

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF OCTOBER

On October 1st, Rev. Don Bell and the congregation officially welcomed a new member of our church family. Noah Owen Homer Acosta was baptized with big brother Levi, proud mom Elyiecia, Godparents Evelyn Kankashian-Lynch, Jamal Lynch, Sarah Harvey and Sergio Zapata witnessing. We were delighted that grandmother Angela Homer, recovering from a scalding water burn, was able to attend this special moment in Noah's life.



Note: Angela Homer was found at her dialysis treatment unconscious and with a high fever. Rushed to emergency in critical condition and a high fever, she has since been released and at time of print, is recovering from pneumonia. Please keep Angela in your prayers while she recuperates.

Pamela Evans

During the October 8th Service for Thanksgiving Sunday, we were fortunate to have Jeremy Bell play the violin to accompany Matthew on the organ and the congregation during hymn singing. Jeremy is the violinist with the Penderecki String Quartet and in addition to performing he is an artist in residence at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo where he teaches in the Faculty of Music. Jeremy is also the son of Rev. Dr. Don Bell! The church was again beautifully decorated for Thanksgiving by Gaynor McConnell.



In the sermons for October Rev. Dr. Bell continued on the story of Moses and for Thanksgiving he recounted how God provided for the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. Our reading from *Exodus* puts it this way: "Those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed." Obviously, this bread from heaven, this gift of God, was meant to be the bread of neighbourliness, the bread of community, the bread that is shared. They were told that they were not to store up this bread nor to try to keep surpluses for their own individual

benefit. And, as recorded in the New Testament, when Jesus fed the hungry five thousand, once again everyone had enough. Indeed, in the abundance of God there was food left over.



In the service of Oct. 15 we looked at Moses and the Ten Commandments and other laws developed in the Torah. Some were focussed on social justice and others on issues of maintaining purity. The prophet Amos put these words into God's mouth: "I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no

delight in your solemn assemblies...But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream (5: 21, 24). This foreshadowed Jesus' teaching of the law: "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself' " (Mark 12: 29 – 30). In this service we sang *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness* by James K. Manley, #375 in Voices United. If you don't know this you can see several performances on YouTube but you need to have Matthew Coons playing it at good clip to understand the beauty of the piece.

The Oct. 22nd service looked at considering the past and how it shapes the future, and how Moses reflected on this at the end of his life. As Moses said, we need to take to heart what we pass on to the succeeding generations and may it be that we pass on to them great reasons to hope for the future, to believe in the future, to be excited about the future. After this service we had the Covenanting Service for the Rev. Dr. Bell who will be with Dewi Sant as (part-time) Minister until



August 2018. This service featured the Toronto Conference Liaison Officer Lynella James and members of the Toronto Southeast Presbytery. All participants, including the congregation, promised to work together in the ministry of worship, study, prayer and action.

The Editor

DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY

As we start thinking about the Christmas season and what-to-get-the-person-who-has-everything, perhaps you might consider giving them some of Dewi Sant's 110th Anniversary memorabilia... We still have some mugs, notelets, pins and stamps available and we would be delighted to sell them to you! They may be picked up in person at our Christmas bazaar at the church on the 18th November at the "Welsh Table", or you can call me at 416 281 8758 or email me at lynettej@scaw.org and place an order there. ALL the monies we raise will go to support Dewi Sant in the next year.



AND – did you take pictures at the Homecoming weekend? If so, the 110th Committee wants to hear from you. Please send to Lynette Jenkins at 416-281-8758 or lynette@scaw.org. We hope to put these onto the church website and Facebook page along with Rev. Dr. Davies' sermon and other works from that weekend.

Many thanks,

Lynette Jenkins, Chair 110th Anniversary Committee

“JUST A MINUTE WITH DEWI SANT”

John Jenkins

I came to Toronto in September 1951 to study at U of T and fell in love with Canada. I joined Dewi Sant (then on Clinton St) immediately and was warmly welcomed by Rev. Jones and everyone there. The late Bob Besso and family were kind enough to drive me back to my lodgings that first Sunday. There were quite a lot of Welsh-speakers in the church in those days including, as I recall, at least one founding member and I attended an Adult Welsh Sunday School class to improve my limited command of the language.

Among the leading church members then were David Langford, Glyn Evans, Dan David, Glyn Roberts, Trefor Morgan, David Davies, Megan, Olwen and Roddy, Glyn Roberts, David Roberts, Trefor Pugh (?) from Rhymni and the Avery sisters. My late wife and I were married by Rev. Jones and our three children were all christened in Dewi Sant. Although our family left Toronto in 1970 Dewi Sant and its wonderful ministers (Rev. Jones, Elwyn, Cerwyn and Deian) will always bring back happy memories. I am still a supporter of our wonderful church.

Hadrian Evans

Originally from Cardiff, I came to Canada in 1967. I soon found out about Dewi Sant and I enjoyed the Christian fellowship and friendship I found there. In 1981, the company I worked for decided that I should move to Calgary. I still reported to my supervisor in Toronto and my frequent business trips enabled me to visit Dewi Sant from time to time.

Corporate downsizing caught up with me in 1993 and I took early retirement. This limited my visits to Toronto but I began to really look forward to getting the Gadwyn to keep me up to date with events at Dewi Sant and the wider Welsh community in Toronto. I appreciated the work that Myfanwy put in to producing the Gadwyn and now Anna has taken over the reins as editor. I also enjoy Fiona's weekly e-mails from the Church office.

Retirement gave me the opportunity to move to the Okanagan and I now live in Kelowna. I was glad to be able to come back for the Homecoming Weekend and to catch up with some of the friends who are still

around. It persuaded me that the people at Dewi Sant are like family. Even though I do not get to visit all that often, they are still family! (Dewi Sant still has the best tea and Welsh cakes in Toronto!)
Diolch yn Fawr.

Murray Black



Good morning. Several people have asked me how I came to be the appointed organist of a Welsh church since I speak no Welsh, read no Welsh, and understand no Welsh. This is my story.

I was playing for a service in a local funeral home about the third week of January, 1994, and for a postlude I happened to play the tunes of “Cwm Rhondda” and “Hyffrydol”. After the service, a man showed up by the organ and asked if I was the organist. I replied, “Yes.” Then he asked, “Are you currently playing in a church?” I replied, “No.” Then he asked, “Would you be interested in playing in a church?” I replied, “Maybe.” Then he said, “I have to make a phone call because Dewi Sant Welsh United Church in North Toronto is looking for an organist. Someone will contact you.”

During the week I was contacted and I was invited to attend a meeting following the next Sunday’s service. I agreed to do so. At that time, the Music Committee comprised the Minister Rev. Don Matheson, Mrs. Gwyneth Pollock and one or two others. We chatted about my experience as organist and then I was asked to play some music. I went and set up the organ and played several hymn tunes such as “Cwm Rhondda”, “Hyffrydol”, “St. Clement”, “Duke Street” and “Regent Square”. After I climbed off the bench, I was offered the position of organist of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. I gladly accepted. I was then asked when I could start. I replied, “Right now!”

That is how I came to commence sixteen wonderful years of service in this beautiful church. Oh yes ... the man who came to me and stood by me in the funeral chapel was our own beloved and esteemed Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies.

Anne Jones



I am going to tell you how I came to be here at Dewi Sant. I was born in Manhattan, New York, to a British father and an American mother. I have to confess to having not one drop of Welsh blood in my veins. My childhood was chaotic right after the war and involved various horrid transatlantic crossings in troop ships with no stabilizers. During those journeys, my mother would soothe me by reading tales from the Celtic twilight, of princes, giants and goblins. I was riveted!

It was not surprising, later, that I opted to go to university in Cardiff, in a Celtic country. I took Welsh 101 and developed a fascination for the culture which has stayed with me all my life. I got so much out of Cardiff University, not least a Welsh husband.

Many years later again, I came to live in Toronto where I knew no-one and, by happy chance, I met Betty and the Merched Dewi “girls”. I found myself in a loving and supportive environment which is very precious to me.

My hope is that Dewi Sant will continue to provide this for many years. I realize it cannot be exactly as it is now, as the world changes, but keeping our church family together should be our goal and our mission. Meanwhile, “Cymru am byth”.

A VIEW FROM THE PEWS

Some Gadwyn readers were privileged to hear Reverend Dr. Cerwyn Davies speak at the 110th anniversary church service on September 24th of this year. Many others unfortunately did not have that opportunity. Cerwyn was at his inspired and inspiring best. He reminded us that a fire is kept alive by careful tending and in the case of a blacksmith's fire, the constant use of the bellows. Extending that metaphor to church life, Cerwyn suggested that our precious Dewi Sant also needs the 'breath of life' to keep its fires aflame.

We all have busy lives and some have other churches to which they are attached but the request was made to try to attend a Dewi Sant church service as often as possible to keep the 'home fires burning'. For some that may be weekly, for others once or twice a month or even less frequently but attendance is a critical key to keeping our church doors open. At tea, following the service, several of the attendees were moved to put Dewi Sant on their Sunday calendars even if only occasionally. Certainly there was a spirit of good will evident that day.

However, since that exciting homecoming weekend, our numbers have not been robust. It has of course been a remarkably mild fall with lots of calls on our time and energies but we encourage everyone to consider 'dropping in' now and again to Dewi Sant as we approach the festive season. Be assured a warm 'croeso' awaits all. The mission of our Welsh church is a valuable one and it can only be sustained through your continuing support. Diolch yn fawr iawn.....

Betty Cullingworth

WELSH SERVICE / Y GWASANAETH CYMRAEG

The next Welsh language service will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday November 5th to be followed by a bilingual service at 11 a.m. (Guy Fawkes Day, also when Summer time ends!). This will include a tribute to the well-known hymn writer William Williams Pantycelyn (1717-1791). The Welsh Service Committee is looking for input with regard to the change in time for the Welsh service to 10:00 a.m.. The results of the questionnaire were not conclusive.....and attendance to date is not significantly different. Please send to the church or to *Nêst* at pritchard38@gmail.com

Bydd y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg ar Tachwedd y 5ed - am 10 o'r gloch - yn deyrnged i'r emynydd adnabyddus - William Williams, Pantycelyn (1717 -1791).

Nêst Pritchard

UPDATE YOUR GIVINGS

Many of you use the PAR system to donate on a regular basis to Dewi Sant. For those who don't, you may have noticed forms in many of the pews for you to read and complete, if you wish to contribute in this manner. For the church it allows for long term planning since donations are equally spaced throughout the year. For those already on PAR, remember that you can change it at any time and that means you can increase your givings! This can be done by contacting the PAR Administrator which in our case is Fiona Boyd, our church secretary, info@dewisant.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

Once again this year, Dewi Sant will be involved in two separate outreach projects during the month of December. Starting on Sunday, November 26th, coloured tags will be available for pick in a container in the narthex. These tags will be printed with the name of an article that would be appreciated by the food bank. Please take a tag (or two) and return the tag and the item/s the



Waves crashing over Aberystwyth promenade

REMEMBERING RAY GRAVELL

A decade ago on October 31, 2007; Wales tragically lost a modern-day hero. Ray Gravel, or “Grav” as he was fondly known, was an inspiration to many; not only as international rugby player, but as a commentator, broadcaster and actor who was fiercely proud of his Valleys roots. He was first and foremost a world class rugby player, with 23 Welsh caps to his credit. Locally he played for the Scarlets and was part of the team that had the historic win against the All Blacks in 1972. The world of Rugby mourned the passing of one of the game’s greatest gentlemen on that day.

After he retired from rugby Grav became a well-respected English and Welsh language broadcaster and actor. He continued to be involved in Rugby as a Welsh Language commentator and as President of Llanelli Scarlets.

Ray was also an active supporter of the National Eisteddfod. A member of the Gorsedd, he held the ceremonial position of Grand Sword Bearer. I am certain that on this 10th anniversary of his death, prayers will echo and stories of Grav will abound across Wales and beyond, no more so than in his - and my - home town of Kidwelly where Ray was born on September 12, 1951.

When I heard of his passing; something compelled me to write a poem in his memory. I am not a poet of in any way shape or form but on that day, when I sat to write a message of condolence to post on the memorial page the Scarlets had set up on their website the words just flowed – such was the inspiration of Ray Gravel.

Julie Wenz

Birth of a Legend

*His Country was his passion
In life and love and sport;
He breathed it every minute
At work, at play, at home.*

*His heart was always open
His soul transparent to all;*



*His love he gave so freely,
That love, it touched us all.
Gone now the voice of welcome,
But Wales will never forget;
Your love, without condition
Will be requited yet.*

*The world will know your greatness
Born from this little land;
Your life, now part of history
The test of time will stand.*

*You'll always be amongst us
With sorry gladness, we know;
Though Wales has lost a hero,
The legend grows and grows*

UPCOMING EVENTS

**BAZAAR, RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2017
9:30 am – 1:00 pm**

IT TAKES A TEAM. Please consider how you might contribute to this important fundraiser for Dewi Sant.

BAZAAR DONATIONS. Please put bazaar donations in the cloakroom under the coat hangers.

JEWELLERY	TEA ROOM
BAKED GOODS	WELSH KEEPSAKES
WOMENS ACCESSORIES	SILENT AUCTION
GENTLY USED GOODS	CHILDREN'S GOODS
WHITE ELEPHANT	TREASURES

GENTLY USED ITEMS ONLY. NO JUNK. NO CLOTHING ~ OTHER THAN WOMEN'S ACCESSORIES. NO BOOKS.

DESPERATELY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS to work on the Friday before the bazaar (November 17th) any time after 10:00 a.m. for setup. The work is overwhelming for those of us that are retired and are able to attend. Perhaps there are those in the workforce who would be able to take the Friday afternoon off. It would be greatly appreciated. We are also looking for some good sales people to work on the stalls on Saturday.

Please contact Arleigh @ arleighquesnelle@sympatico.ca. Thank you.
Arleigh Quesnelle

Looking towards our Annual Sale, 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 Annual Sale. As we celebrate our 110th Anniversary - will you help us again to top last year's achievement? To this end - please will you go through your jewelry boxes and see if you have any costume jewelry you could donate. We have received some donations but need more jewelry and the last date for acceptance

is the **4th November**. (No more jewelry gift boxes are needed). If you need any clarification of what to send - please call me at 416 281 8758 or email me at lynettej@scaw.org

Many Thanks
Lynette Jenkins

2018 ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL KINGSTON THE ANNUAL GOLD AWARD, 2018

This is a reminder that the Board of The Ontario Welsh Festival (OGGA) would like to receive your suggestions as to who deserves to be recognized for his or her contribution to the Welsh community in Ontario. Since 2011 (our 50th anniversary) one person, whose name has been put forward by you, has been awarded during the annual Festival.

For whom are we looking? Someone who has donated their time and efforts to the Welsh in any which way. This is an appeal to members of Dewi Sant and readers of Y Gadwyn to consider who, in your opinion, would be worthy of the Gold Award. If you have already put forward someone's name but was unsuccessful, try, try, try again (as per Robert the Bruce!) Contact me either in person, by email or by phone. I will be thrilled to hear from you. (hefina@cogeco.ca 905-847-5474)
Hefina Phillips

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. Fiona Vipond who prints off the paper version in the church office has analysed the costs for Y Gadwyn. Each month printing and postage costs about \$100. Each mailed Gadwyn costs \$1.13 each issue and the Gadwyn picked up at church costs about \$0.20 each. This gives you an idea of how much you could contribute for your yearly subscription! Thank you to Clive and Pat for their subscription donations.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

Anna Dunets, Editor. Email: adunetswills@gmail.com or 416-485-4074.

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

