



**Y GADWYN**  
(The Link)

*News of the Toronto Welsh Community*

March/Mawrth 2017

It is good to be back at Dewi Sant! Thank you all for your prayers and your cards.

They were heartwarming and so very much appreciated. However, with considerable regret, I have submitted my resignation from the position of Minister (as stated at the AGM on March 13). It has been a difficult decision but necessary, due to personal health issues. My last official day will be June 30th with Sunday June 25th being my final service. At present I am on a ½ time basis for a month as I regain strength and energy.

We are well in to Lent and celebrating the 110th anniversary of this congregation. It is a good opportunity to reflect on our journey together as a community of faith. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French Philosopher, wrote “We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience”. Let us look forward into the next months with hope and strength for the journey.

Blessings/ Bendithion!  
Rev/Parch Anne

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## **DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS**

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MARCH 26**

As you have read in the letter from the Minister, we will be declaration a vacancy in the pulpit as of June 30. For this reason we will have a Congregational Meeting on March 26 at which a member of Presbytery will attend. The purpose of the meeting is to clarify with the Presbytery what the intention of the congregation is in respect of:

- A full or part time minister
- If part time, what that entails
- The extent to which the minister should be familiar with Welsh – i.e.
  - From Wales; or
  - Welsh speaking; or
  - Some connection with Wales; or
  - No connection with Wales or Welsh

We need to have all of our members present for this discussion. This goes directly to the future of this church and the ability of our 85 members and 97 adherents to support our church. In this our 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year are you prepared to step forward with your faith, wisdom, time and finances? We look forward to hearing from you.

*Anna Dunets, Board of Session*

### **VALENTINE SUNDAY**

On Feb. 12, our guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Don Bell spoke in praise of love based on Paul's great speech 1 Corinthians 13 "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and angels... But have not love..". He noted that nowhere in the speech is love defined but we do learn that love is hard work. He quoted Dr. Moore (a past Moderator of the United Church) that we should replace the word *love* with *I* to understand this better: "I am patient; I am kind; I am not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. I do not insist on my own way. I bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things". If we pay attention to our consciousness we know there is One who seeks relationship with us; indeed that there is a divine presence who bears all things and endures all things for our sake. There is, in fact a divine Lover who keeps working in us and around us throughout our lives. This Love knows us fully. We can know it in part, even now.

*The Editor*

### **FAMILY SUNDAY**

A fairly recent holiday in Ontario is known as "Family Day". It's actually a Bank Holiday - giving all government officials an extra-long weekend. But I like the title "Family Day" and it gave me the incentive to celebrate at Dewi Sant Welsh Church.

When I was in Patagonia to celebrate its sesquicentennial. I was completely blown away by the importance of "family" in the local Welsh culture. This was especially evident in their annual Eisteddfod when families competed quite fiercely for prizes such as Dawnsio Gwerin and especially the choral competition. It was thrilling to see people of all ages (and I mean ALL) competing and very young children were already familiar with the importance of these events.

How could we copy these wonderful customs in Toronto? Family Day! This was the opportunity. Therefore on February 19<sup>th</sup>, it was families that were responsible for this special service. Theresa Thomas, her son and 3 of her grandchildren participated, teenager Kyle Cody, announced that he was fifth generation of the Hughes family, and his grandmother (Nesta), mother (Christine) and aunt (Betty Cullingworth) took part in the service. Kyle played Für Elise



for us during the collection for Sleeping Children around the World. Other families included Lyn and Louise Jones, Nêst Pritchard and daughter Sheila Holyer, and the Dunets. This was especially heartwarming as Olwen Dunets (98 years young) recited the words of Y Tangnefeddwyr (The Peacemakers) by Waldo Williams. Her son Stephen read the poem in English. The poem talks about how parents can teach their children about Peace:

Full of my father and mother I go,  
I walk home in the night.....  
Neither, within their home, abuse  
Nor slander could be found.  
Mam would look for an excuse  
For the biggest scoundrels round...  
Truth is with my father yet,  
Mother with forgiveness stays.  
They are blessed beyond hearing,  
Peacemakers, children of God.

*Kyle Cody, accompanist*

The morning's excellent memorable homily was given by daughter Anna on the theme of the Stewardship of Time. The homily stressed the importance of using your time wisely with your family, friends and community. It was based on James 4 "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins". We should consider the consequences of both what we do and what we decide not to do, with our time. Quite a splendid morning service. Thank you everyone who so willingly agreed to participate.

*Hefina Phillips*

## DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY



The "Just a Minute with Dewi Sant and ..." started this January and the "JAMs" are reprinted below. On the last Sunday in February Olwen Dunets was on our (church!) T.V. being interviewed by Gaynor McConnell. All the videos will soon be available on our on YouTube channel so that you can see them at home.

## “Just a Minute with Dewi Sant”

### Ken Mitchell

So what does one do during the Welsh service when they don't understand Welsh? You could sit back and listen to the sermon. You could listen to the singing. You could close your eyes and get some sleep but that would be wrong. The best thing to do is to day dream. Dreaming about the wonderful cookies and tea that follows downstairs. My fondest memories of Dewi Sant are the lovely teas and cookies downstairs and the great conversations and fellowship. To me the heart of the church is the hall downstairs and the conversation that we have over cookies.



### Risti Jensen

I remember my Mother referring to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church as *my Church*, and attending services each week was as natural to her as breathing. When advancing years and frailty prevented her from coming to church, I remember that frequent pastoral visits from Rev. Anne, many lovely cards sent by Rita on behalf of the congregation, and a beautiful, hand knit prayer shawl, blessed in a service and given to her by Lynette and Gaynor, from the Church, were some of the reminders that she was still a part of the faith community of Dewi Sant.

My Mother sometimes used poetry to express her feelings, and I remember this favourite short poem:

*A room of quiet.....a temple of peace;  
The home of faith.....where doubtings cease;  
A house of comfort.....where hope is given;  
A source of strength.....to make earth heaven;  
A shrine of worship.....a place to pray;  
I found all this in my church today.*  
Cyrus R. Albertson

### Nia Davies

When I was growing up, I heard the Welsh language daily. My parents and my aunt would converse in Welsh. And while I don't speak Welsh, it is the language that I associate with my family. Also when I was growing up music was an important part of our family life. My mother would play the piano daily in our home and my Dad would keep time. Mom was the church organist for many years. She taught music in elementary school and was responsible for producing the annual school concerts and musicals, in which I was often involved. All of us were involved in choirs at various times.

Dewi Sant and the congregation have brought both of these foundations of my childhood together again. It is appropriate that today, on Family Day weekend, I have the opportunity to recount that hearing the Welsh language spoken so frequently, the weekly celebration with music in both English and Welsh with such an accomplished organist and new friends have brought me warm memories of family.

### Pam Evans

When my husband Gareth, speaks of chapel in South Wales, he fondly recounts Sunday School trips to Tenby. When my daughters and I think of Dewi Sant, we fondly remember Sunday School events such as:

- Snow tubing at Snow Valley in Barrie
- Making and eating chocolate chip pancakes every Shrove Tuesday
- Watching Veggie Tale movies in the Clinton room
- Centreville Amusement Park at Toronto Island
- Getting wet in the Splash Pad at Ontario Place
- Planting flowers in the church garden
- Canada's Wonderland and the Ghoster Coaster ride
- An overnight sleepover in the Fellowship Hall

- Looking for babies at the Toronto Zoo, and of course,
- The Christmas Pageants!

Thanks to everyone that help make Dewi Sant special to me and my family.

Also - the 110th Anniversary Committee is delighted to be able to offer the following items to commemorate Dewi Sant Welsh United Church's birthday. Pins are \$5 each and notelets are \$5 for a pack of 5. Please contact Gaynor McConnell at 416 293 1336 if interested. Stamps are \$70 for a sheet of 50; \$35 for a 1/2 sheet of 25 and \$15 for 10. The picture does not do them justice as they really are stunning. For those who want to use them as international stamps - three Dewi Sant 110th stamps = 1 international one. As Dewi Sant 110th stamps are more



expensive than the usual Canadian stamp, you could use 2 Canadian stamps and then 1 Dewi Sant 110th. Please contact

Lynette Jenkins at 416 281 8758 or [lynettej@scaw.org](mailto:lynettej@scaw.org) if interested. Postage and packaging will be extra for all items. (We are willing to send orders overseas). We will also be selling all items at the OGGa in Stratford next month.



*Lynette Jenkins*  
 Chair of the 110th Anniversary Committee

## IN MEMORIAM

With sadness, we inform you of the death of Haulwen (Tommy) Edwards, on Wednesday, March 8, after a long, full life. No service is planned. Please keep her daughter, Jane Maclellan, and family in your prayers.

The following note about the death of Don Neilson was sent by Marilyn Neilson and I omitted to include it in earlier editions of this newsletter.

*The Editor*

My husband Don and I were members of Dewi Sant for many years before moving to the Niagara region 14 years ago. We both served on the board at some time and we were married by Rev. Cerwyn Davies. Don passed away last March 21st after a lengthy illness. Don was born in Trethomas, Wales in 1933 and served in the Navy for 22 years. He sang in many choirs over his years and was one of the founding members of the Toronto Welsh Choir and later with the Burlington Welsh Chorus when we move to Vineland. There may be still a few members who remember him. I still like to hear what is going on in Dewi Sant. I must say I miss Dewi Sant (although I am not Welsh) and enjoyed my years with the church and have not found one down in this area that compares.

*Marilyn Neilson*

## THANK YOU FROM GRETL DAVIES

On January 31, 2017, my husband, Ellis Vincent Davies, a long-time member of Dewi Sant, passed away after just 5 days in the hospital. It was such a shock to me. Although he was ailing for the past year, I never suspected that his health would suddenly deteriorate so rapidly. In fact, when the medics wheeled him out into the corridor of our home, he quietly hummed a tune Pavarotti would sing!

After the second night in the hospital, he was moved into the I.C.U. and all he wanted from then on was to go home. All the family was allowed in the hospital room the day of his passing. We were married 69 years and were planning our 70th! We have three children - Anton, Karin and Kim; our youngest son, Kim, passed away just 5 years ago on Valentine's Day. Father and son are now united. Vince is leaving behind 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

I wish to thank all our friends at Dewi Sant for your Memory Donations to Alzheimer and Heart and Stroke Foundations, as well as the many cards of condolences. Many of you have also attended the funeral and it was very moving when, at the end of the ceremony, his good friend, Dr. Murray Black, played the Welsh National Anthem, which was Vincent's wish, and the members sang along in Welsh! Vincent did not speak the Welsh language but he was Welsh to the core and so proud of it. We miss you at home and in church.

*Gretl Davies and family*

## OUTREACH

In the last edition we asked for our readers to send in articles about the outreach work they do, in order to inspire us as a church and as individuals. The first article is from Lynette Jenkins.

*The Editor*

Gaynor McConnell and I volunteer in the Gift Shop at the Scarborough Rouge Hospital, Birchmount Campus, and one day one of the chaplains came in looking for someone to make nighties (shrouds) and bonnets for the babies that had been miscarried or were still-born. Gaynor and I are both grandmothers and we felt an overwhelming sense of compassion and willingness to help parents who were going through this unimaginable challenge at the death their baby. So we started the P.Pod programme. "P" stands for peri-natal - the medical term for this kind of death, and the "Pod" represents Gaynor and I wanting to protect and help the baby and their parents. Unfortunately we have been very busy as there is sometimes up to five deaths a week at the Birchmount and Scarborough General Hospitals. Who would have thought? Most pregnancies end up with a happy delivery and a beautiful new life. Hard to imagine it is not always so.



Gaynor makes the bonnets and I sew the flannelette nighties and the sheets the babies are wrapped in. Some of the babies are so small - under 500 grams, they are the size of my cell phone. The parents get to hold their baby in these items and then it is a tangible momento for them to keep of the life that has been lost.

Risti Jensen has also been a part of this out-reach programme as she has donated money to pay for the cost of the decorations on the nighties and the Fabricland store at Sheppard and Morningside knows all about Dewi Sant too, as they have given us a very special rate for buying materials and notions for the nighties and sheets. We feel so privileged to be a part of this mourning process.



I also volunteer at the Scott Mission twice a month. I get to the Scott Mission at Spadina and College by 8.15 a.m., and don't stop working until we finish about 1.00 p.m. Laying the tables, preparing food for up to 200 clients at lunch, serving the food and clearing up (2 settings for lunch) means that everything is fast-paced and physical. I love it! The staff is multi-racial and it is a wonderful chance for me to practise my language skills with the multi-racial clients. I share news about Dewi Sant, especially as it is our 110th Anniversary, and feel that I am offering practical help to those who need it. I am grateful to Betty for opening this opportunity to me.

And finally (!) Sleeping children Around the World. In 1990 I did my first trip to Thailand with "Sleeping Children" and worked with the most amazing Thai Rotarians. I did 9 trips there, managed to learn Thai and was constantly impressed with how wonderful these men and women worked tirelessly to help their children. Dewi Sant is such an avid, long-term supporter of this charity, I thought it was only fitting and proper that my Thai friends should receive our 110th Anniversary pin, for all the out-reach they did with SCAW and me.

*Lynette Jenkins*

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## **WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS**

Readers have sent in a number of articles which I will be including. This is from Ray Freebury who was a member of the board of the St. David's Society and is a long-time member of the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. *The Editor*

### **CHINA FOR THE UNINITIATED**

On Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>, my wife and I flew to Guangzhou (formerly Canton) China for a two week visit. We and several other family members were there to support our Granddaughter Bronwen who was representing Canada (and Wales too as far as I am concerned) in the World Sport Climbing Championships. Sport climbing is mostly done indoors on walls built to replicate boulders where climbers have no ropes (Bouldering) or steep vertical surfaces where climbers need ropes, anchors and belayers below (Lead climbing). So Bronwen, who specialises in Bouldering, had an army of family support and she did not disappoint finishing 9<sup>th</sup> overall and top Canadian in her age group. With the "support Bronwen" mission accomplished and after a week in Guangzhou, we set off to see some of the noted attractions of China.

Our first flight took us to the city of Xi'an. In the 1970's a farmer digging a well discovered a complete model of a warrior, an archer. This led to an archaeological exploration of the area which eventually uncovered a complete army of such warriors, the Terracotta warriors. Only the first warrior was ever found complete and the reassembling of the warriors, including horses and

chariots continues to this day. Seeing them now assembled as they originally were as intended protectors to the Chinese Emperor in his afterlife is truly an awe-inspiring sight.



Another flight took us to Beijing where we went to the Mutianyu site of the great wall. We were fortunate to have a sunny day with great visibility of the mountains over which the wall snaked into the distance at extraordinary heights resulting in a breathtaking view. Our next move was to the city taking in a view of the Beijing Olympic buildings and the so called "bird's nest" stadium. We moved on to Tiananmen Square replete with Chinese soldiers but now peaceful with no indication of its recent history, and then the Forbidden City with its palaces, its artefacts and extraordinary history.

*Ray, wife Diane and family member at the Great Wall*

Exploring on our own in Beijing was at times hair raising, at times amusing. On the amusing side my youngest granddaughter's fair hair and wide blue eyes made her a magnet for everyone with a camera or a cell phone. For my part my white hair also resulted in some young Chinese ladies asking too do a selfie with me. I dread to think what is happening to these photos now.

On the last day at our Beijing Hotel (Chinese not an American chain), Diane and I decided to check out the lounge and fitness facilities on the 10th floor. Lo and behold we came across the Chinese Fertility Centre. I work as a mental health consultant to a Canadian Fertility centre and I know that since the one child rule has been relaxed to a two child rule, advances in fertility treatment in China are outstripping advances in the West.

*Ray Freebury*

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **EASTER SERVICES**



#### **FRIDAY APRIL 14 – GOOD FRIDAY**

**3:30 PM CHURCH SERVICE** Guest Preacher: Rev. Meriel Simpson, Merched Dewi will be performing

**5:00 PM DINNER** \*see ticket info below

**7:00 PM GYMANFA GANU**

Guest Conductors: Sheryl Clay-Newell & Betty Cullingworth

Guest Soloist: Gaynor Jones Low

#### **SUNDAY APRIL 16 – EASTER SUNDAY**

**9:00 AM HOLY COMMUNION** followed by an Easter breakfast

**11:00 AM EASTER SERVICE**, Llanddarog choir will be taking part, along with a visiting minister



**\*DINNER TICKETS ARE \$12 EACH.**

We are serving Chicken Tarragon. **PLEASE CONTACT ARLEIGH QUESNELLE, 416-483-6870, EMAIL: [arleighquesnelle@sympatico.ca](mailto:arleighquesnelle@sympatico.ca).** \*Tickets will be available at the door, however, we would appreciate having prior notification of dinner attendance, **otherwise** we may run out of food.

**TUESDAY GROUP**

The next two meetings will take place on May 9th and June 5th at 11 a.m. We will then resume after the summer break. At the May 9th meeting, we will be discussing Senior Safety, in the home, on the street, in the car and computer/telephone scams. As usual, please bring your own lunch, and tea and dessert will be provided. The nominal donation of \$2 still applies.

Telephone reminders will be carried out prior to the event. I look forward to seeing you all once again.

*Melinda Morgan*

**CHORAL CONCERT**

Fairlawn Church is having a choral concert on the evening of Saturday April 8th. Tickets are \$20 and are available on-line at this link <http://www.fairlawnchurch.ca/events/concert/> They'll be singing in English, Latin, Spanish, Hebrew, Mandarin, Arabic and Zulu!!

**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](mailto:publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca); [www.facebook.com/ontario.welsh.festival](http://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 donor Glenys Huws and Dilys Stevens.

### **CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS**

Anna Dunets, Editor. Email: [adunetswills@gmail.com](mailto:adunetswills@gmail.com) or 416-485-4074.

Please send in your contributions by March 28 which is the cut-off date for submissions to the next issue.

