

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF JULY/AUGUST

During the hot summer months we held the services in the church basement which was certainly much cooler than upstairs. Matthew provided his usual excellent musical accompaniment on the piano instead of the organ. Our Minister in the month of August, Rev. John Perigoe, used as the basis of his sermons the United Church's A Song of Faith adopted in 2006. As described in the preamble:

This statement of faith attempts to reflect the spirit of The United Church of Canada and to respond to various defining elements in our social, political, and historical context, including the place of the church in society, the cultural and intellectual setting in which we find ourselves, the meaning of "truth," the impact of the market economy on our daily lives, and the growing issue of the meaning of "security." These contextual elements are further explored in the appendices to this document.

This is not a statement for all time but for *our* time. In as much as the Spirit keeps faith with us, we can express our understanding of the Holy with confidence. And in as much as the Spirit is vast and wild, we recognize that our understanding of the Holy is always partial and limited. Nonetheless we have faith, and this statement collects the meaning of our song.

The Song of Faith is 8 pages but in addition to it there are several Appendices which discuss how and why this was written, and give a very good description of what the United Church is striving for today. You can read the full document in the downloadable attachment found on the website www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/song-faith. If anyone wants this documents because they cannot access it on the computer let the church office know. This is one section describing the work of the church:

We sing of a church

seeking to continue the story of Jesus
by embodying Christ's presence in the world.

We are called together by Christ

as a community of broken but hopeful believers,
loving what he loved,
living what he taught,
striving to be faithful servants of God
in our time and place.

Our ancestors in faith

bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living;
upon their lives our lives are built.

Our living of the gospel makes us a part of this communion of saints,

experiencing the fulfillment of God's reign
even as we actively anticipate a new heaven and a new earth.

WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY - MIDLAND 30,000 ISLAND BOAT CRUISE

The outing to Penetanguishene for lunch and then on to Midland and a boat trip to trip to the 30,000 islands was a well-organized outing by Donna Morris for the St. David's Society. We met at Dewi Sant on a beautiful Saturday morning and we set off in great spirits. Our driver was very professional and the whole journey was smooth and event-free.



Penetanguishene was not! Major road and sidewalk reconstruction made walking very challenging so many of our trippers dined at the restaurant at the foot of the hill. Those others who were able to walk more easily, chose a different restaurant 1/2 way up the main road. We all agreed lunch was great.

A short bus trip brought us to the dock and we all boarded eagerly looking forward to the cruise. Some chose to sit below deck in the shade, others enjoyed the sun and wind up top. What a perfect day: blue skies, white fluffy clouds and not a drop of rain or humidity! The commentary about some of the major islands was really interesting and informative and apart from some very noisy children below deck - we all enjoyed ourselves.



Miss Midland also known as Rita Hoffman



Sue and Rob Metcalfe

Back to the coach for a smooth trip back to Dewi Sant (with a coffee break at Barrie) arriving safely late afternoon. It was a well-organized trip, thanks to Donna and I for one, thoroughly enjoyed myself.



Lynette Jenkins

TORONTO WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR TOURS CANADA'S EAST COAST!

On the morning of July 6, a large group of choristers from the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir departed from Lester B. Pearson International Airport to St. John's, Newfoundland for a 10-Day Performance Tour.

Throughout the tour, the choir performed four times at four different locations. Each performance

included settings of *Calon Lan*, *Gwahoddiad* and *Suo Gan*, along with contemporary pieces like *'We Rise Again'* by Leon Dubkinsky, *'The Sound of Silence'* by Simon and Garfunkel and *'Africa'* by the American Rock Band "Toto" to name just a few.

In addition to these pieces, which are part of the choir's standard repertoire, a new piece was learned specifically for this tour. *'We'll Rant and We'll Roar'* is a traditional Newfoundland folk song and is accompanied by Bodhran (an Irish drum), guitar and piano. It is an upbeat selection which truly did embody the spirit of the Province.

The choir's first performance on July 7 at Topsail United Church in Conception Bay was well-received. There, we were treated to solo segments by musicians from the church. We then performed at St. George's Anglican Heritage Church in Brigus where we shared the concert with a local women's choir - 'Celeste Chamber Choir', directed by Sonya Grosse. The third performance took us to St. Paul's Anglican Parish in the small town of Trinity on Trinity Bay. Prior to this evening, we had the day to explore this very small town and take in some of its beautiful scenery. Our final concert took place at the Cochrane Centre (Cochrane Street United Church) in St. John's. Notable at this concert was a very moving performance of an Indigenous anthem performed at the beginning by a local soloist.

Each concert concluded with the singing of the *'Ode to Newfoundland'* written by Sir Cavendish Boyle in 1902 with music composed by C.H.H. Parry. The setting we performed began with the



basses humming the tonic note of the piece. This, together with the subtle piano accompaniment seemed to create a musical depiction of dawn breaking on Cape Spear. Each time the anthem was sung the audience rose to their feet. A deep sense of pride could not go unnoticed here.

The Choir at St. Paul's Anglican Parish, Trinity

The tour committee of the choir did an outstanding job of creating a memorable experience for those who were able to go on this trip. The list of 'extra' activities included whale-watching at Bay Bulls along the Avalon Peninsula, pub crawls in downtown St. John's, hiking trips in Cape Bonavista

and kayaking in Cape Broyle! It must not go unmentioned that throughout our entire stay, the choir was greeted with great enthusiasm and received generous hospitality.

One cannot travel to this Province and not be reminded of our country's vast landscapes and historical sites. In St. John's, for example, there are some notable churches which must be mentioned. These are the Catholic Basilica of St. John the Baptist and the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Both churches are of major historical significance and both boast large 4-manual Casavant organs.

Our time in Newfoundland drew to a close with a farewell dinner at "The Gypsy Tea Room" in St. John's and a wonderful time it was indeed.

This was my first voyage to the East Coast. I will make certain it will not be my last.
Matthew Coons (organist for Dewi Sant United and for the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir)

EMILY AND ANDREW POLLOCK ARE HIGHGATE ROAD

Those of you listening to the **CBC Fresh Air** show on Aug. 12 (Sunday morning) may have realised that the name and the voice sounded familiar. The guests on the show were Andrew Pollock and his daughter Emily. Andrew is the son of Gwyneth Pollock who many will remember as a Sunday school teacher and superintendent and an accompanist for everyone at Dewi Sant. The shrubs in the front of the church around the notice board were planted in her memory. Andrew was, and is, an accomplished pianist but also served on many Dewi Sant church committees for a number of years. Now together with his daughter who is a poet and songwriter they are producing music albums, with lyrics sung by Kathryn Aria, in a group called Highgate Road. You can hear the interview on www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/fresh-air/segment/15575456 and also check out their Facebook page where you can see Andrew front and centre on the keyboard (www.facebook.com/highgateroad), and on their web page (www.highgateroad.com) for all of their albums.

The Editor (thanks to Nêst for telling us about this)

GERAINT THOMAS WINS TOUR DE FRANCE

You may remember the Tour de France race in July during which Geraint Thomas became the first Welshman to win the race after three weeks and 2,000 miles (3,219 kms). This article is excerpted from several articles written in **The Guardian**.

The Editor

The 32-year-old could barely contain his excitement after crossing the line, draping the Welsh flag around his shoulders on the podium and calling it the best day of his life after his marriage to his wife Sara. "I got into cycling because of this race," said Thomas. "I remember running home from school to be a part of it, and now I am here stood in the yellow jersey.



▲ How Geraint Thomas sealed his historic Tour de France victory – video

The children and parents from Thomas's old club the Maindy Flyers cycle track in Cardiff were, buzzing with excitement as they gathered in their yellow and blue jerseys to celebrate the first Welshman and only the third British rider ever to win the Tour de France. In the city centre cycle cafe *I Want to Ride My Bike* there was cheering and clapping as Thomas glided towards the finish line. Steve Williams, Thomas's former PE teacher at Whitchurch high school, which has produced a long line of sporting talent including the footballer Gareth Bale and retired rugby international Sam Warburton, was full of pride. "It is a tribute to his commitment, determination and character," he said. "In 2007, he was 140th – and then 11 years of hard work later, he's first."

Geraint Thomas and Chris Froome will line up for Team Sky in the Tour of Britain next month. This year's event begins in Pembrey Country Park near Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, on 2 September. Thomas said: "As soon as I'd finished the Tour I knew I wanted to ride the Tour of Britain and race on home roads. It starts in Wales which will be special, and then I get to go and race across the whole of the UK. I can't wait."

STONE AGE HUMAN REMAINS IN A CAVE IN GOWER, SOUTH WALES

We are always looking for articles from readers and Ray Batten has kindly submitted this about some cave exploration in Wales in his youth.

I am a retired physician born in Cardiff now living in British Columbia. I spent much of my youth in Gower, where my wife-to-be, Mary (née Davies), had grown up in Rhossili. I was very interested in anthropology and archaeology, and often went exploring. There is a cave in Thurba Head, overlooking Mewslade Bay in Gower and I suspected that the cave might have been occupied by humans thousands of years ago, at a time when the view southward from the cave would not have been ocean (as it is now) but fertile plains.

In 1963, I carefully dug a narrow exploratory trench across the cave floor. At about six inches deep, I found a human temporal bone (part of a skull) and also what I recall was part of a humerus (an upper arm bone - sorry no photo). These bones were petrified, so obviously were extremely old. I guessed that they were from some time in the Stone Age. I stopped digging, feeling that this might

We are trying to raise money to help the church keep going. Please think of HOW you can help us.

Many thanks,
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Chair of the Fall Fair
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Please send in your contributions by September 28 which is the cut-off date for submissions to the next issue.

