



# Y GADWYN

(The Link)

*News of the Toronto Welsh Community*

April/Ebrill 2016

Happy Easter to you all!

As we move towards April, we welcome the promise of spring (even though the weather is decidedly not co-operating!)

Who was it that said March comes in like a lion and leaves like a lamb? This year it seems to be true for the beginning at least.

This year Good Friday was on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Easter was celebrated on March 27<sup>th</sup>

We had an excellent Good Friday Service with Dr. Glenys Huws preaching.

That was followed by a delicious pork roast dinner with all the wonderful trimmings of stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots and asparagus; followed by a delectable assortment of desserts!

Many thanks to Arleigh and her family who laboured long to make this meal!

Our Gymanfa Ganu was a huge success with terrific energy from the floor as well as the Merched Dewi Choir.

Easter Sunday began with the 9 am Communion service, breakfast (supplied by Gaynor and Mabel-thanks to you both!), and then the Easter service which included removal of the symbols of Christ's Passion and replacement with fresh flowers! It is a very powerful sight to see the cross so adorned!

Easter weekend is always very full at Dewi Sant. We were happy to welcome visitors and see many members!

May the new life of Easter rise in you, and chase away all your worries and burdens,

Parch./Rev Anne

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## **DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS**

### **NEW EDITOR FOR Y GADWYN**

After many years of putting together Y Gadwyn for the Welsh Community, Myfanwy Bajaj has put down her editor's pen and officially "retired". I – Anna Dunets Wills - have picked up the pen (okay, it is really the computer) so I hope you find my first edition – with many contributors and covering new from January - up to the standards of the past. My mother Mrs. Olwen Dunets was also editor in an era before computers! Many thanks to Myfanwy. I doubt I have the same supply of jokes.

### **FAMILY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016**

Those of you in attendance on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, will appreciate how special the family service was. Several multigenerational families participated in the service with babies being carried in arms of participating parents and grandparents. The service was the brainchild of Hefina Phillips. Hefina visited Patagonia in the fall of 2015 and the spirit of family in Trelew inspired her to replicate that feeling in a family service at Dewi Sant.

Katie Quesnelle opened the service by lighting the candles that had been donated to the church by her great grandmother, Brenda Kelsall. Katie and her brother, Ian, are fifth generation members of the church as is Hunter Cullingworth who participated by ensuring that the congregation was aware of the removable cover on the microphone mounted on the pulpit while her mother, Lisa, read a poem dedicated to all moms and dads. Alexander Mansfield and Daniel Evans were similarly enthralled by the microphone.

To the families who participated and especially to Hefina for all her work in pulling the service together, the congregation extends a sincere 'diolch yn fawr iawn'. I am sure that Hefina would welcome overtures from any family that would like to be involved.

*Betty Cullingworth*



*Dewi Sant families participating in Family Sunday*

## ST. DAVID'S DAY CELEBRATION

St. David's Day was this year celebrated on Feb. 28 in Dewi Sant. The patron saint was honored through the service in song and word. Ian Quesnelle and Katie Quesnelle beautifully read the Story of St. David. The Rev. Anne presented a homily on the "Leadership of St. David". The sanctuary was adorned with rows of daffodils from the Hobbs Family in memory of Lorna Hobbs.

As part of the services we sang a hymn which was written by Lewis Valentine, a pacifist, and a Baptist minister in North Wales who was jailed in 1936 because of his involvement in trying to prevent a bombing school from being built on what was considered sacred ground. This hymn is regarded as a second anthem. The ever resourceful Rev. Cerwyn Davies has provided a translation. We discussed the use of the words "wilted acres" and "the awful wasteland" since this does not remind me of Wales but he suggested that these refer to the state of the language and the culture at the time. Perhaps Gadwyn readers have their own interpretation! By the way, D. J. Williams and Saunders Lewis were also involved in this incident and jailed. D.J. Williams was an English teacher at the Grammar School in Fishguard, and taught Nora Davies.  
– Ed.

### *Dros Gymru'n Gwlad*

Dros Gymru'n gwlaid, O! Dad dyrchafwn  
gri,  
Y winllan wen a roed i'n gofal ni;  
D'amddiffyn cryf a'i cadwo'n ffyddlon  
byth,  
A boed i'r gwir a'r glân gae1 ynddi nyth;  
Er mwyn dy Fab a'i prynodd iddo'i hun,  
O! crea hi yn Gymru ar dy lun.

O! deued dydd pan of awelon Duw  
Yn chwythu eto dros ein herwau gwyw,  
A'r crindir cras dan ras cawodydd nef  
Yn erddi Crist, yn ffrwythlon iddo Ef;  
A'n heniaith fwyn â gorfoeddus hoen  
Yn seinio fry haeddiannau'r Addfwyn  
Oen

### *For Wales our country*

For Wales our country, O Father I raise a wail,  
This pure vineyard which was given to us to care  
for,  
May you protect it vigorously and keep it forever  
faithful,  
And let the true and pure find in her a nest;  
For your Son who bought it for himself,  
Oh! create a Wales in Your image .

Oh! let there come a day when the breezes of God  
Are once again blowing over our wilted acres.  
And the awful wasteland under the grace of  
showers from heaven  
Gardens of Christ, fruitful to Him;  
And her old sweet language with a cheerful vigour  
Ringing out on high, the deserves of the Gentle  
Lamb.



*Peter, Kerri Hobbs and Leah Darke decorate the Sanctuary with daffodils in memory of Lorna Hobbs.*

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER COMES TO DEWI SANT**

The first Friday of March is traditionally the World Day of Prayer. The service is organized by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. This year a service was held at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church, on Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> for the churches in the area. We were joined by members from Blessed Sacrament R.C., St. Timothy's, & St. Leonard's Anglican, Armour Heights Presbyterian, and Bedford Park and Fairlawn Ave. United Churches. The service was written this year by Christian Women of Cuba, on the theme of children. Rev. Anne Hepburn welcomed everyone to the service and gave the reflection on the theme "**Receive Children. Receive Me**".

These churches host the service in turn – and last time it was Dewi Sant's 'turn' there was a bad snow and ice storm so the service was cancelled. This year we had the first major snow fall of the Winter a couple of days before the event --- but we '*stayed calm and carried on*'..... Representatives from neighbouring congregations, and Meryl Davies, Louise Jones, Joan Lloyd, Nêst Pritchard and Rev. Anne Hepburn from Dewi Sant took part in the liturgy. Matthew Cooms was the organist and also accompanied Jeanette Roberts – our gifted soloist. Special thanks to Lyn Jones and Arleigh Quesnelle for their help, as well as Rosemary Black and Melinda Morgan who gave invaluable assistance. The decorations – with a Cuban touch - and refreshments, after the service were fantastic! Thanks to all who supported this special function.

*Nêst Pritchard*

### **EASTER SERVICES**

#### **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AND GYMANFA GANU, FRIDAY, MARCH 25**

The afternoon Good Friday service was a solemn but deeply meaningful gathering as Dr. Glenys Huws led us in a reflection on the death of Jesus as well as the present day suffering of others who bear witness to the truth and to their principles. It was wonderful to see Glenys and her family, including a grandchild! The hymn repeated throughout the service was the beautiful

"Were you there when they crucified my Lord" (composed by African-American slaves in the 19th century). In the evening, as we entered the sanctuary for the Good Friday Gymanfa many 'old-timers' reminisced about the days when the sanctuary, and balcony, were full, and extra chairs had to be put in the aisles to accommodate the crowds. Once the singing started – the numbers were forgotten – and all eyes were on the conductor, and the singing was GREAT! Betty Cullingworth was as enthusiastic as ever, and led us in singing a number of the classic Gymanfa hymns. We experienced a mix of new and old – our new organist Matthew Cooms did an admirable job, and David Jones, the talented soloist for the evening, brought back memories of when he sat and sang with his father (Owen Jones) at the back of the sanctuary. Hefina Phillips spoke for us all in her welcoming remarks, which included heartfelt thanks to Arleigh Quenelle, and all those who assisted in preparing the pre-Gymanfa dinner. The tradition of a Good Friday Gymanfa at Dewi Sant Church is alive and well!

*Nêst Pritchard*

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Easter Sunday is such a special day in our calendar. The build-up during Lent and the extreme sadness of Good Friday are suddenly forgotten as we are filled with extreme joy and happiness. The positive message, the colours and light of Sunday make up for the "darkness" of Friday. It certainly is a joyous day. As usual, the day started with the Communion Service at 9 AM which was followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall organized by Gaynor and Mabel. It seems so appropriate to start the Easter Sunday together, early in the morning, in search of the risen Christ. During the 11AM service the Cross was stripped of the symbols which had been placed on it during Lent. Then the congregation, helped by the children of the Sunday School, covered the bare cross with colourful spring flowers. The cross was then placed outside to share the symbol of rebirth with our neighbours. Merched Dewi appropriately sang "Mae yn Fyw" (He Lives) during the service. We left the service with a positive attitude, thanks to Rev Anne's sermon, Matthew's musical contributions, the choice of hymns, the flowers and the sunshine. It really was a "very happy Easter".

*Hefina Phillips*

### **INTRODUCING OUR ORGANIST MATTHEW COONS....**

A warm CROESO is extended to Matthew Coons as he takes on the position of organist at Dewi Sant. When Shalom Gao, our highly regarded former organist had to leave the position for family reasons at the end of the calendar year, a search process was initiated and the committee was thrilled when Matthew applied. Many of us know Matthew as the accompanist of the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir. His piano skills are highly evident but it was with real delight that we heard Matthew play the organ and realized that this is the instrument dearest to his heart.

In 2012, Matthew received his Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance at the University of Toronto. He has won numerous awards and scholarships along the way. Some of these include: the Godfrey Hewitt Prize as the winner of the Canadian National Organ Playing competition; 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner of the Toronto Centre Competition for Young Organists; the Irene Norman Scholarship for recognized humanitarian efforts awarded by the University of Toronto; the Arthur Edward Redsell Memorial Scholarship upon entrance to the Faculty of Music. During his years as a student at U of T, Matthew had the opportunity to be the organist at Grace Church on-the-Hill, and to be the organ scholar for four years at Metropolitan United Church. He has also done occasional work at Christ Church Deer Park and at St. Andrew's United on Bloor St.

Although Matthew is highly skilled on the pipe organ, he assures us that the organ at Dewi Sant is capable of producing a musical sound that is very pleasing indeed. There was a collective bravo from the committee when Matthew played the organ during his interview. The entire congregation will get to appreciate that skill when Matthew will be the featured musician on one of music Sundays in the near future....Stay tuned for details re the date of this service.

Already our choir, Merched Dewi, is appreciating Matthew's exemplary skills as an accompanist. We look forward to a long relationship with Matthew in this role. Welcome Matthew. The best is yet to come!!

*Betty Cullingworth*

### **IN MEMORIAM**

Jeanette Roberts, who is well known in the church for singing solos and for bringing some of her music students to also sing for us, sent us this note about her late nephew, David.

David Roberts, son of the late Captain John Roberts and Alice Roberts, passed away unexpectedly December 23, 2015 from a heart attack. He is survived by his loving wife Randi, his sisters Judy, Glynis and Cathy, numerous nieces and nephews. His uncle, Captain Michael Roberts and sister Jeanette Roberts were informed of his passing on December 24th. David was very artistic, full of fun, and will be missed by his family and friends. David and Randi were resident in Nanaimo, Vancouver Island.

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## **WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **CELEBRATING ST DAVID'S DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

I am fortunate to get paid for doing what I absolutely love, namely sharing my passion for the Welsh language with others. At St Michael's College, U of T, three of the Celtic languages are taught: Irish, Scots Gaelic and Welsh. However in March is there anyone on campus who is not totally familiar with the date March 17th, and probably turns up to lectures wearing bright green? But what of March 1st? I would guess that 95% of the students would be unaware of its significance and importance. How, therefore, could I change this? A Flash Mob! I gathered as many students from both my classes and from a choir connected to the Celtic Department.

On March 1st dressed in Welsh rugby shirts and scarves and carrying either flags or huge plastic daffodils, we set off for the draig-goch-festooned dining room of Brennan Hall at lunch time, where we would be sure of finding (and informing) lots of students.

We sang *Men of Harlech* (in both Welsh and English), *We'll Keep a Welcome* and *Ar Hyd y Nos* (also in both languages). I'm delighted to report that it all went better than I could have hoped. Thanks to everyone who lent me shirts, scarves and flags. Couldn't have done it without you.

*Hefina Phillips*



### THE PROCLAMATION HEARD IN WELSH IN MORGAN'S POINT

About 130 km south west of Toronto is the Township of Wainfleet and the Marshville Heritage Village, a collection of historical buildings with The Morgan Cabin at its centre. In the 1790s, a David Morgan, 'of Welsh descent', and his son, David Junior, paddled across Lake Erie from the American 'colonies' to a rocky beach on the frontier of Upper Canada. Within a few years, the family had joined them, clearing and farming so much land so successfully that Governor Simcoe himself remarked on the hard work of the Morgans. He christened the area "Point Industry" in their honour which, in 1840, was renamed Morgan's Point.

Fast forward to today and the rural community's enthusiasm for maintaining Morgan's Point United Church in the village of Burnaby. Celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year, it took part this month in the Bible Society's ***Proclamation*** – "the reading of God's word aloud in public and in its entirety from beginning to end ..." In this case, four Niagara churches each took a day from March 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> to read through the New Testament and the Psalms. The Hungarian minister at 'my' church in Port Colborne told me he would be reading at Morgan's Point, in Hungarian. I pointed out that, as it was *Morgan's Point*, and that it was a young Welsh girl, Mary Jones, who provided the spark in 1800 for the formation of the Bible Society, someone should read in Welsh. The rest, as they say, is history. I was pleased to read Psalms 51, 52, and 53, in Welsh, in this year's ***Proclamation***.

So whether or not the original David Morgan was a man for his Bible, or even if he himself spoke Welsh, Welsh has indeed been heard on the rocky outcrop into Lake Erie known today as Morgan's Point.

*Jane Thomas, Port Colborne*

### UPDATE ON CALAN

Last September you might have been among the lucky ones to hear the folk performance of **Calan**, on tour from Wales at the Tranzac Club. 'Calan' is one of the new, young bands

blasting their way onto the Welsh - and even UK and Europe - *popular* music scene. After the last great folk 'epoch', with groups like Ar Log, Mynediad Am Ddim, and Plethyn, traditional Welsh music took a downturn within popular culture.

Young bands, with their interpretations of traditional Welsh music, are taking popular music by storm. Since **Calan** visited Toronto, it has had main stage exposure at the prestigious Celtic Connections festival in Glasgow. Better yet (perhaps!) is an invitation from Bryn Terfel to play at his 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday gig at the Royal Albert Hall, sharing a stage with Welsh harp sensation Catrin Finch and (get this!) Sting!

Not all groups are of the folk-rock variety of course. The OGGA has recently been approached to help promote a visit by **The Foxglove Trio**, a more acoustic band with a strong Welsh base but a repertoire spreading across the UK. The proposed visit will be the third week in October IF they can get at least three shows. Cambridge has booked, the Toronto ENGLISH Folk Club is interested, with OGGA help. We're still looking for the third. The trio has run some very successful workshops in Welsh traditional music, particularly Wales' unique *plygain* carol singing, for non-Welsh speakers. Anyone interested? See [www.calan-band.com](http://www.calan-band.com) and [www.thefoxglovetrio.co.uk](http://www.thefoxglovetrio.co.uk)

*Jane Thomas, Port Colborne*

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **ONTARIO WELSH FESTIVAL April 22-24 GALA CONCERT WILL BE A GLORIOUS MUSICAL FEAST**

The Three Welsh Tenors and Côrdydd choir all in one concert-what a feast of Welsh music! The Ontario Welsh Festival is extremely proud to announce this very special concert, which will take place as part of the Festival, on Saturday, April 23 at Dominion Chalmers United Church. Dominion Chalmers is a magnificent old church with excellent acoustics - in fact it is one of the most sought after classical concert venues in Ottawa.

Côrdydd is a young and vibrant mixed voice choir. Their name is a play on the word "Caerdydd"- the Welsh for Cardiff, the city they are based in. Côrdydd have won the Choir of the Festival award at the National Eisteddfod more than any other choir, four times in all – Cardiff in 2008, Wrexham in 2011, The Vale of Glamorgan in 2012 and Denbigh in 2013. Did you know that it is this choir that performs on most of the tracks on Bryn Terfel's Christmas CD? As well, they performed with him for a TV Christmas special. Why not check them out on YouTube to get a little taste of the treat you are in for?



And talking of treats, the icing on the weekend's cake will be the Three Welsh Tenors - Aled Hall, Rhys Meirion and Aled Wyn Davies, along with their amazing young accompanist, Caradog Williams. So many countries have their "Three Tenors" since Carreras, Domingo and Pavarotti hit the world stage. Their repertoire combines classics from opera and musicals, famous Welsh songs and hymns, and contemporary compositions - a mixture to suit everyone. The Three Tenors are in charge of the "open-mike" on Friday evening at the Noson Lawen so you know you will be well and truly entertained that evening. On Sunday, there will be two sessions of the Gymanfa Ganu during which you again will be treated to items from the choir and the Tenors.

We will also enjoy a feast of harp music! This starts with the Daffodil Tea on Friday afternoon where Mary Muckle will play a variety of Welsh and other Celtic airs, to the Noson Lawen on Friday evening, to the Awr y Plant on Saturday morning where Mary's young harp students will take part with a Welsh harp legend, The Harpist of Llyn Tegid, will be read and culminates in a very special seminar on the harp on Saturday afternoon. In her seminar, harps will be provided for a beginners' harp lesson for participants who would like to have a hands on experience with this beautiful instrument. There will be a limited number of harps available for playing. There will be a \$20 charge per harp player to cover the cost of renting the harps. Everyone will have a chance to touch and try out a harp at the end.

Getting to Ottawa from the Toronto area: if you do not fancy driving, why not take the VIA? For those unaccustomed to train travel, I suggest you check out the ticket prices on a Tuesday. Every week (on a Tuesday) Via has a 24 hour sale. If Ottawa is not on the list this week, wait till next week. It makes an enormous difference, price-wise. The hotel is offering a special Festival rate of \$147 per night. Just phone them at **1-800-916-4339; 613-235-3333**, mentioning you are with the Ontario Welsh Festival, to reserve a room.

Registration forms can be accessed on the website [www.ontariowelshfestival.ca](http://www.ontariowelshfestival.ca) or contact Alison Lawson at [publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca](mailto:publicity@ontariowelshfestival.ca) or 613-725-2704.

*Alison Lawson (on behalf of the Ontario Welsh Festival)*

## LUNCH BUNCH

The 2016 spring session of "Lunch Bunch" will host the following events:

- 3rd May - a representative from the Canadian Hearing Society will talk about hearing issues and suitable assistive devices. Soup will be provided; please bring your own sandwiches.
- 7th June - Summer Celebration.

### **TORONTO WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR**

The TWMVC presents our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Performance featuring Shannon Mercer. Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 p.m., Christ Church Deer Park.

### **EXPECTING VISITORS FROM WALES?**

Did you know that after March 15th this year, visitors travelling to Canada are required to have an ETA (Electronic Travel Authorisation)? According to the website, this authorisation should be obtained prior to purchasing the airline ticket. From what I read, it is quite easy to obtain online and the cost is \$7. The website is [cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta](http://cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta)

### **DONATIONS TO GADWYN**

Many thanks to Rev. Elwyn & Louise Hughes, Charles W. Oakley and Jane Thomas for their support. Please contact the Editor if you wish to receive Y Gadwyn by email. This reduces our postage costs.

### **CONTACT US**

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Note: The cut off date for submissions for the next issue is April 30.

