



## **DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS**

### **ST. DAVID'S DAY SERVICE**

On Sunday March 5, we celebrated St. David's Day and communion with an integrated Welsh and English service and many outstanding talents. This included the prayer

Merched Dewi sang O Gymru Ti Yw Gwynfyd. Others songs included Finlandia and we finished with the Welsh national Anthem. Hefina Phillips presented the story of St. David. Our guest minister Rev. Dr. Donald F. Bell gave a sermon on The Celtic Cross. Celtic crosses decorate the landscape of Ireland, Scotland and Wales with some 450 crosses in Wales alone. He recalled that he south these out as a young man living in England and that when you encountered a stone cross, you had to do some personal thinking about your life, and what you are about and so seek the path to life's goodness. Rev. Bell quoted from the Welsh bard Gwenaelt:

David carried the church everywhere  
Like a body with life and mind and will,  
And he did thigs small and great

.....

David spoke to us of God's natural order,  
The person, the family, the nation and the society of nations  
And the cross which prevents us from making any of them into a god

As part of the service various ministers sent greetings including Rev. Aled Jones who was able to send his as a video link.

### **Greetings from Past Ministers**

The Rev. Cerwyn Davies and Nora were present in the congregation and Rev. Davies addressed us directly from the pulpit. They had returned only the day before from Thailand, visiting Emyr and family, and felt the St. David's Day service was important enough to travel all the way back in to Toronto from Stratford. Rev. Davies had heard Geraint Wyn reciting Dylan Thomas "Do Not Go Gently into that Good Night" on St. David's Day, on the internet, while in Thailand (the wonders of technology). He referenced the lines as a reminder of how we, the congregation of Dewi Sant, should approach this stage of the life of our church. "*Do not go gently into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light.*" We should not approach our situation half-heartedly or backward-looking, but rather strive to be a positive and inspirational Dewi Sant congregation.



Other greetings:

***Reverend Deian (Evans) 2004 – 2010***

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Bendithiol i chi, fy nghyfeillion yn Eglwys Unedig Dewi Sant.

It is now ten years since the stained glass window of our Patron Saint was unveiled, during the Centenary Celebrations and so much has happened since then. Yet although the years have passed, some things never change. Faith, Hope and Love remain, and always will. Remember, my friends, the words of Dewi Sant: 'The simple things in life are to be remembered and cherished'. Simple things such as co-operation, friendship, prayer, adherence to God's Will. Annette and I hope to see you all during our visit in May. In the meantime, I wish you spiritual fulfilment and every blessing.

***Rev. (Lord) Roger Roberts of Llandudno 2003 -2004***

Dymuniadau gorau i deulu Dewi Sant. Atgofion hyfryd am y misoedd bum yn weinidog yn Toronto ac edmygedd mawr o'r cyfraniad mae'r capel Cymraeg yn ei wneud i ddiogelu traddodiad Cymraeg Ontario. Mewn cyfnod llawn prygl drwy'r byd gallem - fel aelodau o genedl fechan - fod yn dystion heddwch a charedigrydd. Pob bendith eleni ac i'r dyfodol.

Best wishes to the Dewi Sant family. Pleasant memories of the months I was a minister in Toronto, and great praise for the contribution the Welsh chapel (Church) is making to safeguard the Welsh tradition in Ontario. In a time full of danger throughout the world we, as members of a small nation, can be witnesses to peace and kindness. Blessings, this year and in the future.

***Rev. Aled Jones 2000-2002***

Bore da. Mae'n wirioneddol fraint i 'ch cyfarch wrth i chwi ymgasglu i addoli yn Eglwys Dewi Sant, a hefyd i ddathlu gwyl ein nawdd sant. Mae 'leni yn flwyddyn arbenyg pan yr ydych yn dathlu 110 blwyddyn ers ddechreuwyd yr eglwys yn Toronto. 'Rwyf yn nodi hefyd fod 150 mlwydd ers i Canada ymfyrfio a dod yn rhan o'r ymerodraeth Brydeinig.

Good morning. It is truly a privilege for me to greet you as you gather to worship in Dewi Sant Church, also to celebrate the feast of our patron saint - David. This is a special year for you - as you as you celebrate 110 yrs. since the church was started in Toronto. I also note that it is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada forming as a country and becoming part of the British Commonwealth. Pauline and I send our greetings to you as you celebrate the Patron Saint of Wales, - David. Also as you celebrate your 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Church and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of confederation in Canada. We pray God's blessings on you as a Church and as a Welsh community in Toronto, as you continue in your future together. Bendith Duw of arnoch i gyd. God's blessing on you all.

## SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY SERVICE

Carolyn Parkes from the Hand Bells Choir of St. John's York Mills Anglican Church enhanced the Special Music Sunday service on March 26. Carolyn usually plays with other members of the choir but even on her own she was able to play two bells in each hand. You had to be there



to see how this is done. For more information you can read about them on [www.sjym.ca/music/handbells](http://www.sjym.ca/music/handbells). The pieces she played were *Lo, How a Rose e're Blooming* and *In the Garden*. Carolyn also explained in some detail the technique for how the bells are played.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

On March 12, we had our ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, at which Annual General Report for the year 2016 and the proposed budget for the year 2017 were approved. It was noted at this meeting that after an update of the church members list, we now have 85 church members. Anyone interested in obtaining this report should contact the church office as listed at the end of this section. At that time Rev. Anne Hepburn announced that she would be leaving the ministry position at Dewi Sant at the end of June due to health reasons.

As a result of this, a second SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held on March 26 to discuss the request to the United Church for a new minister. A Presbytery representative and about 30 church members attended this meeting. The discussion focused on two issues – the degree to which the minister should be familiar with Welsh/Wales, and the preference for a full time or part time minister. Once again opinions were split between saving money with a part time minister so that church repairs can be made or continuing with a full time minister to provide leadership on outreach and on a renewal of worship. A better understanding of the current and projected financial position of the church is required. In addition, the congregation has to develop a Ministry Articulation Profile (MAP) before the Presbytery can declare a vacancy. As a result of the unresolved discussion on the ministry requirements and the need for a MAP, the Board of Session is inviting any interested members to participate in a committee to develop the MAP. The MAP typically requires a congregation to prioritize goals recommended by the United Church (or other goals added by the congregation) which include:

- Growing in Faith (Discipleship)
- Justice, Outreach, Sharing the Good News (Justice & Outreach)
- Leadership
- Wider Relationships (Ministry Partnerships)
- Pastoral Care/ Spiritual Care
- Belonging, Extravagant Welcome, Wellness (Spirituality / Self-Care)

- Stewardship
- Worship

As part of the MAP exercise the committee will also study and make a recommendation on the question of full or part time minister. If you are a church member and interested in being part of the MAP please contact your Board of Session or the church secretary at [info@dewisant.com](mailto:info@dewisant.com) or at 416-485-7583. The first meeting will be on April at 30 after church. We expect that the MAP process will require only a few meetings.

*Board of Session*

## DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY



As we now head into the second quarter of the 110th anniversary of Dewi Sant, I would like to thank the Committee (Reverend Anne, Anna Dunets, Betty Cullingworth, Clarice Terry, Gaynor McConnell, Ken Mitchell and Risti Jensen) for all their time, effort and enthusiasm into planning the various events. I believe we are celebrating in style and it is all due to the team work involved. An extra "thank you" goes to: Hefina Phillips for her translation and editorial skills; Fiona Vipond for her invaluable computer expertise in helping us get the notelets and stamps ready for printing; and Ross Cullingworth for designing our splendid commemorative stamp. Finally a "HUGE thank you" to all our families and friends who have supported and encouraged us along the way.

This is a challenging year for the church and, as with all challenges, we will rise to meet them and benefit from everyone pulling together to uphold our Welsh heritage. Do we want the ONLY Welsh church in Canada to disappear? I do not believe so!

*Lynette Jenkins*

*Chair of the 110th Anniversary Committee*

The "Just a Minute with Dewi Sant and ..." started this January and the "JAMS" are reprinted below. On the last Sunday in March Geraint Jones was 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"**

#### **Rita Hoffman**

Hello everyone. As many of you know I was asked by my dear friend Catherine Otley to help out at the old "caravan days". And then approximately 14 years ago I was asked to help out at the first Lunch Bunch. In 2009 I took over sending out the birthday, anniversary and bereavement cards which I still do to this day. Meanwhile when Reverend Roger Roberts was our minister, he asked me to become a member of Dewi Sant and so on February 8, 2004 I did. Since then I have embraced my church family to the fullest. Thank you to everyone who has accepted me as an honorary Welsh member from England.

#### **Hefina Phillips**

When I moved to Canada with my family in 1981 I confess that I knew absolutely nothing about the country, let alone Toronto. I knew I was coming to a bi-lingual country - English and French - but I was totally unaware that there was actually a Welsh church in Toronto and lots of people here who spoke Welsh. One of my indelible memories is coming to Dewi Sant that very first time. Cerwyn was the minister and Tom Jones was so excited that a Welsh speaker had arrived from "yr hen Wlad" - the old country. I don't remember any other details but what I do remember is weeping like a baby as we drove back to Oakville after the service. That weeping happened for quite a few Sundays.



I had lived in several countries and was totally adept at packing up the kids and the dog and moving wherever work took us. But I had no idea until I arrived at Dewi Sant how much I missed my homeland and my mother tongue. I suddenly realised I had been suppressing my intense hiraeth for a long time in order to survive our nomadic lives. But no longer. I was "home". If I couldn't actually live in Wales, this was the next best arrangement. I instantly felt accepted and welcomed.

I love working with the children. Christmas of course, is the pinnacle of our year. I remember how there were so many children that they used to fight for what they considered the best parts at the annual pageant. I love singing with Merched Dewi - despite threatening to quit each time I've been fighting traffic on the QEW and the 401. I don't need to tell you how important the Welsh services are to me. I was raised in a Welsh chapel in Cwmgiedd and since childhood I have known that God speaks Welsh. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share some of my passions with you all. Dewi Sant and its members are very, very special to me Diolch yn fawr iawn.

### **Rosemary Black**

Good morning. My memories of Dewi Sant go back only ten years...to 2007. It was the year of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and Rev. Deian Evans was the minister. Murray and I were not yet married, but he invited me to many of the events anyway. From the moment I first set foot inside the church, I felt that I was among friends.

I remember a day when we all boarded a ferry at Toronto Harbour and set off for Centre Island. We held a worship service there in a tiny country church followed by a great picnic complete with three-legged races and balloons which Meriel Simpson and I tied. That was the day when our red Dewi Sant T-shirts were introduced. How proud we were to put them on and to strut our stuff, as the saying goes!

Another unforgettable memory of that year was the delightful bus trip led by Donna Morris. It featured evidence of the Welsh influence in downtown Toronto. The bus drove very close to the original church site on Clinton Street, but it could not go down the street itself because the road was not wide enough, likely because there was parking on both sides of the street.

In that anniversary year, I attended my first Gymanfa Ganu. What an experience that was! The pews were absolutely jammed with people, an incredible energy and excitement filled the air, and... the glorious music soared to the very rafters, if not to heaven itself.

Dewi Sant provided my first exposure to church dinners. Believe it or not, I had never been to one before. It was amazing to see the plates heaped high with scrumptious home-cooked food, to hear the joyful laughter and to take part in the hearty singsongs.

Three years later, in 2010, Murray and I were married, here, in this very sanctuary. Now that is a surely a good reason to have a smile on my face when I think of Dewi Sant. Since then I have become an unwavering supporter of all things Welsh... daffodils, leek soup, Welsh cakes, and, of course, red dragons.

It was a true honour to be asked to serve on the Board of Session, it is fun to assist with the dinners and bazaars, and it is a privilege to worship God in this beautiful, sacred sanctuary among people who have become true friends. Thank you, everyone, for my wonderful, unforgettable memories of Dewi Sant, because it is so very true that these are memories to which each and every one of you has contributed. Diolch.

## Ross Cullingworth

Good Morning. One of the very special times in the history of Dewi Sant was the celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup>



anniversary. Fun events and fundraising began two years in advance and culminated in a very busy 2007 with the production of a lot of memorabilia: a cookbook, a history book, stamps, mugs and T-shirts. A luncheon/ auction was held at Rosedale Golf Club, a memorable and well attended picnic was organized on the Toronto Island and the church sanctuary was refurbished by the UCW. The year was capped off by a Celebration weekend in October that included a 100 voice choir, a banquet at the Granite Club, the unveiling of a new stained glass window and the memory wall at the back of the church. Of course, the \$140,000 raised during the three year period put a special smile on my face as the treasurer.

Ten years ago we had more people to undertake and attend these events and everyone worked hard to make 2007 a special year. So perhaps I can take this opportunity to remind everyone to get involved, as you are able, to help Lynette Jenkins and her committee as they work on the celebrations for this 110<sup>th</sup> year.

## Melinda Morgan

I attended a couple of Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu services at Dewi Sant in the late 90's. They were very positive experiences and I thereafter vowed that I should join the church congregation at some point in time. This time came in 2004, when I started to attend services regularly at Dewi Sant.

A pivotal point in my Dewi Sant attendances was being baptized by a Lord - Lord Roger Roberts. My elder sister, my parent's first born, was baptized as a baby. My baptism was put on hold for 60 years! So, my baptism at Dewi Sant was a significant event. I had always attended chapel as a child in Wales, but it lapsed in later years, as it was then my children's turn to attend as I cooked Sunday dinner.

Dewi Sant gave me what I needed in Canada - a sense of belonging - to be with my own kind. To sing in my native tongue and other familiarities that goes with the Welsh understanding of "Hiraeth". To summarize, Dewi Sant has added a new dimension in my religious and social life. Being a part of a congregation of friendly and caring people who have things in common with me - that is - a Welsh heritage.

## NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

Gaynor (Jones) and David Low announce with much joy the birth of another precious grandchild. Emily Maeve was born on Valentine's Day to Rebecca (Low) and Douglas Shearer. She is welcomed by her big brothers Colin, Duncan and Ewan. Emily is also a great-granddaughter of the late Rev John Humphreys and Katharine Jones.

*Gaynor Jones Low*

## IN MEMORIAM

In the March Gadwyn we mentioned that there was no funeral for Haulwen Edwards who passed away in early March. However there will be a memorial gathering for her as follows:

Saturday, May 06, 2017  
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Thompson Funeral home  
530 Industrial Parkway South, Aurora





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.

*Arleigh Quesnelle*

## 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.



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?**

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## **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 April 28 which is the cut-off date for submissions to the next issues.

