



Y GADWYN
(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

March/Mawrth 2018

From the Editor's Computer

As many of you know, Rev. Don Bell is enjoying a much deserved vacation, so for this edition of Y Gadwyn I have prepared a short introduction. Since this is March, it is fitting to reflect on the life and times of St. David. There is another picture of St. David and his followers – not just as monks toiling in the fields and praying in the church. They were participating in a time of great cross cultural and religious exchanging amongst Christian communities in the outposts of the Roman Empire.

As Nêst Pritchard mentioned in her homily in the St. David's service on March 4th, Christianity was first introduced in Britain by the Roman occupation and developed during the 5th to 11th centuries. However, there never was a 'Celtic Church' as such; these Christians regarded themselves as members of the universal Church, which at that time included both Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic divisions. So the Celtic Christians were free to travel on the Continent and beyond, and share fully in the activities of local schools and monasteries. David, who may have been born at Henfynw in Cardigan, lived during the golden age of Celtic Christianity when saints were plentiful, many of them of noble rank--kings, princes, and chieftain--who lived the monastic life, built oratories and churches, and preached the Gospel.

Professor E.G. Bowen of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, believes that the whole of south-western Britain was subject to the influence of the Egyptian Church in the fifth and sixth centuries, and that the geographical situation of St. David's main monastery would have made it a central point of diffusion of this influence: The early persecution of Christians in the Roman Provinces of Egypt and the Near East caused many there to flee to the desert. They were visited in the desert from time to time by leading Christians in the West and these, on returning home, set up their own monasteries in imitation of those of the desert. These desert monks followed the Orthodox Christian (Coptic) church and lived lives of hardship, which may have influenced St. David to adopt the asceticism and discipline in his monastery. Archaeologists have been able to show that the lands around the Eastern Mediterranean, including Egypt, Palestine, Asia Minor and the Aegean islands were in post-Roman times in direct trade contact with south-western Britain. If traders could travel to the monasteries around the shores of south-western Britain so, too, could pilgrims, books, and ideas; so that there can be no longer any doubt that it was along these western sea-routes that full monastic life (found first of all, it would appear, in Britain at Tintagel on the north coast of Cornwall between 470 and 500 A.D.), arrived.

The monastic pattern spread rapidly afterwards to such sites as Llanilltyd Fawr, Nantcarban, Llandaff, Caldey, Glastonbury, St. David's and Llanbadarn Fawr and other places in Wales before passing over to central and southern Ireland. Activity at St. David's must, therefore, have been intense at this time. Here the major land and sea routes met. It must have been a veritable 'Piccadilly Circus' in Early Christian times. Imagine that next time you visit St. David's!

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DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF FEBRUARY

The subject for the first service in February was laughter, always needed and vitally need in the middle of winter. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh." This kingdom promise of Jesus was contained in a teaching to his disciples. Think of it. The whole joke of the Hebrew Scriptures is that God asked this ragtag group of people called Israelites to take on a great mission to the rest of the world. They were to be a light to all the nations. This was a people whose credo began with the words, "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor" (Deuteronomy 6: 5). If we could now parade on stage all the characters of Israel who were accepted by God we would be in stitches. Jesus was kind of funny himself. At the last meal he ever ate with his friends, when the police squad was already lying in wait for him and all hell was about to break loose, Jesus said, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (John 16: 33).

The Editor

For Family Sunday on Feb. 18 we started the service with the now familiar Family Sunday hymn **Come In, Come In and Sit Down (VU # 395).**

Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found
and we are a part of the family.

Hefina Phillips organised various families for this service and has written this for Y Gadwyn.

At the end of 2015 I attended the Sesquicentennial celebrations in Patagonia. This involved the annual Eisteddfod in Trelew and naturally for this special occasion there was even more enthusiasm than usual. I was especially impressed by the role played by the Family. Competitions such as choral and dancing were extremely important and unlike choirs from locales as in Canada, it was families that competed against each other. Choristers ranged in age from the elderly to toddlers in arms and many had travelled from the other side of Patagonia to support and participate.

What could we do in Dewi Sant to bring Families together? Celebrate the new Bank Holiday (aka Family Day) with a special service!

An enormous "Thank You" goes to everyone who helped make this year's Family Service so successful - Betty and Ross Cullingworth, The Thomas family (Theresa, Mike, Tegan and Daniel), the Evans family (Pam and Jennifer), the Holyer family (Nêst, Sheila and Lewis), the Quesnelle family (Arleigh, Gill, Shannon, Katie and Ian), Nancy Jones, Meryl Davies, Rosemary Black and Merched Dewi.



Daniel Thomas



Ian Quesnelle talking about his family, in Canada and in Wales, (written by Shannon Quesnelle)



Lewis Contini

Poems, personal thoughts and scripture were read, "family" hymns were sung, prayers were offered, and "home" themed songs were sung by Merched Dewi - Cartref and Bless this House.

Every Sunday a special collection is made towards the charity "Sleeping Children Around the World". We at Dewi Sant were introduced to SCAW by Lynette Jenkins. The moneys go towards purchasing bed kits and school supplies for poor children in third world countries such as India. Lynette has travelled to several poverty stricken locations to help donate these much appreciated kits.



Tegan Thomas



We regard these children as part of our extended families and Lynette gave a very emotional presentation, showing us where our money is being spent. All of this again underlined how very fortunate we are to live in Canada.

Lynette Jenkins and Wally



The 1 bedroom for all the family with the SCAW bedkit in place



Betty Cullingworth, conducting Merched Dewi

Many of the Dewi Sant members are first generation Canadians, but many trace their heritage back to those very first pioneers who helped build our church. Of one fact we are certain, however, that regardless of how long we have been here, we are truly The Dewi Sant Family!

Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb.

Hefina Phillips

IN MEMORIAM

Ellen Fitzgibbon

Ellen (Nellie) was called home to the Lord suddenly on Friday February 9th, 2018 at the age of 92. She was the wife of the late Robert Fitzgibbon, mother to John (Suzanne), Rob (Linda) and devoted Grandmother to Tyler and Kayley. The funeral service was held in the chapel at the R.S. Kane Funeral Home on Wednesday, February 14. In Dewi Sant we remember Ellen for her lovely singing voice. She was a member of Jean Thompson's choir and often sang solos in the church service. As well, Ellen and her late husband Bob prepared the tea after service for many years. Those who were part for the Bible Study classes at Dewi Sant will recall Ellen's active discussion on the finer points of biblical interpretation.

The Editor



Harry Williams

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Harry Williams, aged 88 years old, on February 28, 1018. Harry was the beloved husband of Louise Griffiths for over 67 years. Much loved by his children Lynne, David, Kenneth, James, and Paul; grandchildren Laura Rhiannon, Kevin, Adam, Matthew, Paige, Brooke, and Chase; great grandchildren Matthew, Nicholas, Ryder. In his younger years, he spent many happy times at Balm Beach with other members of Dewi Sant. He always looked forward to receiving Y Gadwyn to catch up on the news from Dewi Sant.

Lynne Timney

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 February Attendance is a good gauge for us to see into our future. We would love to see more of you!

Feb. 4th: 18

Feb. 11th: 18

Feb. 18th: 44 (Family Day Service)

Feb. 25th: 27

The Session

DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY JUST A MINUTE WITH... BOOKLET



JUST A MINUTE WITH DEWI SANT AND ...

prepared in 2017 for the
DEWI SANT 110TH ANNIVERSARY

As promised I am delighted to inform you that our booklet of ALL the “Just a Minute” JAM memories is available for purchasing. It has been a labour for love for all our participants – and Anna, Fiona and myself in eh production. We are selling these for \$5 each and they are a wonderful potted history of Dewi Sant. You may order them from me at lynette@scaw.org or 416-281-8758. If you would like me to mail them to you postage will be extra. What a souvenir of our church for you and a different kind of gift to give someone for Easter.

An important note - apologies go to Gretl Davies. The first line of her article in the JAM booklet was omitted - it should have read: “I have come to Dewi Sant in a round-about way...” and I credited Rosemary Black with reading Gretl’s article, when it was Gretl herself who read it. My apologies for the errors.

Lynette Jenkins, Chair 110th Anniversary Committee

OUTREACH

OUTREACH DURING LENT

The sock drive continues. As Lent approaches, perhaps we may consider giving up a luxury during this time and use that money to donate to an outreach initiative to an abused women’s shelter in North York? One of the basic needs at an abused women’s shelter in North York is for new socks for women and children. I am suggesting that during the weeks leading up to Easter, we hold a

“Sock Drive”. Should you wish to participate, I have placed a basket in the Narthex to collect your donations. I look forward to being able to deliver a basket of socks to this worthy cause.
Gaynor McConnell

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WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

ST.DAVID’S SOCIETY



Welsh Tenor Gwyndaf Jones & Friends

On Feb. 3rd, Gwyndaf Jones held a concert as a fundraiser for a recently disabled friend. In Wales Gwyndaf has performed as a soloist for the Welsh National Opera Company and here in Toronto for ensembles such as the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir, Burlington Welsh Male Voice Choir and Opera Bel Canto of South Simcoe.

Gwyndaf Jones



The performers with Gwyndaf

ST. DAVID'S DAY IN WALES

While we in Toronto had a few centimetres of snow for St. David's Day, in Wales the country was plunged into Storm Emma chaos after heavy snowfall resulted in travel disruption, mass power outages and schools closed.

This image shows a sheep being dug out of the snow. There was also skiing on Cardiff's snow-filled roads after drifts. The picture below looks more like Canada than Wales.



Couple dig sheep out of snowdrift

Robbie Alman-Wilson and her husband have 2,000 sheep - and knew some were missing after the heavy snowfall.

Burst water mains are now affecting supplies on Anglesey and in Vale of Glamorgan while there are flood alerts in force across Wales.

A huge snow drift in Llanfihangel, Powys. A digger was sent in to clear.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTER WEEKEND 2018 WE INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

FRIDAY MARCH 30 – GOOD FRIDAY

3:30 PM

CHURCH SERVICE – GUEST PREACHER GLENYS HUWS
MERCHED DEWI PERFORMING

7:00 PM

GYMANFA GANU - GUEST CONDUCTOR GAYNOR JONES LOW
FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY DAVID AND DIANNE JONES, AND THEIR
DAUGHTER SARAH

WE REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THE BETWEEN SESSIONS DINNER THIS YEAR. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, THERE IS A GOOD VARIETY OF RESTAURANTS CLOSE BY.

*****THERE WILL BE A TEA FOLLOWING THE EVENING GYMANFA SESSION. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!*****

SUNDAY APRIL 1 – EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 AM – WELSH SERVICE

11:00 AM – EASTER SERVICE - REV. DON BELL...Please bring along your flower to adorn the cross!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting will be held on March 11, 2018 after the church service, starting at 12:30. Please attend so that important matters in the life of the church can be discussed and implemented.

The Session

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL KINGSTON April 27-29 2018



Please join us in historic Kingston for the Ontario Welsh Festival, to celebrate our Welsh heritage, music and culture. The Festival headquarters will be the **HOLIDAY INN WATERFRONT**, at the bottom of Princess St.

Check the web-site: ontariowelshfestival.ca for the schedule of events at a glance, and call the Holiday Inn (613-549-8400) to secure your room, not forgetting to mention that it will be under the Welsh Festival for special rates.

Guest choir for the Saturday concert: **Côr y Gleision** from Cardiff



Mairwen Thornley

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. Please contact Anna Dunets at adunetswills@gmail.com.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

