

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 9



Palm Sunday started with the Parade of the Palms in which the congregation laid palms at the foot of the cross. The theme was continued with the great hymn *Ride on, Ride on in Majesty*, and the reading from Matthew 21 on Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

EASTER WEEKEND APRIL 30

The Easter weekend started with the Good Friday afternoon service lead by the Rev. Meriel Simpson, speaking on the "View from the Cross". A wonderful church dinner prepared by Arleigh Shannon, Gil, Quesnelle and Louise Jones followed. The Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu was led by a duo of conductors, namely Betty Cullingworth and Sheryl Clay-Newell, with soloist Gaynor Low Jones and her husband David Jones accompanying her on the piano. This Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu included many new attendees from surrounding churches, thanks to the outreach efforts of the 110th Anniversary Committee.

Palm Sunday Parade of the Palms

Our Easter Communion Service on Sunday morning was followed by a continental breakfast prepared by Gaynor McConnell and Lynette Jenkins. It was lovely to share a meal with those in attendance and a chance to relax in the middle of a very busy morning. Thanks to Gaynor and Lynette for making a donation to Mission and Service for the amount of \$55 from the proceeds of the breakfast.

The Easter Sunday morning service saw a full church, since the Llanddarog choir was in attendance and sang two songs, *O Fab y Dyn* and *Mab y Forwyn*. The homily given by yet another choir member, the Rev. Emyr Gwyn Evans. Rev. Evans was introduced by Rev. Cerwyn Davies, who, as usual, knew both Rev. Evans' father and also Rev. Evans. Rev. Evans spoke on "Christ has Indeed been Raised" in Welsh and English. The Festival of Flowers saw the bare cross transformed by the congregation attaching flowers. This was an amazing Easter service.

The Editor



GUEST MINISTER

Rev. Deian Evans (a past minister) and his wife Annette are visiting Toronto and other "tourist" areas. We are so fortunate that Deian will also be presiding over the Dewi Sant church services on May 14 (Mother's Day) and May 21 (Victoria Day). This is a great opportunity to catch up with all their latest news. We hope as many as possible can come out and greet them.

The Editor

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A second SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held on March 26 to discuss the request to the United Church for a new minister. 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 invited any interested members to participate in a committee to develop the MAP. The first meeting was held on April 30 after church. The MAP process was outlined by the Facilitator (provided by the Presbytery). She identified that in addition to prioritizing and planning and our goals we should consider:

- What is the potential for ministry at Dewi Sant?
- What is important about our Welsh culture and how it shapes our ministry?
- What do we envision for the next 5 years and how would a new leader help us reach that vision?

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 or at 416-485-7583. At the first meeting YOUNG PEOPLE AND MEN WERE UNDER-REPRESENTED. The next meeting is on Saturday, June 3, from 10:00 – 2:00 at Dewi Sant. Please bring your lunch. We expect that the MAP process will require only a few meetings.

Board of Session

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY....FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Dewi Sant WUC has again offered to supply volunteers to The Scott Mission on **Friday June 2**. Our group will be involved in the serving of the noon meal along with the completion of other tasks that the Mission offers daily to its clientele. A list will be posted in the Fellowship Hall for those who are available to help on that day. Outreach is an important part of our church mission. Please consider joining us for a most worthwhile day. Questions can be directed to Betty Cullingworth, (cullingwho@rogers.com).

Also please remember to send in to Y Gadwyn your story of outreach work in your community and suggestions for what you would like to see in the church.

DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY



Just a reminder that the 110th Anniversary Committee is still selling Pins, notelets and stamps. 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 stamp. As Dewi Sant 110th stamps are more expensive than the usual Canadian stamp, you could use 2 Canadian stamps and 1 Dewi Sant 110th stamp. Please contact Lynette Jenkins at 416 281 8758 or lynettej@scaw.org if interested in purchasing. There will be another special memento for the 110th Anniversary coming up shortly!



The "Just a Minute with Dewi Sant and ..." started this January and the "JAMs" for April are reprinted below. Just a reminder that EVERYONE is included in the request to participate in the JAMs and that it is NOT by "invitation only". If you are able to read it in church please let the Committee know. Even if you have not attended the church for some time, or have moved away or cannot attend we would like everyone to feel included to "have their say" in this very special year. Send your JAM (a 1 Minute memory of your time at the church - approximately a 160 word article) and someone from the committee will read it.

Lynette Jenkins
Chair of the 110th Anniversary Committee

"Just a Minute with Dewi Sant"

Gretl Davies

Bore da!

I was born and raised in Austria and baptized in the Catholic church. My grandparents on my Mother's side were of different religions. My Grandfather was Protestant and my Grandmother was Catholic. My siblings and I spent every summer school holidays with my Grandparents. They were farmers and my Grandfather had a wheel wright business as well. I, being the oldest, had to perform certain duties as well, especially during harvest time. On Sundays, we children attended church with my Grandparents - one Sunday in the Catholic church with my Grandmother, and the next in the Protestant church with my Grandfather. So, I was very familiar with both churches at an early age.

After the war, I met Vincent and of course found out that he was of the Protestant faith. We were married in Wales in 1947, in a small town called Pontllanfraith, and in a small chapel called Jerusalem Chapel. Unfortunately, it is no longer a chapel but has become a privately owned house! Upon marriage, I thought it quite natural that I should become a Protestant as well, so my children would not need to make the choice about which church to attend.

On coming to Canada in 1957, we attended the United Church in Port Hope. The family eventually relocated to Toronto. While marching with the veterans to the C.N.E. on Armistice Day, Vincent met Harold Woodey, and it was Harold who suggested Vince attend Dewi Sant, which he did. I however did not join for a number of years, believing I would not be wanted, not being able to speak Welsh! How wrong I was!

I am so thankful of having been included in this wonderful, small, Welsh community who has accepted us with true friendship.
DIOLCH!

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

IN MEMORIAM

A wonderful Celebration of Life was held at Dewi Sant for Megan Morris on April 27. This included many stories and reminiscences about Megan. A summary of the Celebration will appear in the next edition of Y Gadwyn.

WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL STRATFORD, 2017

This Festival was definitely one of the "best ever". Board members can certainly bask in the reflected glow of such a successful event.



The grand times started early on with a tour of the Stratford Festival Warehouse. Participant were allowed to try on various famous articles of clothing used in the production of the plays. This year's Gold Award winner, Betty Cullingworth, cloaked herself in an appropriate golden gown.

The Noson Lawen featured a wide range of talent, a wide range of ages and participants from all over Ontario and the USA. The visiting choir - Côr Llanddarog - and individual members of the choir participated. Two children of the choir performed singing and recitation. The MC for the event also a choir member. The choir director, Meinir Richards, expects (and gets) 101% from the choristers. This was a mixed choir from South West Wales - one that we had been watching for a few years. In a country that is famous for its choirs, Llanddarog is exemplary, winning first prize at least 5 times in the annual National Eisteddfod.



The soloist Ffion Hâf is a winner of the coveted Blue Ribband, Elan Richards (Meinir's daughter) has a superb soprano voice, and Matthew Williams is a trumpet player extraordinaire.

Côr Llanddarog

Their accompanist is Sioned Evans and one of the tenors, Rhys, joined Ffion Hâf and Elan on stage. This was a truly "family affair". Matthew's brother and mother sing in the choir, as do Sioned's mother and sister. Meinir's two daughters, her sister-in-law and her niece are choristers - and those are only the ones I'm aware of!



Merched Dewi



Rhodri Owen



travelled from the USA



Matthew Williams

Since 2011 (the 50th anniversary of our Festival) it has become traditional to honour a member of the Ontario Welsh community for their hard work and commitment. This year's Gold Award was presented to Betty Cullingworth, a person who has given of herself tirelessly to all things Welsh, not only in Ontario but also generally in North America. No one deserves the Award more than she does. Llongyfarchiadau, Betty. As director of Merched Dewi it was appropriate that she be serenaded by her choir! The words to one of the songs are as follows:

Betty's Gold Award to Llwyn Onn

We gather to honour our inspiring leader
There's no-one we know more deserving of this.
She works without stopping, improving our singing
But it's quite a challenge when top notes we miss.

The Thursday night journey can be quite a headache
For those who fight trucks on the Four Zero One.
But once we start singing the frowns disappear
And everyone's happy 'cause practice is fun.

It was Betty who first suggested that a Gold prize should be awarded
to a person who has given so much to the Welsh.
In true Betty fashion she always insisted
That others deserved it much more than herself.

Now top of that list is our very own Betty
She's always at work for Welsh causes galore.
The church and our choir, this annual gath'ring,
Would all be much poorer without her for sure.

So Betty we share in your honour this evening,
Because you're so special to all of us here.
To us you are golden and will always be so
We send you our love and best wishes sincere.

In addition to the splendid singing, the location of the Concert and Gymanfa Ganu was superb. Thanks to Rev Dr. Cerwyn Davies, who now lives in Stratford, Avondale United Church hosted the Festival during the weekend. The church is quite, quite beautiful and the acoustics and invaluable help from Billy, their AV guru, made it a truly memorable event. The hymns for the Gymanfa were displayed on the overhead screen – this helped in keeping the English and Welsh verses organised. The church was full, both on Saturday evening for the Concert and on Sunday morning for the first Gymanfa session. (Fewer attended the afternoon session, but the singing was still excellent).

P.S. Despite having stocked up on pre-Festival sleep, I was still exhausted by Sunday evening and don't remember much of Monday or Tuesday either!! The Llanddarog choir flew out on Sunday evening and most of them had to go to work on Monday!
Diolch o galon i bawb.

And now we start preparing for 2018. See you all in Kingston, April 27-29, when the visiting choir will be Côt y Gleision, from Cardiff.
Hefina Phillips (and the Editor)

WHAT IS THE WELSH FESTIVAL WITHOUT THE ORGANIST?

Having attended another great Welsh Festival (see above article) I was struck by how the whole event - Noson Lawen performers, Gymanfa Ganu congregation, after-hours impromptu singers, and so on, all depend on the musical accompaniment of the one and only Alan Thomas. The piano packed it in (again – happens at every one of these events apparently) yet Alan managed to organise for a replacement. I thought it might be interesting to hear about any other near misses and musical mysteries that may have occurred over his very long career with the Welsh Festival. This is his write-up but I suspect there are many more stories. I am positive I saw him continue to play after all the sheet music had fallen on the floor.....

The Editor

I have played for 10 Welsh festivals in the USA and 13 in Ontario, not to mention a large number here in Ottawa. Working with conductors is always an interesting experience. They come in two kinds, those who keep to what we have planned in advance, and those who spring surprises on me, and there are the ones who stand in one position when conducting, and the others who move around the stage. I played for one who was never there when I looked up from the organ!

Organs can be a problem also. At one Noson Lawen I was playing the organ for a choir, when it suddenly died early on in the piece being sung, so I grabbed my music and moved swiftly to the grand piano and finished the accompaniment there, after the choir had sung a few bars a Capella. That got a big round of applause from the audience!



At another Noson Lawen the rented organ packed in half way through the evening, so I had to get the engineer out of bed on the Sunday morning to fix it. He set the controls so that it could not be turned off, and that allowed me to play it for both the Sunday cymanfaoedd. I was at one church ready to play the organ, and pushed the start button. Nothing happened. I then tried the stop button, with the same result. So I pushed both buttons together. There was quite an electrical flash, but the organ started! And of course the digital piano at Stratford packed in on the Friday afternoon, in spite of the best efforts of the house maintenance man to try and fix it. So we had to rent a keyboard for the weekend events.

I have been lucky in being able to cope with all those little crises. I began my performing career on Granada television in England in the days of live-to-air events. One little interesting thing about those broadcasts on TV was that we were

not allowed to wear white shirts, which caused the TV screen to "melt". There was no recording facility available, so you had to get the notes right first time - or no subsequent engagement! Good training. I have done lots of recordings, and the engineers have always been amazed that I never need to do re-takes. I told them why!

I have learned to be ready for anything, including soloists who leave out several bars of their songs because of nerves. So long experience is a great advantage. But it has all been very enjoyable, in spite of the unexpected!
Alan Thomas

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY GROUP

*The next two meetings of the **Tuesday Group** will take place on **May 9th** and **June 6th** at 11 am respectively. We will then resume after the Summer break. **Please note: The Tuesday Group meeting for May is on the 9th of May, the second Tuesday of the month, not the usual first Tuesday.** 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.*

Melinda Morgan

BAZAAR

You might think it is too early to start planning for the church bazaar in November but this is not true! After this weekend - if you should feel inspired to do some "Spring Clearing" please would you consider checking out your jewelry boxes? When I made this request last year - the response was absolutely amazing and everyone's donations helped us to achieve our greatest

amount EVER taken at our Christmas Sale. As we celebrate our 110th Anniversary - will you help us again to top last year's achievement? If you need any clarification of what to send - please call me at 416 281 8758 or email me at lynettej@scaw.org
Lynette Jenkins

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.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

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

