



Y GADWYN (The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

April/Ebrill 2019

Cyfarchion y Grawys!

I have just completed the first month of ministering with Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and I have been getting to know this wonderful faith community. My first month started with St. David's Day and ended with raging snow! Contrary to popular opinion, I did not bring the snow with me from Saskatchewan!

I have been appointed by DSWUC as an Intentional interim Minister (IIM) for the next three years. What exactly is an IIM? This is a special designation, gained through study and training, for ministers who lead congregations in a process of intentional interim ministry. Intentional interim ministry is an opportunity for a community of faith to take an intentional time out to seek spiritual and organizational renewal, to rediscover its identity, and to revitalize its mission. The IIM works with a Transition Team which comprises members of the faith community and a representative from the Shining Waters Regional Council of The United Church of Canada. Together, we will explore how to engage the community of faith members, adherents, and the wider community in a process of change and transition that will lead to a stronger and healthier ministry and future. It is both journey and adventure as together we discern all that God dreams for DSWUC.

Throughout this intentional interim ministry process there will be various opportunities for the community of faith and others to gather to discuss where DSWUC has been in its ministry and where the church is being called to go in the future. So stay tuned - you will be needed in this process. God is calling each of us to join in this time of renewal, hope, and transition.

May you continue to know God's blessings as we journey toward Easter and its promise of resurrection and new life.

Rev. Liz Mackenzie

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DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

MOMENTS FROM THE SERVICES OF MARCH

On March 10 in preparation for the Annual General meeting after the service, Rev. Liz spoke about Jesus' temptations in the wilderness. Just as Jesus was called to go on a journey into the wilderness that would prove to be full of hardship, darkness, and perilous temptation, so too are we. The challenges of the journey serve to disabuse us of our illusions of easy answers so that one day we awaken and find that the sacred centre is here and now – in every moment of the journey, everywhere in the world around us, and deep within our own hearts.

Rev. Liz went on to present the idea of Holy Manners which we could consider adopting in all of our gatherings in the church:

In my experience, and as borne out by much of the congregational renewal literature, healthy congregations are ones that intentionally create safe and welcoming space for all to participate in the life and work of the congregation. We need to understand love, God's gift to us, "...as the power to act-each-other-into-well-being." Holy Manners is one way to help create safe space in order to "act-each-other-into-well-being."

Holy Manners

- Keep God at the center of everything we do
- Speak for ourselves
- Speak for a purpose
- Separate people from problems
- Allow for full and equitable participation
- Listen carefully without interruption
- Welcome the conflict of ideas
- Take a future orientation
- Demonstrate appreciation
- Honour the decisions of the body
- Commit to holding one another to account when we do not keep our holy manners
- Keep the discussion at the table
- Watch our body language
- Check in about good use of time
- Provide a process for allowing the quiet people to speak, with an invitation to speak
- Sincerely say what we really feel

In our time of discerning all that God dreams for us as Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, let us remember that our loving God cheers us on; "raises us up on eagle's wings; bears us on the breath of dawn; makes us to shine like the sun; and holds us"*; holds us now and all our days (*On Eagle's Wings* (Psalm 91) from VU).

In the service of March 17 we reflected on the tragedy of attack on the mosque in New Zealand. The sermon was about giving up negativity for Lent - what practice can we undertake that will help us be who God calls us to be and help us live the life that God dreams for us? As Rev. Liz went on to say: *In light of someone murdering 50 innocent people at prayer simply because they were Muslims at prayer, what does being a compassionate and forgiving church even mean? In the face of such overwhelming hatred, giving up negativity for Lent seems rather facile at best. In the face of this evil in the world and in our own country, can we at DSWUC stand firm in unleashing the power of God's love to act-each-other and God's world-into-well-being? Our Moderator writes "grieve, pray, act, love." Our faith says that we are not alone. The one who risked it all for love of*

us stands with us and emboldens us to unleash the power of God's love, peace, justice, and forgiveness.

As we moved into spring, we discussed the parable from Luke 13: 1-9 about the fruitless fig tree. This story is the antithesis to raising up platitudes – instead, restorative judgment and action is clearly necessary. The Gardener intervenes and prevents the owner from killing the fruitless fig tree. One more chance, the Gardener responds. Jesus prayed in order to connect with God and to be strengthened in the call he had as God's son. And then he went back to his work as God's gardener – coaxing us to bear good fruit in God's world. Rev. Liz continued: *As a church, I believe we have some work to do. We are called in this time and place to be God's Gardeners, both for others and ourselves. We are called to tend ourselves and others with care and compassion, to work for the realization of God's reign and the end to all domination systems.*



Rev. Liz with Children Time discussing gardening

How will I - How will you - How will we, do that? What gardening work are we being called to as DSWUC? So as a follow up to last week's sermon – Giving up on Giving up – instead of giving up anything for Lent, perhaps we can each think of one thing we will do in this time to live out our call to care for and tend God's creation. Just one thing – no matter how big or how small.

WELSH LANGUAGE SERVICE/GWASANETH CYMRAEG

At a meeting of those interested in the Welsh Services, held on February 10, it was agreed to hold a blended (more Welsh) Service at 11:00 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month for April, May and June in place of the Welsh Services we were holding at 10.00 am. It was further agreed that this be re-evaluated in June.

Clarice Terry – Clerk of Session

MOTHER TONGUES

One of our interim ministers from 2018, Wenh-In Ng, has included a reflection on her visit to Dewi Sant in the UCC Lenten recommended reading - 'Everyday Skeptics' in an article on Mother Tongue.

Nêst Pritchard

Preaching at Toronto's Dewi Sant Welsh United Church one Sunday last year, I met up with that day's soloist, Rebecca, and her friend Sarah. During coffee hour, I learned that they both attended Saturday language classes at that church. "Just like Saturday Chinese school," I couldn't help

exclaiming, recalling busy mornings when our whole family would troop downtown for the same purpose with our two primary-school-age children. For ethnic-minority communities, language classes continue to be an attempt at maintaining and preserving mother tongues and heritage cultures, whether Welsh or Chinese, Hebrew or Ukrainian.

Nothing illustrates this truth more powerfully than the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action numbers 13, 14, and 17:

- 13: “Acknowledge that Aboriginal rights include Aboriginal language rights.”
- 14: “Enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles: Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture [and] society and the federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.”
- 17: “Enable residential school Survivors and their families to reclaim names changed by the residential school system.”

These are mostly calls for government or institutional action. What can we do as individuals? For a start, we can learn and use Indigenous place names, such as Haida Gwaii for the former colonial Queen Charlotte Islands, and join Indigenous neighbours in advocating to reclaim or introduce Indigenous names for local streets and parks.

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WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATIONS IN TORONTO

The St. David's Society of Toronto and Toronto's Welsh Meet-Up hosted a St. David's Day celebration at The Rose and Crown, a popular North Toronto pub. The "Red Dragon" was proudly on display and attracted the attention of fellow revelers who just had to have their photo taken with our national flag (and inflatables!).



The St. David's Society held an "Evening with Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey and Guests". This featured a buffet-style lamb dinner followed by superb entertainment. Our MC for the occasion, Julie Wenz (aka Max Boyce), kept things running smoothly with tales of rugby lore as told by Max Boyce, a sprinkling of Welsh jokes, and, of course, a rousing sing along. The evening's special



entertainment featured Sheryl Clay-Newell who presented her rendition of Shirley Bassey's "Big Spender" with husband Ed. Mairwen Thornley graced us with Tom Jones' nostalgic classic "Green, Green Grass of Home".

Julie Wenz as Max Boyce our MC for the evening.



Anne Jones and Oli Hoffman singing Those Were the Days a la Mary Hopkins

Mairwen Thornley singing The Green, Green Grass of Home

Rebecca Gibson brought us out of the 1970's into the 1980's with her version of Bonnie Tyler's hit "I'm Holding Out for a Hero".





The Pontypool Front Row Chorus (aka Julie Wenz, Mabel Hastings, Gaynor Williams, Donna Morris, Pam Munjal and mam Olwen)

The Pontypool Front Row Chorus delivered the ever-popular rugby song "Delilah". Sheryl closed the evening on a high note with Harry Secombe's "If I Ruled the World". Not to be outdone by the songstresses, the men (plus one dubious character who goes by the name Meryl Davies) exposed their hidden talent in the outrageous "Best Chest Hair" competition. The result was a 5-way draw. Other big winners were: Anne and Oli for "Best Costume" and Sheryl Clay-Newell for "Best Song". It was a fun-filled evening with lots of laughs not soon to be forgotten. A huge "thank you" to everyone who participated.

Donna Morris

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

On Saturday 06 April we will play Scrabble in Welsh. We meet at 2 pm at Carr Hall 100 St Joseph St. Contact email: t.sioncati@gmail.com. Information also available at *Meet-Up Toronto for Welsh speakers*.

Croeso i unrhyw un sydd am siarad yr iaith neu yn barod i ymarfer siarad Cymraeg.

UPDATE ON THE BOOK EXCHANGE - Y LLYFYRFA

The book exchange is now a go! The book exchange is located in the Narthex of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. There is a sign out sheet for the books but there is no time limit on keeping any if books. Mae'r Llyfyrfa wedi ei lleoli yn y Narthex. Y bwriad yw eich bod yn benthycu llyfr dros dro ac yn dychwelyd y llyfr wedi ei ddarllen. Rydym am lofnod pan yn benthycu llyfr ond nid oes rhaid darllen i unrhyw amserlen. The book exchange is possible thanks to donations from Hefina Phillips, Oli Hoffman and Sheryl Clay Newell.

FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA: CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF WELSH HERITAGE

Did you know that there has been a significant Welsh presence in Fredericton, New Brunswick for 200 years? On June 11, 1819, 180 Welsh men, women and children arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Most of these immigrants moved upriver to Fredericton where they were given land located 25 km northwest of the city. Overcoming many challenges, the Welsh settlers established the small settlement of Cardigan and were joined by 20 more Welsh families over the next few years. Today some of the descendants of these Welsh settlers remain in Cardigan, but most are spread across the continent.

Perhaps you are a descendant of one of these early families? Or maybe you are interested in exploring the story of this Welsh immigration in more depth? If so, plan to join us this summer in beautiful eastern Canada as we honour these early settlers and share our Welsh heritage. Our celebration will be held on August 10, 2019 at the Welsh Chapel heritage site in Cardigan, New Brunswick, which is Canada's oldest enduring Welsh community. It will be followed by a special church service on August 11, 2019 in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Everyone is welcome to join us, admission is free. More information at www.nbwelsh.ca or on Facebook at *Central New Brunswick Welsh Society*.

Janet Thomas

A GADWYN FAN FROM REGINA

Brenda Thomson sent a note with her donation to Y Gadwyn to say that it was 45 years ago that she last attended Dewi Sant, since she moved to Regina. She appreciates hearing news of the Toronto and Ottawa Welsh. She also mentioned that she is travelling to Wales this spring for her birthday, the first time back in 30 years. Perhaps we will hear more about that trip in a later Gadwyn.

The Editor

WILD GOATS FLOCK TO LLANDUDNO IN BAD WEATHER

This is from the BBC Wales News. One hopes that someone in town was singing *Cyfri'r Geifr* (Counting the Goats), better known as *Oes Gafr Eto?*.

The Editor with Steve Dunets

Some of the wild herd of 122 Kashmiri goats on the Great Orme in Llandudno have wandered into the town. They have been spotted holding up traffic and nibbling flowers in people's gardens. Conwy council said: "Generally it is at this time of year that the goats come down to much lower ground because of the bad wet weather." Llandudno residents said this was the furthest the herd had ventured into the town. Gillian Townsend caught the animals holding up traffic and munching on flowers in a garden on Monday. "It was quite funny, they decided to herd into the middle of the road, stopping a car and a taxi, then started galloping up Lloyd Street," she said.



Alison Rowlands said although she had seen the goats come down the west shore in previous years, this was "the furthest into town" she had seen them. She said that they liked to eat bushes and garden foliage. A Conwy council spokesperson said the authority

was not directly responsible because Great Orme goats are wild animals, although it manages the country park where they live.

The goats were a gift to Lord Mostyn from Queen Victoria and were originally in the ownership of the Mostyn estate in Llandudno.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

WELSH HARPIST CLAIRE JONES IN KINGSTON

The distinguished Welsh harpist, Claire Jones will be at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts in Kingston on **Sunday, April 7 at 2:30 p.m.** Ms. Jones was the Official Harpist to His Royal Highness, The Prince of Wales and played at the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's wedding. She will be bringing an eclectic Classical program with her to Kingston including compositions by herself and by her husband, Chris Marshall who will join her on stage. More information here: <https://www.queensu.ca/theisabel/content/claire-jones>

*Katy Littlejohn, Audience Engagement Coordinator
Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts*



ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL, LONDON, APRIL 26 - 28

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

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

The visiting Male Voice Choir from mid-Wales, **Côr Machynlleth** won the Male Voice Choir section in the Côr Cymru (Choir of Wales) competition on S4C TV Channel in 2017; was awarded first prize in the Male Voice Choir section at the National Eisteddfod in Anglesey, and sang 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.**



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.

We’d love for you to join us for the whole Festival. The Registration Form is available on our website, through Eventbrite, and there are some available in the Narthex at Dewi Sant.

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

Mairwen Thornley

AN EVENING WITH ARTHUR OZOLINS! SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, May 31 - 7:30 p.m. at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

Organist Matthew Coons teams up with internationally acclaimed Pianist Arthur Ozolins as they perform works by Johann Sebastian Bach (Concerto in F Minor, BWV 1056) and Robert Schumann (Piano Concerto in A Minor) along with solo works by French Organist-Composer Louis Vierne and Russian Piano Virtuoso Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Tickets - \$20 at the door.
(All proceeds will benefit Dewi Sant United Church)

Be sure not to miss this special opportunity. Spread the news to friends and family! For more information, contact Matthew Coons (matthew.thomas.coons@gmail.com).

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 Clive & Patricia Mason and Brenda Thomson for recent donations.

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

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