, was born on September 19, 1926, at his maternal grandmother's home (a normal practice at the time) in Pontardawe. Raised in Llanelli, Vaughan attended the local elementary school and the county grammar school in that area. English being the language of instruction at school (though the Lewis family had spoken Welsh since the mid 1700's) he was raised in English. Vaughn's family decided that he should leave school prematurely and join a firm where he trained as a draftsman. He lived through the dreadful bombings of Swansea and eventually returned to school there to complete his Higher Nationals very successfully.

Vaughan married his first wife Megan when he was 22 but the travel bug had already struck. Although his preferred destination at that time was New Zealand, those plans were aborted when he needed to provide a sponsor there. After the birth of his first (of four) daughters in Wales, Vaughan was offered a job in Montreal by Dominion Bridge. Amusingly, the gentleman who interviewed him at Canada House in London suggested to Vaughan that his accent was so thick that he could barely understand him. However, the offer was made and the family of three relocated to Canada where the family grew with the birth of three more daughters in Lachine, Quebec. After two years with Dominion Bridge, Vaughan moved to Royal Trust where he worked for 26 years (and has a gold watch to prove it!).

Eventually Vaughan made his way to Toronto (after a one year stint in Ottawa) but was unaware of the existence of Dewi Sant until he heard someone mention it in the supermarket. He and Megan investigated and eventually became members while Cerwyn Davies was the minister. Megan and Vaughan were married for 57 years; Megan passed away after a stroke. During their years of membership in Dewi Sant, they were committed attendees of the weekly services. Vaughan served on the Boards of Session and Stewards and was for a brief period the treasurer of the church.



Eleven years ago, Vaughan married his present wife, Sally, whom he had met at the WNGGA Festival in Buffalo. Sally relocated from Atlanta to Toronto where they have both been actively involved in the life of Dewi Sant. (Ironically both Megan and Sally originally arrived in Canada on the same boat and on the same date but five years apart.) Vaughan and Sally, as regular attendees, both applaud the Lunch Bunch from which they have derived much pleasure. When Vaughan was asked why a man raised as an

Anglican choir boy had decided to join Dewi Sant WUC after his arrival in Toronto, he replied very quickly, 'Because it had a sense of life'. Following up on the answer, he added, 'I still can't think of a better place to attend'.

Diolch yn fawr iawn Vaughan for your long service to Dewi Sant. Your continuing loyalty to the church is applauded by your many friends in the congregation.

Betty Cullingworth

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Violet Clay is having rehabilitation for a recent operation and is in a new room, still within her place of residence. She has a new phone number which is 416 789 6114. Sheryl informs us that she is doing well but will probably be in the new location for another month.

IN MEMORIAM

With sadness we share with you the death of Vincent Davies on January 31, 2017. Vincent and Gretl were featured in the nonagenarian series in Y Gadwyn of May 2016, which you can read on www.dewisant.com/gadwyn. Our condolences to Gretl and the Davies family.

The Editor

OUTREACH

There are always people in need, around us. A multi-generational family in our community is in urgent need of household items especially for infants. Please contact or email the church office info@dewisant.com to find out more. Also Regent Park Community Food Centre has a Winter Coat & Boot Drive for donations of your new or gently used adult coat and/or boots. For information on donating or scheduling an appointment, call 416-363-4234 ext. 243.

And here is suggestion from Nest Pritchard, who is involved in very many outreach activities. We would like to hear from members and readers about their personal 'outreach/ social justice'

activities? Your action might give other people ideas and help the church make decision about where to put their support.

We are also continuing our **Take a Tag for the Food Bank**. 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. The food is delivered by Rita Hoffman and Mabel Hastings to the Lansing United Church Food Bank which serves over 200 families per month and is a member of the North York Harvest Food Bank. The Food Bank is also in need of financial contributions as they purchase 60% or 6 tons of our required food items each month. The cost of basic food items has increased 15% or more in the past 6 months, and they are buying basic food items at the rate of \$3,000 per month, even at wholesale prices. Please make cheques payable to "Lansing United Church" with the notation "Food Bank" clearly written on the cheque. Cheques can be mailed to Lansing United (49 Bogert Ave., Toronto ON, M2N 1K4) or given to Rita to take there along with the food. If requested, you may receive an income tax charitable donation receipt from Lansing for donations of \$10 or more but you must provide a full name, address and postal code so your receipt can be properly completed and mailed to you.

WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL GOLD AWARD, 2017



It is with great delight that the Board of the above organization announces that Betty Cullingworth is the winner of this year's Award. No one is more worthy of this recognition.

Born into a Welsh speaking family in Toronto, Betty has been a faithful member of Dewi Sant Welsh Church since birth. She works tirelessly for our church, being a member of the Board of Session, a past Superintendent of the Sunday School and the organizer of our Centenary Celebrations in 2007.

Betty is the founding director of Merched Dewi - a women's choir that sings entirely in Welsh and participates in the services at Dewi Sant. Merched Dewi also participates in the Ontario Welsh Festival Nosweithiau Llawen and was invited to perform at the

Ottawa St David's Day luncheon in 2016. In 2013 Merched Dewi, under Betty's leadership, performed at the North American Festival of Wales. In 2010 Betty led the choir on a very successful tour of Wales.

She conducts Cymanfaoedd at Dewi Sant and often accompanies, both on the piano and the organ. She organizes any special events such as Nosweithiau Llawen, concerts, and an amazing Black Lights presentation. Whatever work is needed, Betty is the person one can turn to. She is currently involved in the church's Outreach programme and volunteers at the Scott Mission for homeless people in Toronto.

Betty is a long time Board member of the Ontario Welsh Festival, is a Past President and it was she who spearheaded the 50th anniversary of the organization in 2011. The Gold Award - Betty's idea - was inaugurated in 2011 to commemorate our Golden Anniversary. She certainly deserves to be presented with this Gold Award.

If you have ever attended a North American Gymanfa or an Ontario Gymanfa you will be very familiar with Betty. She is the one who tirelessly and cheerfully leads or accompanies the hymn singing at the Afterglows.

In 2013 The North American Festival of Wales was held in Toronto to great success. Who was the local organizer? Betty! She is a past member of their Board and served as Secretary. Betty continues to fully support the organization and attends the annual Festivals.

In addition to her current involvements and interests, she is a past member of the North American Welsh Choir and accompanied them on their overseas tours. She is very much sought as a conductor of cymanfaoedd both here in Canada and also in the United States. She is an excellent ambassador for all matters Welsh here in Toronto, in Ontario and generally in North America.

Congratulations, Betty, on receiving this well-deserved Gold Award.

Hefina Phillips

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEWI SANT TORONTO WELSH CHURCH SERVICES/ GWASANAETHAU CYMRAEG YN EGLWYS DEWI SANT

There will be no evening service in the Welsh language in March. On Sunday March 5th there will be a special St. David's Day (Dydd Gwyl Dewi) service at 11 a.m. Please plan to attend!

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

Annual St. David's Day Celebration

Please join us for our Annual St. David's Day Luncheon featuring a musical performance by classical harpist Loril Shannick. The banquet is being held on Saturday, February 25th at 12:30 p.m. in the Westminster Room at The Old Mill, 21 Old Mill Road, Toronto. Tickets are \$60 for members and \$65 for non-members and are available by contacting Julie Wenz at [\(416\) 272-0034](tel:4162720034) or juliewenz@yahoo.com. Please indicate your choice of entrée at the time of purchase.

St. David's Day Luncheon Menu

Roasted Leek and Potato Potage Soup
Roasted Tuscan Style Chicken Supreme
or
Roasted Striploin of Beef
or
Basil Crusted Panko Salmon

Above served with Rosemary Garlic Roasted Potatoes and a Vegetable Medley of Asparagus, Carrots, Broccoli, Red Peppers and Zucchini
Sicilian Ricotta Cheesecake with Blueberry and Lemon Compote

Six Nations Rugby on the “Big Screen”

Join members of the St. David's Society to watch the *Wales v. England* match on Saturday February 11th at the Balmy Beach Club. Game time is 11:50 a.m. Entrance fee is \$20. A “Hot Big Breakfast” is available for \$10 cash only. The breakfast includes: 3 scrambled eggs, homefries, sausage or bacon, beans and toast. Proceeds support Balmy Beach Club Junior Rugby. Balmy Beach Club is located at 360 Lake Front, Toronto, M4E 1A7. Access via Willow Avenue south of Queen Street. Parking is available in lot or on the street.

Donna Morris

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL

STRATFORD
April 21-23, 2017

Please join us in Stratford, Canada, for a very special weekend celebrating our Welsh heritage, music and culture. We will enjoy a feast of music throughout the weekend. We are very honoured to have CÔR Llanddarog from Carmarthenshire, South Wales for the Saturday evening concert. The choir are being accompanied by exceptional soloists and instrumentalists.



In addition, we will have all your usual favourites such as a welcome tea with harp entertainment on Friday afternoon and a traditional Noson Lawen with loads of talented participants on Friday evening, followed by informal hymn singing. A seminar on Saturday afternoon will feature author Barrie Doyle on the history, legend and the art of storytelling, focusing on how researching the history and legends of Wales are used to bring the nation and its people to life

Saturday evening there will be a banquet with a presentation of the annual Gold Award, the grand concert, followed by a concert afterglow. On Sunday morning and afternoon there will be two glorious hymn singing sessions.

The Festival headquarters, where many of the activities will take place, is the Arden Park Hotel, where previous Welsh Festivals have been held. The Saturday night concert and the two Gymanfa sessions on Sunday will take place at Avondale United Church, a 5 minute car drive from Arden Park with ample parking spots.

Festival rates are \$139 per night for a standard room and \$169 per night for a Suite. Call now to secure your room – Toll Free # 1-800-780-7234 OR 519 -275-2936. For more information please e-mail us at publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca; www.facebook.com/ontario.welsh.festival

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 for January: Myfanwy Williams-Owen, Cliff Davis, and Iona Rees.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

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

