

Y GADWYN

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

January/lonawr 2019

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## ***DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS***

## MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF DECEMBER

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 16<sup>th</sup> 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. After the 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

Olwen will be celebrating her birthday on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>. 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. 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radiowales) and search for Dewi Llwyd, look for the Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 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)*

## IN MEMORIAM

### Cameron Davies

In our last Gadwyn we mentioned the tragic sudden death of Cameron Davies, eldest grandson of Gretl Davies, on December 3. Please note that Cam Davies was the son of her son, not her daughter, as stated incorrectly. Gretl, who has also been ill and was in North York General is now recuperating in the Amica on Steeles. This address is Amica, 546 Steeles Ave W, Suite 217, Thornhill, ON L4J, Phone: 647 218 6946.

*The Editor*

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Iona Rees is now living at Delmanor Elgin Mills. The address is:  
Delmanor Elgin Mills  
80 Elgin Mills Road East  
Richmond Hill, ON  
L4C 0L3.

Audrey Evans has moved to:  
1665 The Collegeway  
Suite 1108  
Mississauga, ON  
L5L 0A9

and has a new email [audreylouiseevans@gmail.com](mailto:audreylouiseevans@gmail.com)

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## WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

### OTHER CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The concert by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice choir was another annual event with some well-loved Welsh and Canadian music. (My personal favourite is *'Mary did you know?'*).

A week before Christmas we heard the Orpheus choir sing, and Geraint Wyn Davies read Dylan Thomas' well known *"Child's Christmas in Wales"*. (Geraint's voice and accent reminded me of someone well known to us!!) The choir added a Welsh flavour by singing English words to the Welsh *Ar hyd y Nos* and *Suo Gân*.

On Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>. the CBC's *The Current* broadcast a special program on Gratitude. This featured an interview from Cardiff, when Mr. Owen Williams spoke about the kindness of his neighbour. As well as his story, his eloquence, and slight accent, impressed me. When Mr. Williams concluded with *'Nadolig Llawn iawn'* – the *'hiraeth'* was complete!

The story in short: Owen Williams had just sat down to dinner with his wife and two-year-old daughter Cadi on Monday night, when there was a knock at the door. He opened it to find the daughter of his elderly neighbour Ken Watson, who had recently died. She was clutching a bag and inside the bag were more than a dozen Christmas gifts, all carefully wrapped. "She said: 'These



Nêst Pritchard

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Locals are lining up to see a new work by the elusive artist. Residents in the small Welsh town of Port Talbot were greeted by an early Christmas surprise this year on December 19, as a new work by the elusive street artist Banksy appeared on the side of a garage overnight.



Ian Lewis, the man who owns the garage that the mural was

*From Jesse Kinos-Goodin · CBC Radio · December 19, 2018*

## **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**

**Save the date and join us in  
LONDON Ontario**

**For the Ontario Welsh Festival**

**The Saturday night concert will feature  
CÔR MACHYNLLETH**

Festival Headquarters: DoubleTree by Hilton 519 439 1661  
[www.doubletree3.hilton.com](http://www.doubletree3.hilton.com)

Special rates for festival attendees: \$139.99 for traditional room,  
\$149.99 for King Rooms.

Check out our website [www.ontariowelshfestival.ca](http://www.ontariowelshfestival.ca)  
See us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ontario.welsh.festival](http://www.facebook.com/ontario.welsh.festival)



## **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 send all donations to the church Secretary, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, 33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto, M5M 1Y6.

## **CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS**

Anna Dunets, Editor. Email: [adunetswills@gmail.com](mailto:adunetswills@gmail.com) or 416-485-4074.

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

