

Dewi Sant Welsh United Church

33 Melrose Avenue, Toronto, Ontario. M5M 1Y6

Phone 416-485-7583 Fax 416-485-2978

Web www.dewisant.com Email info@dewisant.com

Neges y Gweinidog---Message from the Minister

Sunday, June 13th, 2010. This was a special day of celebration at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. We have numerous 'highlight Sundays' at the Church these days, as those who congregate there will attest, but this was really a day to remember. At 10.30 a.m. around 50 members stood at the front door of the Church to witness a short service of celebration to remember the laying of the cornerstone of the Church at Melrose Avenue exactly 50 years ago, with Donna, a babe in arms all those years ago, and Geraint, a faithful servant down the decades, leading the Scripture Readings.

After we sang the apt hymn, 'The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord' we took our places in the Church Sanctuary for the 11 a.m. Service – this included no less than THREE solos! Katie and Kieran had voices like angles, and Sheryl's 'Bless This House' left us breathless. We wish you every blessing, Sheryl, on your 'special day' on August 15th.

The service also included the annual Sunday School Graduation Ceremony, led by Pam, our ever-faithful Superintendent. It is so noticeable how much at home the children are at the Church, how comfortable they are in the atmosphere of the morning service.

The service ended on a high note with the Communion Sacrament, which this time included bread baked especially by Gaynor for the occasion, from flour mix common to all United Churches throughout Canada, to celebrate 85 years since the birth of the Denomination.

Yes, this was a service to remember! And yet, as I look back to that morning I realize that, although we had many people of different ages, from 3 to 84, taking an active part, as named in the Orders of Service and so many who were not mentioned but certainly appreciated, all that occurred on that morning was fully to the glory of God, that God was not just present in Worship but was, is and will be central, leading and guiding. And as I said in my sermon, following the Scripture reading by Christine – it is not about us, but about God. When we keep our focus real, then all Sundays will be always be special for everyone present.

Bendith Duw arnoch

May you journey in God's Blessings.

Deian

We congratulate Murray and Rosemary on the occasion of their wedding on Friday, June 18th at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church and wish them happiness and contentment in the years of marriage that lie ahead.

God Bless you both.

This summer has seen a sudden surge in weddings associated with the Church and the Welsh Society.

- On Friday, June 18th, at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, Murray Black and Rosemary Murray were joined in Holy Matrimony at a special service, witnessed by family and close friends. When the wedding was announced on Sunday at the morning service the congregation erupted in joyful praise.
- On Saturday, June 19th, at Southampton, Ontario, Rebecca Redmile and Manu were married in a special ceremony. We all remember Rebecca with affection, as an accomplished learner of the Welsh language, a regular member of Merched Dewi, and with admiration for the way she has not only learned to cope with her loss of sight but her way of living life to the full. We wish them God's blessing on their union and hope they settle happily in their new life together in Wales.
- On Saturday, August 15th, Sheryl Clay and Ed Newell will be wed at a special service in Elliot Lake, where her parents and brother live. We all know how much Sheryl is looking forward to the 'Big Day', and those of us who are attending and taking part in the service will be honoured to witness the event.

As part of the service Meriel Simpson will be singing a solo, 'The Gift of Love', with words based upon Paul's Hymn of Love as seen in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13. The song will be sung in English and in Welsh, the original words translated by myself. I include those Welsh words below:

Y Rhodd o Gariad

Pe ganaf gân â thafod glân
Bod gennyf ddawn i gynnau tân
Ond yn ddi-serch, nid wyf ond dim
Fel tincian gwag, oer ac heb rym.

Er rhoddi oll o'm heiddo i
Heb reswm da, yn d'enw di
Hunanol rodd, O! ddiwerth beth
A chyn bo hir, fe aiff yn feth.

Tyrd Ysbryd, tyrd, O! cymer fi,
Fy nghyfoeth oll sydd eiddo i ti,
A boed i serch reoli'n gwaith.
Hwn yw fy nghais i'r ddaear faith.

What joy to share our happiness and blessings with each other and with the Lord. *Deian.*

Y Darlun.

Dwy law yn erfyn sydd yn y darlun Wrth ymyl fy ngwely i.
Bob bore a nos mae'r weddi yn dlos, Mi wn er na chlywaf hi

Pan af i gysgu mae'r ddwyllaw hynny Wrth ymyl fy ngwely hi
Mewn gweddi ar Dduw i'm cadw yn fyw, Mi wn er na chlywaf hi

A phan ddaw'r bore a'r wawr yn ole Wrth ymyl fy ngwely i
Mae'r weddi o hyd yn fiwsig i gyd. Mi wn er na chlywaf hi.

Rhyw nos fach dawel fe ddwg yr awel O ymyl fy ngweli I,
Y weddi i'r ser, fel eos o ber **A minnau'n ei chlywed hi.**

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The Nonagenarian Series:

Last month's honoree:

Eirlys Barker

In 2010, Dewi Sant Welsh United Church celebrates its 103rd birthday. Born in 1915, our featured member this month will be celebrating her 95th birthday in October and all of those years have been spent within the Dewi Sant faith community. Eirlys Barker (nee Thomas) is the daughter of William and Charlotte Thomas; her father William was one of the founding members of the church in 1907. How fortunate for us as a congregation to have Eirlys as a direct linkage to our past.

Eirlys has known every minister at the church throughout our history except for the very first one. In fact, one of our early ministers, Baldwin Davies, lived with the Thomas family in a rooming house on Mutual Street. After a stay on Boston Avenue, the family eventually moved to Queensdale Avenue in East York. During my youth, Eirlys' father, who was the teacher of the well-attended Men's Sunday School class, was always referred to as William Thomas, Queensdale, following the Toronto Welsh tradition of separating out the various Hughes, Evans, William, Jones etc. families by appending the name of the street on which they resided. (In fact, as a very young child, I thought the last name of Mr. Thomas was indeed Queensdale.) Eirlys remembers attending Sunday School on Clinton Street and having a teacher known as Sara Fawr.

It was at 54 Clinton Street in 1941 that Eirlys married Gordon Barker before Gordon left for service overseas in the Canadian Armed Forces. On his return, Gordon worked for the T. Eaton Company as a salesman while Eirlys was a homemaker raising their son, Ken.

Throughout her years at Dewi Sant, Eirlys has been a stalwart supporter of all church groups and events. Gordon became an enthusiastic congregant as well and together they were regular attendees of the church services. Together also they did wonderful pastoral care in visiting shut-ins after Gordon's retirement. My mother was one of the grateful recipients of this initiative.

When asked what stands out for her as she reviews her years at Dewi Sant, Eirlys mentions the hymn singing. She recalls with delight attending the cymanfaoedd on Good Fridays and loves to hear and to sing "Cwm Rhondda". Specific memories might fade somewhat, but the love and warmth for her beloved church do not.

There are song lyrics that say, 'Let a smile be your umbrella'. With a radiant smile that still lights up her face, Eirlys is well equipped to ward off the rainy days of life. May she continue to take her place in her pew, faithfully brought to the service by Olwen Morgan. It is reassuring to know that our linkage with the past is still intact.

Betty Cullingworth

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Sunday Clothes.

One Sunday morning a little boy was walking down the road in his Sunday clothes, when he met a little girl. Coming from the other direction. "Hello," he said where are you going?" "Home from church replied the little girl."

Although limited in mobility since her accident in September 2009, Joy continues to keep updated on Dewi Sant matters. She loves receiving her Gadwyn and phone calls from church members. Our church is so fortunate to have within its senior membership such a wealth of knowledge about our early years as a church family. Committing some of these memories to a CD format is perhaps an opportunity to be undertaken by some technically savvy member of the congregation. Visiting our older members and hearing their life stories continues to be a real joy.

(Note: I have learned of another member, Haulwen Edwards, who has recently reached the august age of ninety; she will be featured in a future article. Please let me know if there are others as we go forward.)

Betty Cullingworth.

Unfortunately cyberspace swallowed Eirlys' account last month!! I apologise for that. M

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Merched Dewi and Friends Concert ...May 20

Much warmth filled the sanctuary of Dewi Sant on Thursday, May 20, some generated by the incredibly hot day that greeted everyone in attendance. (O for an air conditioner that evening!!) But the physical warmth was not the only kind engendered by the evening. The warmth of fellowship and enjoyment from an evening spent in a celebration of music helped to dispel the discomfort of the physical heat.

Hefina Phillips emceed the concert in her own inimitable style and kept the audience both entertained and informed. Sheryl Clay and Gaynor Low sang beautifully as usual. How fortunate we are to have both of these singers as part of our church family. Shalom Gao, our church organist, thrilled everyone with his virtuosity on the piano. The only regret is that we didn't have an instrument worthy of his skills. The immediate standing ovation at the conclusion of his performance was testimony to the enjoyment of the audience. And who can fail to be moved by the performance of some of our Dewi Sant Sunday School students? Katie Quesnelle sang Ar Hyd Y Nos in both Welsh and English and Kieran Cordy sang On Eagle's Wings. Both of these youngsters just coincidentally happen to be fifth generation members of Dewi Sant and both have been blessed with wonderfully tuneful voices. Nia Contini and Jade Thomas showed their oratorical skills by reciting humorous pieces that were well received by the audience. All of this talent supported a program presented by Merched Dewi who were pleased to highlight some of the songs that they will be singing on their upcoming trip to Wales. Bolstered by four choristers from Ottawa and one from London, Ontario, the choir is very excited about this opportunity to visit Wales, expand its Welsh musical repertoire and luxuriate in the Welsh cultural opportunities that the trip provides.

The evening concluded with a tea and an opportunity to chat in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Emily Smith, Nesta Pickering and Linda Pickering for manning the kitchen that evening and to the members of Merched Dewi for providing the goodies.

Diolch yn fawr iawn to all the 'friends of Merched Dewi' who performed that evening and to all the 'friends' who attended. We really enjoyed ourselves...

..Betty Cullingworth.

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You're Invited..... Again

Last year, the luncheon for the 80 year old + members and supporters of Dewi Sant was so successful that we have decided to have our second annual **Octogenarian Luncheon**.

This year's event will be held on **Wednesday, August 18th at 11:30 a.m.** at the home of Betty and Ross Cullingworth. Last year we had at least five attendees who were over 90 years of age and I know of at least two others who have since reached that illustrious plateau.

Again we hope to invite each of you personally but if you have still managed to keep your age a secret and haven't received an invitation within a month of the event, please let us know and accept our invitation to join us on this special day. **Rides will be provided for anyone who wishes to attend but does not have transportation.** If you need a ride, please contact Betty Cullingworth at 416 486 0432. To help in the planning of the event, we ask you to let us know whether you plan to attend **by July 31.** Please **RSVP to Nina Morris at 416 488 6445 or Betty Cullingworth at 416 486 0432.**

Church matters to consider.

In October we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the doors at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church on Melrose Avenue.

- As part of the celebration we invite you to write a short note of reminiscences that have remained in the memory. The story can be about any aspect of Church life during the last five decades. Please send your memories to the Minister at the Church. We hope to hear some of the stories and will post them all during the time of celebration.
- We are also intending to have an exhibition of celebration, with photographs, pamphlets, building plans etc. We ask you to trawl through your albums and memo boxes at home to find such artifacts so that we could borrow them for the exhibit. We would especially appreciate copies of Orders of Service dating back to the early 1960's. We promise to return all your materials after the celebrations.
- As part of the service of celebration on October 17th a lunch will be arranged for the congregation at Rosedale Golf Club. We hope that every member who attends the morning Service of Worship will share in the meal, and for those who find difficulty in attending for disability reasons we will make arrangements to take you home – no need to order Wheeltrans etc.
- On Sunday, September 5th, the Church will resume the Welsh Service, y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg, at 7 pm. There will be a Communion as part of the Service.
- The Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 12th at 11 am after their deserved Summer break. The pupils have received a Summer bonus this year once more – tickets for a Blue Jays game donated by Bill and Leona Francis. The pupils wish to thank Bill and Leona for their generosity, and wish Bill a speedy recovery following his recent hip operation.
- Remember that the Annual Mission and Service BBQ will be held at Joan Lloyd's home on September 12th. This special event has become a real fixture, and a popular one. We thank Joan for her welcome and the Church M&S for the wonderful work they do.

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