



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

October/Hydref 2018

At the North American Festival of Wales in Washington, Anne Griffith gave the address entitled 'Who are we? or Pwy ydym ni?' Ann was raised in Aberystwyth and her father and grandfather were ministers. She has worked as a community worker for the Presbyterian church in Wales, as an ecumenical chaplain to international students and with refugees. She is now a member of the Welsh Society in Washington DC.

At the start of her speech, she related this anecdote. She had met her good friend who is a major Black activist in Washington and the friend had been explaining many of the initiatives that his group have been undertaking. Anne must have expressed her agreement with the decisions taken. The response of her friend had been, "Of course you understand, you are Welsh". The friend was aware of the history of the Welsh people, a small country having to stand up for its rights and often receiving the short end of the stick. The Welsh assembly didn't come into being until 1999 and most major decisions are still made by the British parliament, so Anne's friend was merely recognizing the Welsh understanding of the role of 'a minority'. But what does being or having been in the role of the minority mean for the Welsh as a people? Does it translate into more understanding of the problems that face those who do not have the luxury of living in the 'majority', those who are educationally or financially disadvantaged? Does it make us more empathetic? Anne Griffith's friend would say that for many of the Welsh, it does.

When friends who are not church-goers are in conversation about why one needs to attend a church, I always reply that I hope that going to church shines a light on 'best practices' in this business that we call life. Let us look at some of these best practices included in Beatitudes. *Blessed are those who seek righteousness.* I have read that the Hebrew word could also be translated as justice. Do we seek social justice in this world? Do we try to live in a way that is consistent with that area of our faith? We see so many injustices in this world and I don't suppose or suggest that we can engage in daily protests. Maybe it will be signing a petition that you think has validity or just speaking out to friends about something that you see needs defending. Perhaps the main point here is that we each try to live out our faith in ways that are consistent with 'who we are or at least are trying to be'.

As a church, Dewi Sant, 'Who are we? or Pwy ydym ni?' It is important that we look outward as well as inward. Outreach for any church is important. *Blessed are the merciful.* The Bible encourages us to show compassion and mercy for those less fortunate than

ourselves.

That of course includes welcoming those who might be far from their homes but can also mean involving ourselves with the less fortunate in our own areas.

So perhaps when we consider the words “Who are we? Pwy ydym ni?” we will use them to encourage ourselves to try to live up to our faith. At its best, the Christian ethic is something for which we all can strive.

Betty Cullingworth

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DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF SEPTEMBER

This September we continued with various guest ministers which included Rev. John Perigoe, Rev. Cynthia Stretton. The Sept. 9 service was led by various members of the church and part of the reflection presented by Betty Cullingworth has been included in the opening remarks of this Gadwyn edition. Sheila Holyer, Rosemary Black, Nest Pritchard and Clarice Terry also participated. Matthew Coons played 'Benedictus' Op. 59, No. 9 by Max Reger as part of this service and he has provided more detail here on this fascinating piece.

The Editor

Max Reger was a German musician of the late-19th /early-20th Century. Reger used existing musical structures such as the 'Fantasia and Fugue', a predominantly Baroque form, and imposed on them musical elements of the Romantic period. 'Benedictus' Op. 59, No. 9 is religious in nature and comes from a collection of 12 organ pieces written in 1901.

One of the distinctive qualities of music from this time period is the inclusion of many gradual crescendos (growing in volume) and decresendos (becoming softer). These effects are easily accomplished when playing the instruments of the era. German Romantic organs were constructed with a device called a Rollschweller (also called a 'Walze') - an automatic crescendo mechanism. One uses the Rollschweller, a spinning, wheel-like pedal to gradually add or remove the stops of the organ one by one. The device allows for seamless crescendos and decrescendos and is much more effective than the modern crescendo pedal.



Modern Organ (no Rollschweller)

German Organ with Rollschweller



I was fortunate to have the chance to play a number of instruments equipped with Rollschweller on a trip to Germany in 2006. The tour was organized by the Organ Faculty of the University of Toronto and roughly 20 people participated. One of the instruments we had the opportunity to play was the organ in the Berliner Dom (Berlin Cathedral). This organ was built by the famous German Romantic organ builder Wilhelm Sauer (1831-1916). At the time of its construction it was the largest organ in Germany with a total of 7,269 pipes. This is exactly the

type of organ Max Reger would have known and for which his music was written.

Matthew Coons (organist for Dewi Sant United and for the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir)

WELSH LANGUAGE SERVICES/ Y GWASANAETH CYMRAEG

Please contact the people below for questions regarding the specific services in 2018.

The dates and leadership are as follows:

Sept. 8, Rebecca

Oct. 7, (Diolchgarwch/Thanksgiving), Hefina Phillips

Nov. 4, Raymond Mathias

Dec. 2, (Nadolig/Christmas), Hefina Phillips

In Peace, Nêst Pritchard

WEDDING OF ASHLEY TERRY & KRISTOPHER TOWERS



On Saturday August 11 2018 Ashley Terry was married to Kristopher Towers at the Caledon Estates Banquet Hall in Caledon, Ontario. Ashley spent many years in the Sunday School at Dewi Sant and was later confirmed as a full member, but the last few years her work at U Haul where she is a manager, have prevented her attendance in worship. Ashley was very active in the Sea Cadet programme which is where she met Kristopher and she assisted in the November remembrance services for many years in her uniform. The wedding was witnessed by 135 family and friends and was held in an outdoor chapel that is attached to the banquet hall. Although she was not able to have her wedding at Dewi Sant due to distance for people to travel she brought a part of Dewi Sant to the ceremony by having Calon Lan played (all in Welsh) while the wedding party were signing the register. Some pictures from the wedding are shown here and I am sure all wish them both good wishes in this new part of their lives.

Clarice Terry

OUTREACH

On September 19th, several of our Dewi Sant members made their annual trip to help at the Scott Mission. Jobs ranged from setting up and serving a very nutritious lunch to working in the food bank on site and filling bags with necessary commodities for distribution. Every year the group leaves feeling that the day was well spent and giving thanks that there are organizations helping those in need in the downtown core. We hope to visit again in the future and we look forward to others joining us for what proves to be a most satisfying day for those who volunteer.



year's location provided an extra bonus.....exploring downtown Washington D.C and its famous landmarks.

If your schtick is the American Civil War, you could take a tour of Fredericksburg and learn of the involvement of Welsh troops in the war or if you stayed an extra day, you could tour Mount Vernon the home of George Washington.

The opening concert by Trio on Thursday night was a sheer delight and the Saturday evening concert featuring a group of 18 singers (almost any of whom would be deemed soloists) named Eschoir was flawless. The repertoire of this young talented group of Welsh expats who live in London sets new standards in diversity that appeals to young and older listeners alike.

Experts of every kind offered seminars on a wide range of topics. The most difficult task of the weekend was to decide how to fit as many as possible into your schedule. Add to the bonanza of seminars on Saturday the eisteddfod which always culminates in the competition for the David Morris Award. For the first time since its inauguration, two winners were chosen this year. Each of these lucky young people will receive a scholarship to compete in next year's eisteddfod in Wales.

Of course the highlight of the weekend are the two gymanfa sessions held on Sunday afternoon and evening. Led this year by Eilir Owen-Griffiths the cymanfaoedd provide all the participants an opportunity to sing their hearts out. That opportunity is expanded each evening at the AfterGlow as many of the NAFOW attendees meet in the hotel lobby to sing lustily under the leadership of anyone who fancies a turn at being a conductor.



The Falls Church Episcopal (1734) where George Washington was once a parishioner





Can you tell by these ramblings that I highly recommend putting the NAFOW on your travel calendar? Yes, the weekend provides an opportunity to refuel your Welsh juices but it also provides so many opportunities for new learnings and sheer enjoyment of the varied locales. In 2019, the Festival will be held in Milwaukee and in 2020, in Philadelphia.

However, you don't have to travel so far afield to get your needed dose of Welsh culture. In April, 2019, the Ontario Welsh Festival is being held in London, Ontario. More on this event will be in the pages of the Gadwyn in the coming months but know that a warm welcome awaits you if you are able to attend. Hope to see you there!!

Betty Cullingworth

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL FAIR AND BAKE SALE

The Fall Fair and Bake Sale is being held on the 27th October, from 9.30 - 1.00 p.m. and we hope you can help us in the following ways.

1. Sort out your unwanted treasures for our tables. Please leave your donation items on the tables now set up in the downstairs hall. (As before, we will NOT be selling books or clothing).
2. Donate your unwanted jewelry "costume" and "good" for the jewelry counter.
3. Donate special items for our "Silent Auction". Last date for donations – 20th October.
4. Bake for our Bake Sale.

5. Come and help us set up on the Friday.
6. Come and serve on the tables on Saturday.
7. Help us clear up after the sale.

If you have any challenges in getting items to the church - then I will be happy to come and pick them up.

Many thanks,
Lynette Jenkins
Chair of the Fall Fair
416 281 8758, lynettej@scaw.org

ROWAN WILLIAMS SPEAKING IN TORONTO

Rowan Williams, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, will be speaking on Sunday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m. as part of the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship being held from November 11-13 at Yorkminster Park Baptist church in Toronto. This worship service event is open to the public and is free. We hope that many in the Welsh community will be able to attend this event.

This year's theme, *Reaching and Preaching for Peace*, grows out of the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I on Nov. 11.

Rowan Williams was born in Swansea. He was the Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales. Since stepping down from his position as Archbishop of Canterbury he became a Master of Magdalene College at Cambridge University and Chancellor of the University of South Wales.

The Editor

ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL - UPCOMING

In 2011 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Ontario Welsh Festival (OGGA) it was decided that we should make special recognition of people who have contributed "over and beyond" to the Welsh community in our province.

For whom are we searching? A person whose tireless efforts ensures that the Welsh community benefits. Without that person's contributions our Welsh lives would be so much poorer. We are very fortunate in the Welsh community to have many such amazing people. But it is up to you to nominate that special person- the person YOU think should be recognized.

When and where will the Award be presented? At the annual Festival at the end of April.

Please send your recommendation(s) as soon as possible to Hefina Phillips (hefina@cogeco.ca) or call 905-847-5474. Please contact her by the beginning of November to make sure that **your** choice is included in the short list for the 2019 Award.

A list of winners to date can be seen on our website ontariowelshfestival.com
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. Thanks very much to those who have donated recently: Clive & Patricia Mason and Joyce Crook. Please send all donations to the church office, attention Fiona.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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

