

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

GUEST MINISTER IN MAY

Dewi Sant church had the great good fortune to have a special guest and old friend, the Rev. Deian Evans (and Annette Evans) visit and minister to the congregation in May. The Evans were officially on holiday from Wales but Rev. Evans preached at the Welsh service on May 7 and on the two morning services of May 14 and 21. It has been 7 years since Rev. Deian was the minister at Dewi Sant. For Mother's Day Service May 7, Sheryl Clay sang "Home Is a Special Kind of Feeling" (Rutter). On the following Sunday, Merched Dewi sang, and the



Message of Peace and Goodwill was read (see next section for more on this). After the service during tea, Deian and Annette were presented with gifts as thanks for their service and renewed friendship during this short period in Toronto.

Two past ministers finding their "mug shots"



Deian and Annette with mementos from the congregation

MESSAGE OF PEACE AND GOODWILL MAY 21

This year the Urdd's Message of Peace and Goodwill is 95 years old. The first message was sent by Reverend Gwilym Davies from Cwm Rhymni. He was a pacifist and was prominent in the establishing of the Welsh Union of the League of Nations and UNESCO. He believed in uniting the children of the world. In the 1950's the Urdd (an organization giving children and young people

the chance to learn and socialize in the Welsh language) was given the responsibility of announcing the Message of Peace and Goodwill on 18 May, which was the date of the first peace conference in The Hague in 1899. The Urdd's Message of Peace and Goodwill, written this year by pupils from Bwrdd Syr IfanC, is called 'Equality for Young People'.



*Rev. Evans speaking with the children;
Helen Song Rev. Sung Ran Kim, Jin
Kim seated*

Message of Peace and Goodwill Prepared by the Youth of Wales to the Young People of the World

We invite young people across the world to join with us in our call for equality for young people We wish to receive equality:- In our education opportunities, in our freedom to live according to our sexuality, when dealing with our disabilities, in our life choices and opportunities, in our rights to use our own language, when tackling racism and in our freedom of religion. Without equality and recognition of our rights, others see us in a different light. We call for our voice to be

heard, we wish that our voice is respected. We call for the right for all of us to express our opinions and for young people to have a vote, asking others to speak with us before speaking on our behalf. We do not have all the answers, we have our weaknesses, and we acknowledge them so that we can keep on learning. We need to receive the correct information. We need to be educated on social, political and international matters, and by encouragement not enforcement we are able to influence others. Together, we can raise standards within our communities for the generations of today and the future – ensuring that equality is at the heart of decisions for the future.

Neges Heddwch ac Ewyllys Da 2017

Gwahoddwn ieuentid ar draws y byd i ymuno gyda ni i alw am gydraddoldeb i bobl Ifanc. Rydym eisiau cydraddoldeb:- Yn ein cyfleoedd addysgol; yn ein rhyddid i fyw yn ôl ein rhywioldeb; wrth ymdrin ag anableddau; yn ein cyfleoedd mewn bywyd; yn ein hawliau i ddefnyddio ein hiaith; beth bynnag ein hil a'n daliadau crefyddol. Heb gydraddoldeb a chydabyddiaeth o'n hawliau, ceir yr argraff anghywir ohonom ni, y bobl ifanc Rydym eisiau i'n lleisiau gael eu clywed, rydym eisiau i'n lleisiau gael eu parchu. Mynnwn yr hawl i bawb fynegi eu barn ac i bobl ifanc fwrw eu pleidlais, gan ofyn i eraill siarad gyda ni, cyn siarad ar ein rhan ni. Nid oes gennym yr holl atebion ac mae gennym ein gwendidau ond rydym yn eu cydnabod ac mae gennym le i wella. Mynnwn dderbyn y wybodaeth gywir Mynnwn gael ein haddysgu am faterion cymdeithasol, gwleidyddol a rhyngwladol - trwy anogaeth ac nid gorfodaeth a thrwy hynny medrwn ddylanwadu ar eraill. Gyda'n gilydd, gallwn godi safonau ein cymdeithas ar gyfer ein cenedlaeth ni a chenedlaethau'r dyfodol - a sicrhau taw cydraddoldeb sydd wrth wraidd penderfyniadau'r dyfodol.

This service was attended by representatives from the Korean Beacon Church who share our church premises. Helen Song spoke and then Rev. Sung Ran Kim (a graduate student at Emmanuel College) gave a prayer which was followed by her son Jin Kim playing two pieces on the violin, "With the Perfume" and "As the Deer". The prayer, translated from the Korean, follows the theme of peace and goodwill. Both the National Council of Churches in the South and the Korean Christian Federation of the North worked together to prepare this Joint Easter Community Prayer.

2017 Easter Joint North-South Prayer

Lord, you who have defeated death and risen, in this season where we remember the joys of resurrection, thank you for showing the marvels of life this spring through the vitality of green life. Yes Lord! This world was created beautifully in God's eyes, who also sent his one and only Son, Jesus, to save those who have sinned against You. Lord, you have shown us how to live as God's children, and Your Spirit has led us not only through life, but also through history. But Lord, the sorrows of the 70-years ethnic separation, still lingers since the time of our North/South division. We have lost the hopes of 'becoming one with God', and have sought after earthly goods instead of peace. Pity us, Lord. Clear away the pain-filled memories of separation, and also the rusty barbed-wires. Help the North and the South fulfill a life of harmony and peace, as the farmer readies himself to till new land and plant new life, prepare us Lord. Lord, help us first open our firmly closed hearts, so that we can embrace each other with tenderness. Let us sow the seeds of tolerance, love and service, and with God's blessings, may that land bear much fruit, and bless our people with a life full of joy and harmony. God of life, help the churches of the North and the South, to defeat this cold death-like reality. God of peace, help us work together with one united mind, to fulfill the dreams of unification. Help us remember the days when the North and the South once were one, to better live into a world of harmony and peace. God of life, in this season of resurrection where we await the signs of spring, help us see the hopes of new life, sprouting in the cold barren land. God of justice, in this land where Your glory awaits, let the rivers of justice flow, bringing forth Your plans for us. In Jesus name, the one who has defeated death and risen again, Amen

MINISTRY ARTICULATION PROFILE (MAP)

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. The Board of Session is inviting any interested members to participate in a committee to develop the MAP. The first meeting was held on April 30 after church. **The next meeting is on Saturday, June 3, from 10:00 – 2:00 at Dewi Sant.** 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. Please bring your lunch. We expect that the MAP process will require only a few meetings.

Board of Session

DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HOME COMING WEEKEND!



The main event for the 110th celebration for Dewi Sant Church will be held on the weekend of Sept. 23 and 24. Please mark your calendars. The weekend will kick off with a fantastic concert featuring the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and Merched Dewi on Sept. 23. On Sept. 24, the Sunday Service will include two of our past ministers, Lord Roger Roberts and Rev. Cerwyn Davies. The service will be followed by a lunch. More details will be available in the next Gadwyn but set aside this weekend now! We are hoping to see our members plus those who have visited Dewi Sant in the past plus friends from the wider Welsh community of Canada and the USA.

The 110th Anniversary Committee is introducing a new memento for the anniversary – beautiful china mugs with the anniversary logo. You could use a full set of these to match any tableware. They are \$18 each, or \$35 for 2. The picture does not do them justice as they really are stunning. These are available after church service from either Lynette Jenkins or Gaynor McConnell, as well as the stamps and pins and notelets.



The “Just a Minute with Dewi Sant and ...” started this January and the “JAMs” for May (and a few missed in 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. Sign up to speak or 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”

Rev Anne

Of all the different aspects of Dewi Sant with which I have become familiar, I would have to say that the Welsh tradition of choral music has made the biggest impression on me. In particular the music of William Williams Pantycelyn, as well as other beautiful hymns, have been a gift. I have been in many churches and have enjoyed hymn sings as special events but the regular Cymanfaoedd Canu are in a class by themselves.

There is a magical quality of energy and emotion that creeps into a hymn singing here at Dewi Sant. In fact I think even an ordinary song gets much more feeling here - imagine any other culture that sings national anthems and hymns with such fervour in a pub and on a soccer field!

I have several CDs of Welsh music in my car and they have become my default choice to listen to over regular stations. I also have become fond of the different choirs here and from Wales. Merched Dewi and the TWMVC are local, talented and inspirational. Only Boys Aloud and the other guest choirs have gotten me to follow them on YouTube. I will miss this part of Dewi Sant very much but hope to return on occasion!

Nêst Pritchard.

Good Morning, *Bore da* - I'm here - thanks to '*the better way*' – yes – in spite of the run, the road closures, and parking problems, the subway was still running.....

I've been coming to this Church since 1971 – when I moved to Toronto, after living in Canada for most of 10 years. From the start I was happy to find that the children were given a warm welcome in the Sunday school. Rev. Elwyn Hughes was the minister at the time, and it was SO good to hear an inspiring sermon in that North Wales accent. The ministers since then have come with different accents and abilities, and I hope I have learned to adapt and learn from each one.

On my first Sunday at Dewi Sant, there was an evening service 'yn Gymraeg' - which I attended – of course! These evening services have been an important part of my life ever since. It is thanks to this group of Welsh speakers that I have kept up my ability to converse in my native tongue– much to the surprise of those I meet when I return to Anglesey!

I tell people I was thrown out of Wales because I don't sing in tune – true - however I love to hear the familiar – **and the new** – Welsh hymns being sung. That is one of the reasons I keep coming to Dewi Sant

Church. Like many of you I am dismayed to see how few people attend the worship services on a regular basis – but I was reminded recently that Jesus' charge to Peter was : 'Feed my sheep' - not 'Count my sheep'.

Diolch am fod yma, ac am wrando

Myfanwy Williams Owen

I was born in Llysaen, North Wales, one of seven children. My career of choice was nursing and I completed my general nursing qualifications in Birmingham and my midwifery qualifications in Oxford. I immigrated to Canada with my 3 year old daughter in 1966. Living in Scarborough, I did not hear about the Welsh Church in Toronto until I met some members at the Cardiff Pavilion which was part of the multicultural festival known as Caravan. After meeting my husband Gareth Owen who was a member of the Welsh Church, I started attending on special occasions and was impressed with the warm welcome and sense of homecoming. My husband died in 1996 and at Nora Davies' persuasion, I joined the Merched Dewi Choir and became a member of the Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. During the last 20 years, I have enjoyed the friendship and support of the Welsh community which gives me the opportunity to celebrate my roots, my culture and to speak in my native language. I enjoy participating in the numerous activities offered and feel truly blessed.

Louise Jones

These four walls hold special memories for many people. For me: I remember the days when this church was packed. Sunday services, and the Good Friday Gymanfa Ganu, Christmas Eve services - they were exciting times. The people of Dewi Sant are like an extended family. We would spend time outside of church also visiting their homes for New Year's Eve parties and they were always fun.

Growing up in Dewi Sant was great as there were lots of kids and Sunday school broke off into numerous classrooms. Our pageants had enough young talent to fill all the parts. After the Christmas pageant we were rewarded with a Christmas party and it peaked with excitement when Santa showed up with presents for all of us. Oh yes "these walls hold wonderful memories for all of us".

Christine Campney

Thank you for inviting to speak for a minute about how Dewi Sant is important to my family and I. The best place to start would be with my grandfather, Hugh Hughes, who helped build this church. Every Sunday in his suit and hat, he would sit in the same pew and lustily sing all the Welsh hymns. After church he would go down to the basement and have a cup of tea and a cookie and discuss the "old country" with family and friends in Welsh. I loved and still love the sing-song accent but did not have any idea what they were saying.

My mom, Nesta and her sisters Emily and Betty were baptized here, went to Sunday school, were confirmed and got married here and so did I. I am proud to say that my children are continuing in this tradition. We also had lots of events in the basement like wedding and baby showers. Funerals for the Hughes family, including my grandparents, have been held in this church. When I think of Dewi Sant, I feel like it completes our family's circle of life.

I remember so many events at Dewi Sant like the Good Friday, Easter and Christmas dinners that always just seem to happen seamlessly, the church bazaars and the visiting Welsh choirs. I remember best practicing for the Sunday school plays in the basement. Plays that were written by my Aunt Betty and Hefina Philips, who so creatively wrote scripts that, I think, covered every aspect of the bible. We practiced endlessly. I remember specifically practicing lines with Louse Jones, Sheila Holyer, the Bajaj's and the Pollocks and trying to sing the Welsh verses of the songs accompanied by the very talented Gwyneth Pollock. I don't think I ever quite got the "ch" or the "ll" sounds quite right.

If I had to create my own special mission statement for Dewi Sant it would be to continue being the preeminent place to celebrate spiritualism and Welsh culture. May it continue for many years to come!

Betty Evans

My most notable memories go back more than 40 years, when Gareth and I moved to Toronto from Montreal. We had originally immigrated to Montreal from Wales and Montreal felt quite foreign partly

because the main language was French and also because we were new to Canada. I was born and brought up in a Welsh village – Tonyrefail in the Rhondda Valley – and attended a Welsh church where the ministers spoke mainly Welsh and a little English.

The first service we attended at Dewi Sant was a Gymanfa Ganu. We were given a very warm welcome, so we felt we had come home. Gareth and I still enjoy this very same feeling. It wasn't long after we first came here, that Rita and Catherine invited us to help in the kitchen and to attend the Lunch Bunch. We made many friends through these two activities and have enjoyed the warm atmosphere to this very day.

Gareth Evans

My first memories of Dewi Sant are associate with the game of snooker. Betty and her friend Merle Foster of Skewen, Llanfrechfa and latterly of Mississauga, found out that there was a Welsh church in Toronto and that it held an annual Gymanfa Ganu. After their first visit they attended each year "religiously". I must confess that we husbands seized the opportunity to sneak down to the pool hall on Eglinton for an annual game of snooker.

This developed quite quickly into Betty and myself attending Sunday morning services and soon becoming members of the church. Looking back this of course brings memories of Rev. Deian, Lord Roger and Rev. Eilert, each one with their own presence, approach to the ministry and obvious commitment to their calling. Wanda was part of these memories, always there to keep the ship on course. A motley assortment of leaders it must be admitted but nevertheless destined to leave lasting, fond memories of my and Betty's early days at Dewi Sant. What memories.

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

IN MEMORIAM

Megan Morris (January 31, 1925 - April 22, 2017)



On Saturday, April 22nd, 2017, my mother, Megan Morris, passed away quietly in her own time. A funeral service was held at Dewi Sant in the following days. My mom was a faithful member of Dewi Sant for almost 60 years and much of her life revolved around the church. It was her "home away from home" and the place where many life-long friendships and memories were made. I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful send-off my mother received. I would especially like to thank Rev. Anne Hepburn and Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies for their kind words and leading the service, Merched Dewi, Sheryl Clay-Newell and Matthew Coons for sharing their musical talent with us, and, the ladies of the church for preparing such a lovely reception. Dewi Sant is a very special place with very special people and it is especially so at times like this. A heartfelt thank you to my "Dewi Sant Family" for all the love and support you have shown me at this

very difficult time. It is very much appreciated. I am comforted to know that my mom is once again united with my late father, Islwyn, and their eternal love and happiness abounds.

"Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your Lord". (Matthew 25:21-23)

Dioch o'r galon.

Donna Morris

On April 27th, the Dewi Sant community said a sad farewell to one of its long-standing members, Megan Morris. Born 92 years ago in Glynccorwg, near Port Talbot, Megan and her late husband, Islwyn, came to Canada in 1957 and shortly thereafter became members of Dewi Sant where they remained loyal members for the rest of their lives. It was a wonderful service celebrating Megan's life with the Reverend Anne Hepburn, Reverend Dr. Cerwyn Davies participating as well as Merched Dewi, Matthew Coons and myself. Donna Morris spoke so well of her mother, her life and her truly industrious nature. In her closing remarks, Donna spoke of her mother's commitment to Dewi Sant and expressed her appreciation of the community for their support. The most personal memory I have of Megan is of her great work in the kitchen at Dewi Sant and it was wonderful to see a photo of Megan with her friends Brenda Kelsall and Betty Woodey working in the kitchen placed on display in the fellowship hall. I would also like to acknowledge Donna's steadfast commitment as daughter to both her parents; a wonderful commitment of time and care for her parents. She did them both proud. I am sure if there is a kitchen in heaven, Megan is there already with a smile on her face, making sandwiches, welsh cakes and pouring tea.
Sheryl Clay-Newell

Megan Wynne Jones McKee

Megan McKee, a long-time supporter of Dewi Sant and Y Gadwyn, passed away on May 23 at the age of 92. She was a medical doctor practising at the University of Toronto Student Health Services.

WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

HEDD WYN: REBUILDING THE POET'S PAST AT HIS FORMER HOME

Restoration work is under way to safeguard the historical home of World War One poet Hedd Wyn - the shepherd poet - known by his real name, Ellis Humphrey Evans. The farm - Yr Ysgwrn - in Gwynedd has been awarded nearly £3m in heritage lottery grants to transform it in memory of the poet. It will be a century next year since his death at Passchendaele on 31 July, 1917. The home was secured for the nation by Snowdonia National Park Authority in 2012.

The farm is where for much of the last hundred years you would find 'Y Gadair Ddu' - 'The Black Chair'. At every National Eisteddfod, the chair is the highest prize that can be awarded to a bard. And in 1917, it was Hedd Wyn's turn for his poem 'Yr Arwr' - 'The Hero'. According to newspaper reports, rumours were already flying about the crowd gathered for the festival in Birkenhead in Merseyside as the archdruid called out the nom-de-plume of the winning bard - Fleur-de-Lis. That year, there was no answer. Instead, a silenced audience was told that the winner was Hedd Wyn and "he lay in a quiet grave somewhere in France". "No words can adequately describe the wave of emotion that swept over the vast audience when the chair was draped with the symbols of mourning," the Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard reported. The chair is due to undergo careful restoration itself, before it and five other bardic chairs won by the poet are returned to the cottage.

WALES WAS ONCE PART OF CANADA

Did you know that the northwest area of Hudson's Bay from James Bay to Chesterfield Inlet (now part of Nunavut) was once called New North Wales and New South Wales? This information was shared with me by Vaughan Lewis who is an avid collector of books on maps. In the Historical Atlas of Canada (Derek Hayes, 2002) these regions are clearly shown on maps dating from 1677. This section below is from a map of 1827. In 1612 Welsh captain Thomas Button wintered on the shores of Hudson Bay, at the mouth of the river he named the Nelson.

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF TORONTO

Annual General Meeting - New Members Welcome!

On Saturday June 17th, the St. David's Society of Toronto will hold its Annual General Meeting following a pot luck dinner. There is no charge for members! Annual membership fees are: Individuals \$20; Family \$30. The AGM will include: President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Induction of Honorary Life Members, Announcement of Upcoming Events, and, Launch of a New Logo Competition. Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. Please come join us! New members are always welcome!

And they're off! (to the Woodbine Racetrack)

On Saturday June 24th, we will once again be going to Woodbine Racetrack for a delicious buffet lunch at the Favourites Dining Room located on the 2nd floor overlooking the racetrack and finish line. The cost is approximately \$50 and includes a \$10.00 OLG slot voucher, if a minimum of 20 people attend. If you are interested in going to this event, please contact Julie Wenz at (416) 500-8970 or juliewenz@yahoo.ca.

TUESDAY GROUP

The next meeting of the **Tuesday Group** will take place on **June 6th** at 11 am respectively. We will then resume after the Summer break. As usual, please bring your own lunch, and tea and dessert will be provided. The nominal donation of \$2 still applies.

Melinda Morgan

BAZAAR

Save the date for the bazaar – November 11.

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 for donations from John Jenkins, Margaret Payne, Ian & Brenda Thomson, Clive & Patricia Mason, Cerwyn & Nora Davies and Mairwen Thornley.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

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

