



Y GADWYN (The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

January/Ionawr 2019

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DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF DECEMBER

On December 2nd we entered into the season of Advent, with the lighting of the first candle on the wreath in a bilingual service when familiar passages and hymns were delivered in both Welsh and English. The sermon “Here I am; I am willing!” about Mary’s acceptance of her role as the mother of Jesus was presented by Rev. Dr. Néstor Medina. The Advent liturgy continued each Sunday until Christmas.



The following Sunday was the traditional Family Service/Pageant which was once again written and produced by Hefina Phillips. The Nativity Story was told from the perspective of Katie, a naughty cat that belonged to Mary and Joseph. As they prepared to make their trek to Bethlehem, Katie decided to secretly follow them. She had a strong feeling that something special was about to happen so didn't want to be left out. By chance she ended up in the same stable as her owners and therefore was witness to the Christmas miracle.

Katie the cat telling her story; Ian was also a cat narrator

The children were treated to a party and a visit from Santa after the service.



The Thomas family telling the story of the three kings with King Daniel centre stage.

Lisa and Betty Cullingworth reading while the angel Gabriel (Hunter Cullingworth) considers what to do



Mike Cordy reading with Keiran Cordy



Nesta Pickering introducing the scene at the stable.

Kyle Cordy played Prelude in C minor J.S. Bach.





The Merched Dewi singing "A welaist ti'r ddau"

The Rev. Cynthia Stretton led the Communion Sunday Dec. 16th and Rev. Rob Metcalf, led us on the final Advent Sunday. The Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols was prepared by Clarice Terry, the Clerk of Session and led by members of Dewi Sant. We also had Matthew Coons our organist and Jaqueline Goring, our guest harpist. It included wonderful Christmas carols and songs such as two solos by Rebecca Gibson "*I Wonder As I Wander*" and *The Lord's Prayer* and of course the solo of *O Holy Night* by Sheryl Clay-Newel. One of the hymns was "*'Twas in the moon of wintertime*" a beautiful carol that we do not sing often enough. The service ended with Silent Night, Holy Night and the lighting of candles.

Sheila Holyer reading at the Christmas Eve service

Silent Night had its humble premiere on Christmas Eve, 1818, in tiny St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, about 31 kilometres from Salzburg, Austria. A collaboration between a young parish priest named Joseph Mohr (who wrote the lyrics) and organist Franz Gruber (the music), the duo sang *Stille Nacht* to a small group of parishioners who braved the winter weather for midnight mass. Legend has it that the church organ was broken that Christmas Eve, so Mohr asked his friend to quickly write a melody to go along with a religious poem he'd written many months before. Gruber grabbed a guitar, and the two sang the healing message of *Stille Nacht*, or Silent Night. Afethe Duke of Leipzig heard a rendition the carol soon reached the ears of the Prussian king and Silent Night, well, has not been silent since.





Lighting of the candles led by Clarice Terry

The December 30th service was prepared by the Women of Dewi Sant, under the direction of Mable Hastings. The service was structured around readings from The Three Kings by H.W. Longfellow and finished with the hymn “*Let There Be Peace on Earth*”.

All the Christmas services in December were meaningful, inspiring and filled with beautiful music. The members of the congregation who prepared, led and participated in many of these services are to be congratulated for their deep commitment to the church and for bringing us the spirit of Christmas



However, in addition to the sacred and we participated in the secular side of Christmas and what better way to start this than with the Christmas Dinner – put on by the St. David’s Society and Dewi Sant Church. The traditional meal, with turkey and all the trimmings, and dessert - including trifle - was delicious!! The dinner was organised by Arleigh Quesnelle, and her team, which included Mable Hastings and Shannon Quesnelle; the bartender was Gil Quesnelle.

Perhaps even better than the turkey and the trimmings were the desserts



There were many draws for surprise gifts which were donated by Julie Wenz, Dion Wenz, Catrin Wenz, Sheryl and Ed Newall-Clay, Pam Munjal, and Christine Campney. Ava Lloyd-Jones assisted in the raffle and Ava and her father Peter ran the 50/50 event. We also had a fierce game of Christmas bingo, for which I believe Rita Hoffman was the winner.



To top it off there was a fantastic program of music and live entertainment. The MC was Pam Munjal, the St. David's Society VP. The entertainment was varied: Katie and Ian Quesnelle told jokes, Rebecca Gibson, Meriel Simpson and Sheryl Clay-Newall each sang a solo.

Ava Lloyd-Jones and Katie Quesnelle



Katie and Ian Quesnelle, sort of stand-up comedians –

“What do you call a Christmas frog? A Mistletoad!”

The rapt audience watching the entertainment



We had an Ugly Sweater contest won by Peter Stevenson (in case you are wondering who had the skill to discern the most ugly, the judges were Louise Jones and Mabel Hastings).

Peter Stevenson (winner of Ugly Sweater contest) with Trish

At the end of the evening Betty Cullingworth and the Merched Dewi performed Christmas songs and Betty led us in singing some favorite carols as well.

The highlight of the evening though was a dramatic presentation of the poem "*'Twas the night before Christmas*" as envisaged by Julie Wenz and her performance troupe.



Meryl Davies (a well-known amateur actor who came out of retirement just for this play) was the most hilarious Santa.

Katie was our photographer (many of her photos are included here as well as photos contributed by Mike Wills). Santa made an appearance with gifts for the younger set. It was strange that at the same time that Santa appeared Ken Davies disappeared.

As summed by one of the audience:

This was one of the best Dewi Sant Christmas dinners ever. I never laughed so much or had more fun watching The Night before Christmas with Meryl, the funniest Santa, plus all the others who had a part in the evening festivities. The Welsh do know how to throw a party.

Bendith Dduw Arnoch to everyone.

Fondly, Jeanette Roberts



The Editor with notes from Pam Munjal, Vice President St. David's Society

OUTREACH

Thanks to all those who participated in the Christmas drive. Rita Hoffman has reported that we collected 23 bags of food and other items and \$400 which was delivered to the Lansing Food Bank.

Donna Morris reported that we collected 10 gift cards worth a value of \$235 for the Teen Angel campaign. Perhaps next year we should engage some of our own teens to promote this very worthy way to help other teens, to our congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OLWEN DUNETS ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

Olwen will be celebrating her birthday on Jan. 9th. As part of this momentous event, Dr. Helen Hughes felt that her life story would be interesting to people in Wales and so she organised with the BBC Wales to have Olwen interviewed for the show **Dewi Llwyd ar fore Sul**. Diolch yn fawr, Helen. This interview was played on Sunday Dec. 30th at 9:45 a.m. UK time. You can hear the interview online if you click on the link below and you will see her picture:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p06wthnz>

You can also just visit the www.bbc.co.uk/radiowales and search for Dewi Llwyd, look for the Dec. 30th show and either play the whole show (the interview with Olwen is about 16 minutes into the programme).

After the programme aired, a student of Olwen's at Llangoed Primary School from 70 years ago contacted the programme to say that she remembered Miss Stephen – especially the box of candy canes she sent from Canada at Christmas time.



When asked about how she had managed to arrive at 100, and still healthy and fluent in Welsh although living in Canada, she quoted from a poem by Goronwy Owen:

Synhwyrfryd doeth a chorff anfoethus,
Cael, o iawn iechyd, calon iachus,
A pheidio yno â ffwdanus fyd
Direol bawlyd rhy helbulus

For which the English translation could be, (but it is hard to replicate):

A wise, sensible life, lived in moderation
Receiving, as a result of good health, a healthy heart
Rejecting a troublesome world,
Which can be lawless and difficult.

The Editor (and Olwen's daughter)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEET UP FOR WELSH LANGUAGE SPEAKERS (CYFLE IS SGWRSIO YN Y GYMRAEG)

The next Meet-Up is on Saturday 19th January at 2 pm at the Jason George pub. Y sgwrsio nesaf ar Sadwrn Ionawr 19 am ddau o'r gloch (Mae'r dafarn yn ymyl marchnad St Lawrence) Croeso i unrhyw un sydd am siarad yr iaith neu ymarfer siarad Cymraeg.



April 26 – 28 2019

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CÔR MACHYNLLETH**

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CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

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

