



Y GADWYN (The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

March/Mawrth 2019

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DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH

In this edition, we are highlighting not just the past February but also other first week of March – as it was rather momentous. It was both St. David’s Day and the first Sunday with our new minister, Rev. Liz Mackenzie, as well as the Welsh Service.



Rev. Liz sitting with her grandson and two visiting children, during the time with children. Rev. Liz also introduced us to other members of her family, some of whom were in the church, using a family picture displayed on the TV monitors.

We sang and heard some wonderful music. The hymns include *Bless our Homeland*, *Calon Lan* and *Finlandia*. From More Voices United we sang *Spirit, Open my Heart*, an incredibly beautiful hymn. You can hear this on several YouTube sites. Merched Dewi sang *O Gymru Ti Yw Ngwynfyd* and during Communion Rebecca Gibson sang *Eat this Bread and Never Hunger*.



During the Communion Service

Rev. Liz using modern technology for the Lesson reading. Since the service was also combined with the Welsh service Mairwen Thornley read the first Lesson in Welsh and English.



In the sermon we heard more from the Second lesson which concerns the Transfiguration of Jesus on a mountain. He went there with Peter, John and James. Not only was Jesus transfigured but Moses and Elijah appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. Peter proposed that they stay there and put up shelters for Him and the others. But Jesus knew that there was work to be done back with his people and convinced them to return down the mountain. While he was speaking, a

cloud appeared and a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him". Rev. Liz reminded us that while we may want to stay in a good place that has lots of memories and includes our family and loved ones, we are often called by God to move on to another place, that is perhaps not so comfortable, but where we can better hear his voice and do His work.

As part of the service for St. David's Day, Hefina Philips read some history about our patron saint, which is summarized here.

The Christian church had an uneasy start in Britain and during the Roman occupation it was but one of several popular cults. Christianity had been proclaimed the official religion of the Roman Empire in 313 but after the Romans left Britain Christianity suffered almost to the point of dying. Thus begins the period in Wales known as Oes y Saint (Age of the Saints). Some of the prominent figures in Wales, especially SE Wales at that time were responsible for a startling resurrection of Christianity. They were monks or Holy men of the early Celtic church, among which was Dewi. Other names you might recognize are Dyfrig, Illtud and Padarn.

Dewi was from the royal house of Ceredigion. He probably received his education at the monastic school of Llanilltud Fawr - a centre of education that had such a high reputation that it attracted scholars from all over the Celtic world. Between Hereford and Pembrokeshire there are more than 60 churches dedicated to Dewi - more than any other saint. There are also some in Brittany. He established monasteries all over Wales but the one that he is most famous for of course is in S W Pembrokeshire, known today as St David's or Tŷ Ddewi. Dewi presided over the Ecclesiastical Synods around 570. Dewi was canonized in 1120 and was then declared the Patron Saint of Wales. St. David's became the centre of pilgrimages.



Therefore we owe Dewi a tremendous debt of gratitude for all that he did to ensure the survival of the Celtic Church, which of course was an integral part of the greater Christian church - the Christian church of that period being a much looser organization than it is today. We end with the advice that he gave his followers: "Gwnewch y pethau bychain glwysoch, welsoch gennyf fi. Byddwch lawen a chedwch y ffydd" (Remember the little things you saw and heard from me. Be happy and keep the faith).



At the reception after the service with the cutting of a particularly delicious cake inscribed with *Croeso*. Thanks to the ladies who put together the refreshments.

Rev. Liz with a welcome gift – one of our 2017 110th Anniversary cups. In the background is Rev. Cerwyn Davies. Part of the story of our church in one picture.



REMEMBERING

Ken Mitchell's mother Jean Mitchell died on February 21. The funeral service was on March 2 in Burlington. Please consider the difficult times that both Ken and Nia are going through as Ken's aunt is also very ill and of course Margaret, Nia's mother, continues to have health challenges.
The Editor

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Vaughan Lewis latest address:
Vaughan Lewis
Room 103 Victoria Manor, MacMillan House
220 Angeline St. S.
Lindsay, ON
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WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

THE ICELANDIC CONNECTION TO WALES

Rev. Liz discussed her Icelandic heritage, coming from Gimli, Manitoba, the centre of Icelandic immigration to Canada. Having grown up with two languages and with a culture struggling to continue while being surrounded by many other cultures, predominantly English speaking, Rev. Liz has some understanding of what it means to us at Dewi Sant who are concerned about using the Welsh language and maintaining the culture in the Canadian context. She also mentioned her Scots background and the historical links between the Scots and the Norse Icelanders – in their sailing around the north Icelanders were often shipwrecked on strange coasts or purposely set up communities in these new lands.


However, looking at the early period in the history of Iceland, the first Norse explorers encountered Gaelic monks who had already established an outpost on Iceland. There is some archaeological evidence for a monastic settlement from Ireland at Kverkarhellir cave, on the Seljaland farm in southern Iceland. Patreksfjörður, an Icelandic village, was named after Saint Patrick. And by the way, Saint Patrick could have been Welsh, although at the time of his birth the country was not defined as it is today. He was a Briton and the Welsh for it was Brythoneg.



Norsemen landing in Iceland, by Oscar Wergeland (1877).

While the written sources emphasise Icelandic settlement from Norway, genetic evidence shows that the founder population of Iceland came from Scandinavia, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
The Editor with notes from Steve Dunets and Wikipedia

WELSH FILMS



**WELSH
FILM
FESTIVAL**

The Ottawa Welsh Society presents what is believed to be Canada's first Welsh Film Festival!

The four films will showcase the creativity of Welsh filmmaking, as well as reflect the language, culture and history of Wales.

Each film \$12; Members \$8

BYTOWNE
C I N E M A

325 Rideau St. - www.bytowne.ca

Is a trip to Ottawa in your plans? The Ottawa Welsh Society presents what is believed to be **Canada's first Welsh Film Festival!** The four films will showcase the creativity of Welsh filmmaking, as well as reflect the language, culture and history of Wales.

~ Tuesday evenings in March ~

The films are:

Hedd Wyn, Tuesday, March 5
Y Streic a Fi (The Strike and Me), Tuesday, March 12
Y Syrcas (The Circus), Tuesday, March 19
Under Milk Wood, Tuesday, March 26

For more info, go to ottawawelsh.org and look for Welsh Film Festival on the "Events" page

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting will take place on March 10, 2109 following the service. Please plan to attend as issue concerning the next year will be discussed and this is your opportunity to ask question and contribute to the activities of the congregation.

Clarice Terry, Clerk of Session

CELEBRATE ST. DAVIDS DAY

St. David's Society presents
"An Evening with Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey and Guests".
Saturday March 9th at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m.

Please arrive early to secure your seat. The meal will include a selection of salads, roast lamb, herb roasted chicken, vegetarian entrée, a selection of vegetables and desserts.

Audience participation is encouraged.

So dust off those LPs and break out those dance moves.

\$25/person.

Contact Donna Morris 416-756-1249

GOOD FRIDAY AND THE GYMANFA GANU

APRIL 19, 2019

There are many reasons to be excited about the year's Good Friday.

- 1 The afternoon service will be led by our new minister, the Rev. Liz Mackenzie and it will be the first time for Rev. Mackenzie to see and to hear this Welsh tradition.
- 2 The conductor of the Gymanfa Ganu will be William Woloschuk, who is also the conductor of the Welsh Male Voice Choir. It will be fantastic to have such a knowledgeable and musically gifted conductor for this event. We hope to see many choir members as well who can carry the bass and tenor lines.
- 3 We have decided to return to the tradition of having dinner in-between the two events and this will be a catered event.

Please plan to attend... here is what you need to know:

3:30 pm

Good Friday service with Rev. Liz Mackenzie.

5:00 pm

Buffet dinner in the Church Hall at a cost of \$15 per person. Reservations for dinner must be made by Thursday, April 11, 2019. To reserve, please call/email:
Nest Pritchard (416-923-2392, npritchard38@gmail.com)
Risti Jensen (416-225-8186, risti.jensen@gmail.com)

7:00 pm

Gymanfa Ganu, William Woloschuk conducting, Matthew Coons, accompanist, soloists TBA.



ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL, LONDON, APRIL 26 - 28

Headquartered at the **DoubleTree by Hilton 519 439 1661**
www.doubletree3.hilton.com

Rates for festival attendees: \$125 per traditional room + taxes
Book by March 25, 2019 to receive special rate - subject to availability.

We hope you will consider attending the Welsh Festival this year.

The visiting Male Voice Choir from mid-Wales, **Côr Machynlleth**, was established in October 2014, to compete at the 2015 National Eisteddfod, where they were awarded second prize in the Male Voice Choir section at the 2015 Eisteddfod, and again at the 2016 National Eisteddfod. This paved the way for a very special and successful year in 2017, winning the Male Voice Choir section in the Côr Cymru (Choir of Wales) competition on S4C TV Channel; being awarded first prize in the Male Voice Choir section at the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey, and singing the national anthem ahead of the Wales v New Zealand rugby international at the Principality Stadium, Cardiff. You can hear clips on their Facebook page, but WOW, we are really looking forward to listening to them live, in concert, on **Saturday, April 27 @ 8:00 p.m. at First St. Andrew's United Church at 350 Queens Ave.**

At the hotel you will be welcomed with a complimentary cup of tea with Welsh Cakes and Bara Brith, complete with harp entertainment

For those arriving early on Thursday and Friday and who may have signed up for the tour of Labatt's Brewery, planned for early Friday afternoon, **PLEASE NOTE:** Everyone on the tour must wear closed-toe, closed heel and flat footwear (running shoes preferred). As per food safety policies, jewellery is not allowed – rings with jewels must be taped with medical tape, which they will supply. Anyone with medic alert necklaces can wear them under their clothing.

Friday evening is the "Noson Lawen". Were you at last year's? – it was brilliant ! **Maybe you would like to participate this year? – let Betty Cullingworth know.**

Saturday morning please consider attending the AGM, following which will be Hefina's Say it in Welsh workshop. It is extremely popular, and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. For the afternoon Alison has arranged a Documentary/Film called "Y Chwarelwr", and also a movie "Y Streic a Fi" – a charming film in Welsh with English sub-titles.

In between events visit the Marketplace for the goods on offer. Maybe you have an item or two you would like to donate to the Silent Auction table? Alison Lawson of the Ottawa Welsh is managing the Silent Auction table at the Marketplace this year. If any reader has an item that they could donate to the Silent Auction let Alison Lawson know at alisonlawson@rogers.com. If you are attending the Festival, you can bring the item with you at that time. If not, and the item (well-marked as to its intent) can be brought to Dewi Sant, I will see that it gets to the Festival. I can also be contacted at mairwent@icloud.com

Highlight of the Saturday evening Banquet will be a presentation of the annual Gold Award - **this year's recipient is Donna Morris**. A 7 minute walk or a quick drive after the Banquet will get you to the church for the concert. Can't make the Festival? Julie Wenz has Concert Tickets she'd be happy to sell you.

You have hopefully marked your calendars. We'd love for you to join us for the whole Festival. Register before March 25 for reduced cost. The Registration Form is now available on our website, through Eventbrite, and there are some available in the Narthex at Dewi Sant. To receive a Registration Form by mail, please email your mailing address to: registrar@ontariowelshfestival.ca

Finally, if you know of a person who supported the Ontario Welsh Festival and was a regular attendee, that died within the last year, and should be included in the "In Memoriam" section of the 2019 Festival Booklet, please contact Hefina Phillips ASAP at hefina@cogeco.ca (905-847-5474)

For further information check our website: www.ontariowelshfestival.ca
Mairwen Thornley

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 payable to Dewi Sant Welsh United Church (with a note it is for Y Gadwyn) addressed 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 or 416-485-4074.

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



Merched Dewi and the congregation on March 3.