



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

January/ Ionawr 2018

From the Minister's Study

In spite of the snow people did come to our Christmas Eve service. A number of people made it a special night. I thank, in order of their participation Peter Lloyd-Jones, Sheila Holyer, Lynette Jenkins, Wally the Puppet, Louise Jones, Jeremy Bell, Sheryl Clay-Newell and, of course, the man whom played throughout, Matthew Coons. It was an evening of story-telling and sketches, some fun, some serious, but all with a message, and an evening of glorious music with carols and violin and vocal solo. One of the sketches is reprinted below in this issue of *Y Gadwyn*. May 2018 be a year, for everyone connected with Dewi Sant, of bounteous blessings.

Sincerely,
(The Rev. Dr.) Don Bell

Two Angels Named Harold

Hello, my name is Harold.

Hello, my name is Harold.

We're both Harold. You've heard of us. Hark the angels Harold sing. As you may have guessed, we're heralding angels.

Yep, that's us alright.

And we've come for two reasons.

Yep, two reasons.

First we come to set the record straight.

Yep, need to set the record straight.

Like many others, you probably assume that the name Jesus was always the first choice for the baby.

So many do.

Well, it wasn't.

Nope, it wasn't.

We need to tell the untold story.

Never been heard before.

You see, when it was announced among the heavenly host that this great event would take place, we were asked if we would suggest a name.

That's right, we were asked.

Well, when all the angels and celestial beings were gathered together, we immediately suggested the name, Harold.

Of course. Obvious choice.

Yes, because the name Harold, means "great general."

Wow! Really? I never knew that!

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF DECEMBER

ADVENT 1 – LADIES OF THE CHURCH AND BILINGUAL SERVICE DEC. 3

This Communion service was presented by the ladies of the church and several readings were in Welsh, as were all the songs by Merched Dewi.

Ser Y Nadolig sung by Rebecca Gibson with Matthew Coons on the piano



ADVENT 2 – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT FAMILY SERVICE DEC. 10

This year the Christmas story was presented by the young people and their parents and grandparents as part of a family service, and organised by the ever resourceful Hefina Phillips. Patricia, Carol and Rylee Christian started the service by lighting the Advent Candle with a reading on John the Baptist. In addition to readings we had musical performances. Kyle Cody played sections of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony on the piano during the Offering. Katie Quesnelle played



Joy to the world on her French horn. Gaynor Low sang *This Christmastide*. The Merched Dewi performed *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Suai'r Gwynt*. And of course the congregation sang carols including *The Little Drummer Boy*, beautifully accompanied by Matthew Coons.

Christine Cody seated, with Keiran and Kyle Cody and Nesta Campney at the microphones starting off the story.

Lewis Contini reading about the wise men. You can just see the camels in the background.



Lisa Cullingworth reading while the angel Gabriel (Hunter Cullingworth) considers the important announcement of the birth of Jesus.





Gaynor Low Jones, Bronwen, and children Hannah, Lauren and Ryan, one of the wise kings.

Mike Thomas and his son Daniel, a shepherd.



The Quesnelle family – Gilbert leading from the pulpit, Shannon, Katie and Arleigh on the stage.



Ava and Peter Lloyd-Jones read the finale.

As you all rush around the stores this Christmas please keep in mind the true meaning of these celebrations. Think of those who are so much worse off than ourselves, those who are suffering from the effects of war, starvation, lack of accommodation, living in refugee camps, no clean water and overwhelmed by disease. Let's do all in our own personal power to bring Peace to the world. That is the message of the Nativity.



ADVENT 3 - DEC. 17

The service was based on the words that were spoken to Mary: "The power of the Most High will overshadow you" and examined the imagery of shadows and overshadows in our human life.

Mary discovered an overshadow that was like a divine embrace, that enabled her to see things a little differently. She got a glimpse of the divine in her life. In times of trouble Mary's question was the same as ours, "How can this be?" The reply of God's messenger was, "With God nothing will be impossible." For Mary, and for us all, these truths begin now, not with Mary's words, "How can this be?" No, they now begin with Mary's final words, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

ADVENT 4 AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

At the Christmas Eve morning service, the Rev. Don Bell reminded us that Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and happiness and old-fashioned merriment. The joy, which Jesus offers is his own joy that flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. The title of the sermon "Gold, Frank Innocence and Mirth" is from a Robertson Davies novel *The Rebel Angels* and relates to one character's misunderstanding of the gifts of the wise men. We should strive with **our** joy to give frank innocence and impart some mirth to help those around us know they can still face the world and are not imprisoned by the hard realities of life.

Joy seemed however to be receding when the worst snowfall of 2017 arrived on Christmas Eve and by evening it seemed like the best idea was to stay in. But for those who braved the weather, the Christmas Eve service was, as promised by Rev. Bell "an evening of story-telling and sketches, some fun, some serious, but all with a message, and an evening of glorious music". The two Harolds sketch has already been presented. The key biblical passages of the Christmas story were read by the congregation. Sheila Holyer read a poem about



May I tell it My Way? Sheila, Louise Jones and Rev. Bell retold some of the well-known parables of Jesus, as they might have occurred in our city today at Christmas time.



Wally the hand puppet and Lynette had a discussion on the history and meaning of Santa Claus. It was incredible how Lynette managed to give Wally such a deep melodious voice – almost sounded like a minister.

Outstanding music was presented by Jeremy Bell playing J.S. Bach's Sonata in E Major on the violin and Sheryl singing "O Holy Night".





Sheila read a section of Dylan Thomas "A Child's Christmas in Wales". Then the congregation together sang Silent night with only candlelight. These are only some of the highlights. It was a wonderful service put together by a talented team.

The Editor

IN MEMORIAM

Betty Jones

The funeral service of thanksgiving for our dear friend and long-time member and supporter of Dewi Sant Church, Betty Jones, was held at Dewi Sant on Monday, December 4. Both Rev. Dr. Bell and Rev. Dr. Cerwyn officiated at the service. Gaynor Low Jones sang and David Low was the guest organist. It was wonderful to have Sion Glyn Jones, Betty's son, and Megan, Nikki and Sydney, Betty's granddaughters, speak about their remembrances of Betty, which were insightful, full of love and very funny. The large congregation was able to reminisce with the family afterwards at the reception in the church hall, complete with some of Betty's famous photograph boards. The reception was provided by the women of Dewi Sant and certainly paid tribute to Betty who spent many, many, years working in the church kitchen putting on dinners and receptions. Our thoughts and condolences remain with the extended Jones family.

The Editor

ATTENDANCE AT DEWI SANT

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church continues to worship and serve its Lord, Jesus Christ. You are important to our friendship and community. Here are our attendance numbers for December. Attendance is a good gauge for us to see into our future. We would love to see more of you!

December 3rd: 36
December 10th: 52 (Family Sunday)
December 17th: 32
December 24th: 27 (Morning Service)
December 24th: 49 (Christmas Eve Service)
December 31st: 27

The Session



DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY

What a year! I can hardly believe that 52 weeks ago I stood here to open up the "Just A Minute Series" for the 110th Anniversary of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. Here I am now, acknowledging the members of the Committee who have helped us all to celebrate our church:

Betty Cullingworth came up with the idea of the anniversary stamp and mug and was the leading force behind the music for the Homecoming Weekend concert and service; she was also the Director of Merched Dewi. Her "Just A Minute" idea was an inspiration and Anna Dunets and I will be working on putting all these "Minutes" together for a booklet that will be available for sale on St. David's Day in 2018.

Anna relayed all our news via "Y Gadwyn" to our fan-base and arranged for the concert tickets to be sold on-line. She (and Mike) also photographed all special events for publishing in Y Gadwyn.

Risti Jensen - our secretary, helped make sense of our monthly meetings and enabled us to follow through with what we agreed to do! Risti also came up with the idea of the "\$110 for our 110th". We are not sure yet exactly how much this has brought into the church fund - we will get that at a later date - but it has been such a successful venture.

Gaynor McConnell helped me with the purchasing and sales of the notelets and pins; she was the interviewer on the "Take 5 with Dewi Sant" interview sessions and the co-ordinator of the Home Coming weekend reception. She was also the person who came up with the idea of the Committee doing the adult-reception at the children's Christmas party - so much fun combining the 2 celebrations together.

Ken Mitchell was the designer of our flyers and posters, and Clarice Terry and Reverend Anne acted as consultants between the committee and Session.

Special thanks must also go to:

Fiona Vipond - instrumental in ALL aspects of the designing, printing and EBlast editions of our 110th information, notelets, stamps, pins, programmes, mugs and flyers. Trisha Stevenson co-ordinated the mugs. Ross Cullingworth arranged for the printing of the 110th stamp with the post office. Matthew Coons worked with Betty for the music for all special events for the 110th. Rev. Don Bell for stepping in and helping us in the middle of all our celebrations. The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir and Merched Dewi for their amazing participation in the concert. Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies who designed the Home Coming Sunday service. Our solo vocalists and musicians whose skills sweetened every event. Hefina Phillips for her Welsh translation skills and the articles in the British Canadian Newspaper and Ninnau.

I was privileged to help out as needed and I have learned so much from this experience. My thanks go to ALL the Committee party-planners for we have had so much fun along the way of celebrating our incredible heritage. Remember the envelope stuffing session? Grateful thanks also go to **everyone** at the church and their family and friends who have helped cheer us on physically, financially and emotionally.

As we have been saying all year - we are the ONLY Welsh church in Canada. Thanks to YOU, our red dragon will continue to fly proudly over Dewi Sant in 2018.

Lynette Jenkins, Chair 110th Anniversary Committee

“JUST A MINUTE WITH DEWI SANT”

Arleigh Quesnelle

Surprising as it may seem today, back in the late 50s and 60s Dewi Sant had a thriving young people’s group, due primarily to the leadership of Jean and Bob Thompson. Under their creative and watchful eye, our young people took part in many social and community activities. We really had some great times.

Our major project was a biennial musical, staged and directed by Bob and Jean. They took a well-known production such as Alice in Wonderland or the Wizard of Oz, and adapted the music and words to fit Dewi Sant. Alice Scammel, Jean’s aunt, was in charge of the costumes, and they were spectacular, and many artistic church members and friends turned out to construct and paint the scenery. Imagine if you will that all we teens and preteens turned out every Saturday morning to rehearse, from the beginning of January to the early spring. It was a huge commitment.

Our first production was in Clinton Street. Alice in Wonderland. Glenys Huws took the part of “Alice”. My cousin Judy and I who were 8 or 10 at the time, played two mice who lived under the stage. We each had two lines, and I’m not sure that we ever did make it up onto the stage. But we were in show business. We were in the company of stars such as Betty Hughes (Cullingworth), Glenys Huws, and Gaynor Jones Low. Yes, they all got their start on the Dewi Sant Clinton Street stage.

Several productions followed at Melrose Avenue, playing to a full house downstairs for not one, but two nights. We sold popcorn and Freshie at intermission. Looking back now, I’m not sure where all the people came from.

Sadly, as we all grew older, it eventually ended. Bob and Jean took a well-deserved retirement from show biz. But I will say, that I did eventually end up on stage, with more than two lines.

Gil and Katie Quesnelle

Katie: Hi I’m Katie

Gil: And I’m Gil.

Katie: I’m also known as Arleigh’s grand-daughter.

Gil: And I’m also known as Brenda’s grand-son.

Katie: I’ve been part of this church since before I can remember.

Gil: Me too.

Katie: I’ve been in a dozen church pageants and just as many Easter shows.

Gil: Me too.

Katie: I’ve been in Sunday school, helped with the bazaar, peeled a hundred carrots and washed about a million tea cups.

Gil: So have I.

Katie: I was christened here.

Gil: So was I. But I can sing Cym Rhondda, say the Lord’s Prayer and sing We Wish You a Merry Christmas, first verse in English, second verse in Welsh, third verse in English.

Katie: Nadore clau a nishe

Gil: Ok, kid, I have had my own children christened here, married my wife here and said goodbye to my grandparents here.

Katie: You got me there.

Gil: To me, Dewi Sant is more than a church. It is more like home away from home.

Katie: To me too.



OUTREACH

A big thank you to all who donated to the Lansing (United Church) Food Bank this year and in our Christmas drive. The total donation this year is 80 bags of food plus 1 bag of toiletries plus \$790. Special thanks to Rita Hoffman and Mabel Hastings who coordinate and provide transportation for this important ministry.

Betty Cullingworth

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WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

DEWI SANT/ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

On December 2nd, 2017 we held our annual Dewi Sant/St. David's Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall of Dewi Sant. We had about 70 in attendance. We were very pleased to have such a good turnout. A lot of people had seconds, and believe it or not, we had NO LEFTOVERS. That is the best compliment we can ever receive. The Quesnelles (Shannon, Katie and I) worked in the kitchen, Gil manned the bar, Julie Wenz arranged the dessert table and the entertainment afterwards, Trisha Stevenson arranged for Santa and the gifts for the children. A huge thank you goes to the following

- Gaynor and Lynette for setting up the tables
- The cleanup people
- All who took part in the entertainment
- The food servers
- Those that donated desserts
- Nesta and Julie for cooking turkeys
- Nesta for sitting at the door and collecting the money, and, of course
- Santa Claus for his visit



A special thanks goes to those Christmas elves that took home the tablecloths for laundering.

Diolch yn fawr!

Arleigh Quesnelle

I should add that it is no wonder there were no leftovers since the turkey and the works were great and the desserts including hot plum pudding were fabulous. Entertainment followed by the Merched Dewi doing a “flash mob” version of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Betty also gave use the back story to that song which is worth reading about. Santa looked slimmer this year, not sure why, and handed out gifts to the young helpers. Audience members participated in draws for gifts. Carol singing was led by Sheryl. Here are a few of the participants – some took the suggestion to dress appropriately seriously.....

The Editor



to emulate what I had seen in Patagonia. No, an annual eisteddfod would not be the answer but here in Ontario we now have a new Bank Holiday in February - a holiday called Family Day.

Therefore this year, for the third time, we will celebrate Family Day with a special service. Families will be invited to participate and all members of our Dewi Sant family (and friends) are urged to join us on Sunday, February 18th, 2018

Hefina Phillips

ST. DAVIDS SOCIETY

Welsh Tenor Gwyndaf Jones & Friends

The St. David's Society is hosting this for Feb. 3rd 2018, at 2pm at Dewi Sant Church. Gwyndaf Jones is doing the concert as a fundraiser for a recently disabled friend. Gwyndaf performed as a soloist for the Welsh National Opera Company and for such ensembles as the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir, Burlington Welsh Male Voice Choir and Opera Bel Canto of South Simcoe. You can read more about Gwyndaf on www.welshtenor.ca.

The tickets are \$20 and can be obtained from Meryl Davies in church or Pam Munjal, 416 890 3361 (pmj433@hotmail.com).

Pam Munjal

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL - SAVE THE DATE

Come and join us in historic KINGSTON April 27-29, 2018 for the festival. The Saturday concert will feature the award-winning choir CÔR Y GLEISION from Cardiff, Wales.

Festival Headquarters: The Holiday Inn Waterfront

Special rates for festival attendees: \$139.99 per traditional room, \$149.99 for King Rooms.

Call to secure your room 1-800-315-2621 or (613)549-8400 direct or check out our website www.ontariowelshfestival.ca. See us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ontario.welsh.festival

Mairwen Thornley

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