

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

JUNE 25 REV. ANNE'S LAST SUNDAY SERVICE

On June 25th we worshiped together for the last time with Rev. Anne. The usual service included a liturgy of disengagement. Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies spoke on Sharing of Memories and Perspective. Sheryl Clay-Newell sang a magnificent *God Is My Shepherd* by Anton Dvorak and Merched Dewi sang *Mae Yn Fyw (Jesus Lives)* which was a special request by Rev. Anne. The liturgy presented a series of promises of both Rev. Anne and the congregation:

*I/We receive your thankfulness
and offer our forgiveness.*

I/We ask you to forgive me/us for our mistakes.

I/We are grateful for your guidance and your gifts.

As we part, may we know God's grace and peace.

At tea after the service (with a magnificent cake) the congregation presented Rev. Anne with a card and a gift of a pillow with the 110th Anniversary logo.



Sheila Holyer presenting 110th Anniversary gift

WELSH LANGUAGE SERVICE

The Welsh language service on June 4th with a sermon by Rev. Emyr G. Evans. (Rev. Evans is a member of Côt Llanddarog and was our guest preacher on Easter Sunday). The sermon was based on Mark's gospel "but who do you say that I am?". (Pwy yw Iesu?) This is an especially good question in these times when, as Rev. Evans noted, so many churches in Wales, England and North America are closing. It is also telling that Christ's message of love and peace is still overshadowed by ongoing war. The winner of the poetry competition in last year's National Eisteddfod depicted a conversation about war in Syria and the plight of refugees. The overall message was dark and hopeless. What sort of community are we leaving to our children and grandchildren?



It was great to see the video by Rev. Evans so professionally produced – apparently he had assistance from the BBC! And as usual it was wonderful to have Merched Dewi at the service to sing Bendigedig.

At the session meeting (June 13th) it was decided to change from the custom of holding a Welsh language service in the evening. The plan is that for **Sept. 10 and**

Oct. 1, 2017 to have a Welsh sermon – starting at 10 a.m. – followed by a short break before the ‘regular’ morning worship. The Morning Worship on these Sundays would include an additional Welsh component and a contribution by Merched Dewi. This arrangement will be evaluated at the Session meeting in the Fall. Looking forward to hearing your ideas.

Yn cyfarfod y Session (Gorffennaf 13eg) fe benderfynwyd newid y drefn o gynnal Gwasanaeth Cymraeg gyda'r nos. Yr ydym yn bwriadu cael **pregeth Gymraeg am 10 o'r gloch y bore ar Medi 10ed. a Hydref y 1af. 2017.** Ar ôl egwyl byr, fydd y gwasanaeth foreol yn cymryd lle. Fe fydd mwy o Gymraeg yn y gwasanaeth yma, a hefyd cyfraniad gan Merched Dewi. Bydd aelodau'r Session yn edrych ar werth y drefn yma yn yr hydref. Yn edrych ymlaen at glywed eich syniadau.

Nêst Pritchard

MINISTRY ARTICULATION PROFILE (MAP)

The second meeting of the Ministry Articulation Profile (MAP) was held on June 3, at Dewi Sant. The congregation has to develop a MAP before the Presbytery can declare a vacancy. **The third and hopefully last meeting will be held on July 16 after the morning service at Dewi Sant.** It is expected that the MAP questions will be answered and the MAP will be approved at that time. All church members AND Official Board members are encouraged to attend this meeting. A summary of comments from the first meeting will be presented for anyone who is newly attending. The meeting will be conducted by Sheryl Clay Newell and Janet Marshall, a consultant provided by Presbytery for assisting congregations to prepare the MAP.

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?

In case you think these meetings are all talk and no action here are some pictures from the last meeting. This was not exactly a part of the MAP but rather a way to stress the importance of group work, cooperation, analysis and sharing of resources. In the marshmallow game each team has to try to build the tallest free standing structure with the tools provided. Unfortunately there will be no such game at the next meeting.



The winning team!

Board of Session

**DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY
HOMECOMING WEEKEND!**

Mark your calendars for our homecoming weekend of celebration!!

- **Saturday, September 23 at 2 PM:**
A concert featuring the **Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir**.
Merched Dewi, the Welsh Ladies Choir of Dewi Sant, will also be performing.



Tickets are \$25, available from the Church office, 416-485-7583 or info@dewisant.com; online from **Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.ca)**; or from members of Merched Dewi.

- **Sunday, September 24 at 11:00 AM:**
Rev. Emeritus Dr. Cerwyn Davies will officiate at our worship service. This special service will be followed by a **reception in the Fellowship Hall.**

We are hoping to see our members plus those who have visited Dewi Sant in the past (all 110 years) plus friends from the wider Welsh community of Canada and the USA.

The 110th Anniversary Committee still has beautiful china mugs with the anniversary logo, Canadian postage stamps with the anniversary logo, and pins and notelets.

The "Just a Minute with Dewi Sant and ..." started this January and the "JAMs" for June are reprinted below. For the months of July and August we will not be running the "Just a Minute" talks and "Take Five" video interviews in the church on a Sunday morning. This is because many people will be away at cottages or on vacation for summer and it would be a shame for those people who are highlighted to have a much reduced audience. We will resume after Labour Day. We would love it if anyone who has not had a chance to share a 1 minute memory of their involvement at the church (about 160 words) would now sign up to do their presentation in the fall. If you do not feel comfortable about talking in public yourself - one of the Committee would be delighted to read for you. The memories will be printed in the Gadwyn each month and then we will make a booklet of ALL the presentations at the end of this year. Please let me know (416-281-8758 or lynettej@scaw.org) if you would like to be a part of this 110th Anniversary initiative.

Our Octogenarian Luncheon that had been planned for this year has had to be postponed to next spring because of location challenges.

Lynette Jenkins
Chair of the 110th Anniversary Committee

"Just a Minute with Dewi Sant"

Bruce Mullock, Member of the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir
Pattie Mullock was my grandmother and a long-time member of Dewi Sant. She came to Canada from Penmaenmawr in 1909 and was a Welsh speaker. She and her husband moved to Toronto from Tillsonburg, Ontario in 1920 with their boys, and she attended Dewi Sant downtown.

In 1926 the family with its 3 boys, moved to Mt. Pleasant and Lawrence, and imagine how pleased Pattie was, when in 1960, the church moved to Melrose Ave! She was in her 70's then, and the location was important. She passed away in 1973. Pattie enjoyed everything about her membership with Dewi Sant, and Harold Woodey once showed me the pew she habitually sat in, right side, 2/3 of the way back. She would be pleased to know I sing in the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and when I visit her gravesite in St. James Cemetery, I always sing *Calon Lan* for her.

Rev. Elwyn Hughes and Louise Hughes

(due to Rev. Elwyn Hughes' failing health, the following was submitted by his wife, Louise)
Elwyn was on board the first ship to enter the St. Lawrence River in the spring of 1965, and he was met in Montreal by Betty and Tom Jones. He became the minister of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church that same year. Many will fondly remember Elwyn's time of ministry at Dewi Sant. He was supported by his wife

Janet, and their children Robert, Rhiannon and Gwyneth (born in Toronto in 1967 - the centennial year). The years 1973 and 1974 marked the passing of both Robert and Janet.

In 1974, Elwyn decided to not return to Wales to live, but stayed in Canada and became the minister of West Humber United Church. It was there that Elwyn and I first met. On Good Friday 1975, we attended Dewi Sant for an afternoon service and the evening hymn singing. I will never forget my first experience of a Welsh Gymanfa. The power of the singing is something I will always remember. The passion expressed in music was stronger than any words and the welcoming warmth of the people can never be forgotten.

Fiona Vipond

I'm not much of a dancer. Except for when I was little, standing on my Dad's feet as he twirled me around the living room, I have avoided my own awkwardness by firmly holding up the nearest wall. But there I was, one sunny June day in the downstairs hall of Dewi Sant dancing. It was the final Lunch Bunch that Gaynor and Lynette organized and we were having a party. There were gifts for everyone, lots of good food, a (shh, don't tell anyone) glass of sherry or two, lots of laughter, and of course, dancing. I tried to stay out of it, really I did. But Gaynor and Lynette wouldn't hear of it. And soon I was out of my seat, trying my best to keep up with the music AND keep my feet going in the right direction so I didn't trip up my neighbour. My partner, Rev. Anne, was doing much better than me. She had obviously done this before. I miraculously managed to finish the reel without hurting anyone, and safely returned to my seat, still laughing at myself.

It's a treasured memory of Dewi Sant: a warm welcome, good company, delicious food, and lots of laughter. It made me realize that over the last 110 years people have gathered at many similar occasions here, each one an expression of a rich heritage. Woven together over time, these events have nurtured and strengthened this community, helping to make Dewi Sant a spiritual home of Welsh culture in Canada. Happy anniversary Dewi Sant!

OUTREACH

On June 2nd, eight members of Dewi Sant spent the morning at the Scott Mission. Some of the group helped in setting up and serving the two lunch seatings while others worked downstairs in the food bank. Spending time at the Mission generates enormous gratitude for those who work there daily to make the lives of the less fortunate more bearable. One of the clients approached (totally spontaneously) at the end of his meal to thank the volunteers saying that without the Scott Mission he could not survive. It is easy to forget the reality of living on the streets. This was the second time within the year that Dewi Sant has been involved with the Scott Mission. We intend to go again in the fall and would be delighted if others were able to join us. One of our members, Lynette Jenkins, has become a regular volunteer since coming with our church group on our last visit. Lynette, who generally helps in the kitchen and/or serving meals, worked this time in the food bank downstairs. That experience has provided her with an even greater appreciation of the role that the Mission plays within the local community.

Rosemary Black, Betty and Ross Cullingworth, Lynette Jenkins, Hefina Phillips, Nesta Pickering, Nest Pritchard and Emily Smith were the volunteers from Dewi Sant. Please consider joining us on our next visit in the fall.

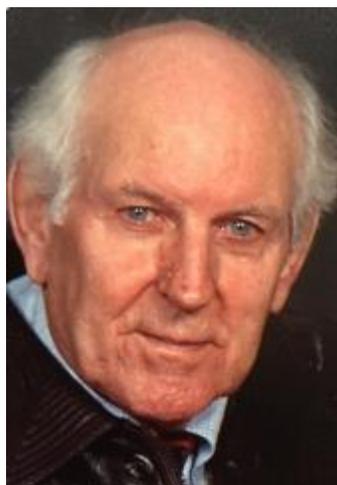
Betty Cullingworth

NOTE: Still looking 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 Editor

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

IN MEMORIAM GEORGE DAVIES



A Memorial Service was held on Sunday, June 25th for George Davies. The service was led by Rev. Anne with Words of Remembrance by Betty Cullingworth, Yvonne Nunnaro (family friend), Sarah Conti (granddaughter), and Rev. Deian Evans (read by Rev. Anne). Merched Dewi sang *Rhys* and the Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies read the *Psalm 121* in Welsh and English - "I lift up my eyes to the hills". At the reception which followed not only were we able to meet the family including Meryl, daughter Jane and son-in-law Richard, and grandchildren to Sarah and Aidan, but we were also able to see many photos of George, family and friends over the course of his long life. Betty described George as a loyal member of Dewi Sant, member of Session, knowledgeable and active member of the Bible Class, reader extraordinaire of the scriptures in both Welsh and English, a sharp wit, dancer (remember the Argentinian night) and of course a devoted husband, father and grandfather....**BUT to know George was to know that his was a**

voice made for speaking and performing.

When George and Meryl came to Toronto in the late 50's, they became active in Toronto Welsh Players. In fact George had the starring role in a couple of the productions. Apparently George and Katherine Jones (wife of John Humphreys Jones) were masters of the ad lib. Some plays were produced on our Dewi Sant stage downstairs.

Speakers mentioned George's breadth of knowledge of classical musical and his lifelong wish to be a conductor. As a young man he also considered being a preacher, 'Y pregethyr' and all who have heard him reading from the pulpit would acknowledge that he certainly would have been formidable in that role. George loved to debate politically (always taking the left leaning side of the argument) and on biblical interpretations or history, as all the Dewi Sant minsters who squared off with him in Bible Class can attest to. But the debate was supported again by a deep knowledge and not merely opinion.

As Betty said for the congregation at the memorial "George, your sharp wit and wisdom and your presence here in Dewi Sant will be missed by us all".

The Editor

WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

WELSH AND INUKTITUT LANGUAGES

Prior to the Prince of Wales coming to Canada for the 150th celebrations he met with members of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami at a reception at Llwynywermod in Dyfed. Llwynywermod, near the village of Myddfai, Llandoverly, Carmarthenshire is used by The Prince and The Duchess when they are in Wales on their regular visits and annual summer tour.

The group from the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami was sent to Wales to learn about the Welsh government's goal of having more than a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050. The 2011 census reported a drop in the number of Welsh speakers from 582,000 in 2001 to 562,000 - about 20% of the population (total population 3.063 million).

Canada's national Inuit language coordinator, Monica Ittusardjuat, said she would like to see their education system changed after seeing how Welsh is taught. In her community of Igloolik, a hamlet of around 2,000 people living above the Arctic Circle, children are taught in Inuktitut until the age of eight when the curriculum changes to English. Inuktitut is one of more than 60 indigenous languages in Canada, but it is not recognised by the government officially. "For Inuktitut, we would like to see an education system like in Wales where children can learn in Welsh from day care right through to university," she said.

There are fewer than 36,000 speakers of Inuktitut in Canada and the numbers are falling, especially among young people. Based on the 2011 population of 59,445 people identified as Inuit, this means 60% speak Inuktitut which is still significantly more than the percentage speaking Welsh.

The Editor

NOT JUST RUGBY FOR THE WELSH – GERAINT THOMAS WINS STAGE IN THE TOUR DE FRANCE

Geraint Thomas became the first Welshman to win a stage at the Tour de France on Saturday. Thomas, who was hugely emotional afterwards, describing how he used to run home every day from school to watch the last 10km of that day's Tour stage on TV, managed safely to negotiate a treacherous, wet 14km time trial in Düsseldorf to win by five seconds. As stated in The Telegraph: "A hugely popular rider; the Welshman's grit, deadpan sense of humour and selflessness has always made him a firm favourite." Thomas becomes only the eighth Briton ever to wear yellow but the first Welsh. There are many more days of the Tour de France and Geraint is not a contender for the overall title but it was nice to see him get the first day.

The Editor

PI IS A WELSH LETTER

One of the most important numbers in maths today, the Greek letter π or "pi", doesn't come from Greece at all. It comes from the pen of an 18th century farmer's son and largely self-taught mathematician from Anglesey in Wales. The Welsh Government has even renamed Pi Day (on March 14 or 3/14, which matches the first three digits of pi, 3.14) as "Pi Day Cymru". The importance of the number we now call pi has been known about since ancient Egyptian times. Yet even after mathematicians worked out how to calculate pi accurately to over 100 decimal places at the start of the 18th century, we didn't have an agreed symbol for the number.

This all changed thanks to William Jones who was born in 1674 in the parish of Llanfihangel Tre'r Beirdd. After attending a charity school, Jones landed a job as a merchant's accountant and then as a maths teacher on a warship, before publishing *A New Compendium of the Whole Art of Navigation*, his first book in 1702 on the mathematics of navigation.

Shortly afterwards he published *Synopsis palmariorum matheseos* in which is the first recorded use of the symbol π as the number that gives the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. We typically think of this number as being about 3.14, but Jones rightly suspected that the digits after its decimal point were infinite and non-repeating. This meant it could never be "expressed in numbers", as he put it. That was why he recognised the number needed its own symbol. It is commonly thought that he chose pi either because it is the first letter of the word for periphery (περιφέρεια) or because it is the first letter of the word for perimeter (περίμετρος), or both.

Jones's book was a success and led him to become an important and influential member of the scientific establishment. He was noticed and befriended by two of Britain's foremost

mathematicians - Edmund Halley and Sir Isaac Newton - and was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1711. He later became the editor and publisher of many of Newton's manuscripts and built up an extraordinary library that was one of the greatest collections of books on science and mathematics ever known, and only recently fully dispersed.

Nest Pritchard/Sian Thomas

TORONTO WELSH PLAYERS

At the memorial for George Davies there were several references to the Welsh Drama Society which was also called variously the Toronto Welsh Players and the Welsh Drama Guild. The Welsh Drama Society was not part of the church per se but rather a part of the larger Welsh community. The director was Joe Morris and John Humphreys Jones, and his wife Katherine, the Avery sisters, Glyn Evans, Glyn Roberts. George and Meryl Davies, and Myfanwy Owens' brother Ivor were all involved. In John Humphries Jones book, *The Welsh Church in Toronto*, (written for our 75th anniversary) he says "In those days 'Dewi Sant' was the proud owner of a car- a Chevrolet Coupe given to the church by the Toronto Welsh Players for the sole use of its ministers". I wonder what happened to that car.

If anyone else has any stories of this group, or photos, please send in to Y Gadwyn.

The Editor

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **2018 ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL KINGSTON CÔR Y GLEISION TO PERFORM**

Who are they, you may ask. They are the guest choir at the 2018 Ontario Welsh Festival. It seems only five minutes ago that we celebrated this year's Festival, but the Board is already hard at work preparing for the next Festival.

Côr y Gleision is based in Cardiff and their name means "The Blues Choir". "Gleision" is the plural form of the adjective "Glas". "Who are the Blues?" could well be your next question. That is the nickname of the Cardiff Rugby team who wear, yes, blue shirts. There is, therefore, a strong affiliation between this choir and the Cardiff Rugby team. The Choir was established in 2006 in response to the S4C programme Codi Canu. The aim was to bring back traditional Welsh singing to the terraces during rugby games. The choir continued to grow and develop and now have 120 members. They have a varied calendar of events and in addition to singing at regional and international rugby matches they perform at regional and national choral festivals. Raising money for charities is also on their agenda.

Those of you who are familiar with the visiting choirs from Wales will notice some familiar faces. The best known is the director, Richard Vaughan. Remember CF1 back in 2011 (our 50th anniversary)? Rich, as he is known, was one of the accompanists and the vice-conductor. The other accompanist, Rhiannon Pritchard, was known as "Pritch" and together the pair was lovingly known as "Rich a Pritch". By the way, I am delighted to report that Rich and Pritch are now a bona fide unit having married this spring in Llanddarog. As you probably know, joining a choir is the Welsh equivalent of Canadian Dating Sites!

Last year they won the First Prize at the Open Choir Competition, Eisteddfod y Cymoedd, beating more established choirs. I hope Y Gleision will sing Richard's composition "Fy Nghariad

Olaf I" (my last/final sweetheart) next year in Kingston. The choir has toured in Spain, Scotland and Belgium and, of course, they are really looking forward to their visit to Ontario in 2018.



*The choir and families at the Welsh National Memorial Park war memorial Ypres (Belgium) for soldiers of World War I. It commemorates the services of men and women from Wales wherever they served during the Great War.*

Richard Vaughan composed a piece of music especially for the tour to Belgium, to the words of 'Rhyfel' (War), a poem written by the Welsh poet Hedd Wyn, who was killed at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917. Having the opportunity to sing it at Hedd Wyn's graveside was an emotional experience that will long live in the memory.

*Hefina Phillips*

### **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 Gwen Jones, John Jenkins, Elwyn and Louise Hughes, Anne Tanner, Doreen Beckett.

### **CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS**

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