



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

April/Ebrill 2018

Some Post-Easter Musings and All that Chocolate!

According to the western world Easter is over and chocolate Easter bunnies are now passé. The chocolate companies are already busy preparing boxes of chocolates for Mother's Day. By the way, if you still want to stock up on chocolate Easter eggs, shop around. They are now half-price at Laura Secord's!

But be aware of sweet things. The Bible knows nothing about chocolate covered eggs but the Book of Proverbs does say some important things about what was sweet in Biblical times: honey. Listen to this: Proverbs 24: 13: "My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honey comb are sweet to your taste." (Yeah!) But in the very next verse the child is told that it is better to get a taste of wisdom, for it will lead you to a future that will have some hope in it. (Oh dear, already we're getting serious!)

Then Proverbs says, and I quote from chapter 25: 16: "If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, or else, having too much, you will vomit it." (Now that's a downer, for sure.) And finally, in Proverbs 25: 27, we are told that trying to eat too much honey – or shall I say the person who finds the most eggs in the Easter egg hunt – is like a person who hungrily seeks more and more honour for himself or herself, trying to be the greatest. (And I thought I was just smarter!)

But, in spite of what may be going on in the market-place, we carry on in the church, ignoring the half-price world. We continue to fill our days with the fullness of Eastertide life and worship and service in the world. The stories Easter has to tell, and the wonder Easter is about, take time to unfold. There is a depth of meaning about it that will not be discovered in one day only. So Easter is fifty days. It is the church's most ancient season, with festivals at either end existing first in Judaism, namely Passover and Pentecost. It is also the deepest season the church ever experiences. It is the powerful silence in which the seed sprouts, the bud swells, the tomb becomes a womb, and life is more truly touched and understood.

With that in mind, on Sunday, April 8, the second Sunday of Easter, I will retell the Charles Dickens story, which I call "An Easter Carol. And, yes, Scrooge will meet up with the ghosts of Easter past, present and future.

Then all the way up to May 13, Mother's Day, I will explore stories from the Book of Acts, pondering how those first disciples, men and women, worked out their understandings of being people called to live life, empowered by their risen Lord.

A blessed Easter season to you!

Don

Environment: stewardship of God's creation

Holism: awareness of the sacred at all times and places

Immanence: God is present in Creation all around

Simplicity: emphasis on 'main & plain'
– essential doctrines Nicene Creed



Nêst Pritchard reading the homily on Dydd Gwyl Dewi

Easter Services

In the services of March 11 and 18, Rev. Don assumed the persona of an agent in the secret service of the Roman Empire reminiscing to a conference in ancient Rome about his search for the apostle



Andrew, Jesus and other members of the new sect called Christians. This was a way to present what the Roman world thought about the disciples, Jesus and his followers after the death of Jesus. The agent indicated how Christians like Andrew were duped into believing that *“Instead of the gods being around to serve him and wait on him to make him potent and fertile, this Andrew had some fanciful idea that there was a divine infiltration of his own life, calling him by name, beckoning him onwards, and seeking to show him horizons that the rest of us had never seen before.”* The March 18 sermon was about the same agent

tracking Jesus and he discovered in this process that *“This Jesus stated that, when the Son of Man comes as King, he will sit on his throne and the people of the nations would be gathered before him. Now here’s the surprise. The word used for “nations” is the word that in Jewish-Greek use is a technical term that means all the people of the world, including all the non-Jews, the goyim as they call us, the Gentiles. He was talking about a kingdom that embraced the whole world. Well, do you understand the arrogance of all this? This Jesus was subverting real religion. The only one touched with divinity on this earth is Caesar who, indeed, is a god. As for the rest of us, I say everyone has to look out for themselves and, if luck turns against you, tough. If you turn to the gods all they can do is to tell you your future and if you’ll succeed or not.”*

On the Passion Sunday, Rev. Don portrayed a news reporter in Jerusalem describing the events of Easter in three phases: the entry of Jesus and his upsetting of the tables of the moneychangers

in the Temple court; the entry to Jerusalem of Governor Pontius Pilate from Caesarea, with a cohort of 400 infantry men; then finally the trial of Jesus and the processional to Golgotha and the crucifixion.



On Good Friday Dr. Glenys Huws presented the homily on the Tree of Suffering, Tree of Life, and Merched Dewi sang Y Dalun (The Picture, referring to the picture by Albert Durer of the praying hands).

Anna Dunets with Dr. Glenys Huws after the Good Friday service

A Gymanfa Ganu was held in the evening, led by Gaynor Jones Low. It as a small gathering but a wonderful evening as Gaynor was so enthusiastic in her description of each hymn and in her conducting and singing along with us. Matthew Coons supported us with his magnificent organ playing.



Rev. Davies starting the Gymanfa Ganu, Gaynor getting ready to conduct, Dianne's harp



The guest performers were David Jones singing, his wife Dianne on the harp and also singing and daughter Sarah on the violin. Their performance was both warm and lively – beautifully done – and helped to make the Gymanfa Ganu a truly enriching event.

If you are wondering, David is wearing a unique T-shirt which has the Canadian flag as the tree and the Welsh flag as the roots of the tree.

David, Dianne and Sarah Jones

Some follow-up from last month Family Day service

Those who attended will know that we had a wonderful Family Day service in February. Ian Quesnelle read a speech about his family and the Dewi Sant family which is reproduced here since really – it is so good.

The Editor

As most of you know, I've been coming to Dewi Sant all my life. I've been away a lot this year because my hockey practice was scheduled for the exact same time and, well, some people tell me that hockey is the other main religion in Canada. But I wanted to be here today. My Dad, sister and grandmother are usually the ones called up to do the readings and the songs and that kind of thing. My mom and I usually are more in the background. But I sorta like it up here. And, well,



Hefina asked us to take part and we've just learned that there is no saying no to Hefina.

To tell you the truth, I don't mind. I really care about Dewi Sant and a big part of that is because of people like Hefina, Betty and Pam. I think it is good to be part of something like this where I have learned to be polite and to help. It took me a long time to learn to speak clearly. I had speech problems and most people couldn't understand me. I think that these experiences – up here talking in front of all of you – have helped me to be more confident and have given me the chance to practice giving speeches. Even if sometimes I just played the donkey and didn't have any real lines.

It's important to me that I'm the 5th generation to come to this church. I like to hear the stories about when the church was being made and how the families were so close. I still feel it is that way. And I like that the church is Welsh. I was really lucky to visit Wales last summer and I loved it. When my parents asked me and my sister where we really wanted to go, we both chose Wales as our first choice. We got to go to the top on Mt. Snowdon and down into the Big Pit. We met relatives I had never met before and we learned so much more about Wales – although I think we did know quite a bit from all the Gymanfa we've gone to and from being here. People were surprised that I knew so much about Caradog and Richard Burton.

I think that family is more than the people who are in your personal family. I have a really big family with lots of aunts and uncles and cousins and second cousins and step cousins and people I call Aunt who aren't even really related to me. That's what I have here. I know I'm actually related to some of you but I don't always know which ones. So I figure I can be related to all of you – especially on Family Day.

Ian Quesnelle

IN MEMORIAM

Geraint Jones



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of one of the stalwarts of the Welsh community in Toronto. Our sincere condolences go out to Lyn, to his children Louise and Robert and his grandson, Stephen.

Geraint was especially involved in our beloved Welsh church, Dewi Sant, having served on the Stewards and the Session, the latter for 38 years, 13 of them as Clerk of Session. He was chairman of the Board of Trustees for the past 50+ years.

Born in Bala in 1926, Geraint was truly Welsh. He spoke only Welsh when growing up in North Wales and referred to those who spoke English as "the yes people". This is because the first word of English he actually heard was "Yes"! Geraint was educated at Llandovery College (one of the few Public Schools in Wales), and after leaving school he joined Barclay's Bank. In 1954 he moved to Ontario - initially to Hamilton from where he travelled weekly by bus (!) to services at Dewi Sant then on Clinton Street. In January, 1956, while John Humphreys Jones was minister, Geraint moved to Toronto to work with the Ontario Government Services at Queen's Park. He became a member of Dewi Sant by transfer and so started a long and fruitful relationship. In 1961, Geraint married Lyn (Oldfield) and as a couple, they were vital cogs in the Welsh life in Toronto over the past half century.

Geraint's involvement with things Welsh included his active support of the Toronto St. David's Society and Caravan. He was also a Canadian representative on the board of the Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu Association for 6 years.

Despite some mobility issues over the past few years, and the lack of easy access to the church for a person in a wheelchair, Geraint, with the assistance of Louise, attended special events at the church whenever possible including the Annual General Meetings.

Everyone has memories about Geraint that involve either a church meeting or a Welsh celebration. Please send them in for publication in future issues of Y Gadwyn.

A Memorial Service to celebrate Geraint's life will be held on Saturday, April 21st at 2:00 p.m. at Dewi Sant.

Submitted by the Editor with input from Betty Cullingworth and Hefina Philips

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

March 4	41
March 11	34
March 18	27
March 25	41 (Palm Sunday)
March 30	35 (Good Friday)

The Session

OUTREACH

Lansing Food Bank

Thanks to your contributions over the past months, 15 bags of food and \$100 was taken to the United Church Lansing Food Bank by Rita Hoffman and Mabel Hastings.

The Editor

Update on Lenten "Sock Project"

A big thank you (diolch yn fawr) to all those who generously donated socks during the weeks leading up to Easter. We collected more than 125 pairs, a real haul! Lynette will take 55 pairs to the Scott Mission when she volunteers on Wednesday. The remaining pairs, including children's socks, will be taken to the North York Women's Shelter at our soonest opportunity. Perhaps we could make this an annual outreach project, as there is a huge need in the city among the homeless, especially for men's white socks. Let me know what you think.

Gaynor McConnell

Dewi Sant Prayer Shawls

In early 2014, a friend who attends Fairlawn United Church told me about the "Prayer Shawl Ministry" they run there. Members and friends who have been ill or have gone through a bereavement or emotional challenge are given a shawl that they can wrap themselves in to feel the warmth, love and support of the congregation. I thought this was a lovely idea, bought the wool and made about 5 shawls for them.

Then in August 2014, we had a bereavement at our church and I felt the need to help 2 members of our congregation who were affected. I made the first two shawls and they were given to offer a tangible support of our love and empathy. I asked Gaynor McConnell to help me form a ministry for these shawls. We then asked a number of friends both at the church and friends of Gaynor and myself, to join us. Since then, we have knitted and crocheted 73 shawls and we have given out 58. Each shawl has been blessed by our minister.

ST.DAVID'S SOCIETY

The British Canadian Chamber of Trade and Commerce (BCCTC) has sent out this notice, for those who are keen:



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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. Thanks for donations to Myfanwy Williams-Owen, Anne Johnston and Mairwen Thornley.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

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

