

DEWI SANT CHURCH NEWS

SOME LESSONS FROM SUMMER SERMONS

We have been witness to terrible events around the world this summer which can make us fearful of the future for ourselves and for our children. The horror of the July 14th Bastille Day Massacre in Nice, the uprising and attempted coup in Turkey and the frightening mass shootings in Cleveland and Baton Rouge are a wave of violence that seems unstoppable. In light of the news from overseas and The USA these past days it is pretty difficult to know what to do: act or listen. How, if at all, can we respond? What can we do? Prayer seems inadequate yet what else is possible from our safe distance?

In July the Minister preached on both the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the story of Mary and Martha. In the Parable, the “clean and pure” Levites, avoid the beaten man, including the priest who might be expected to show compassion but does not. The “unclean” Samaritan rushes to help and pays 2 denarii (2 days’ wages for a laborer) to cover the costs, although he is not wealthy himself. Jesus tells his disciples to go and do what he has taught them. He speaks to them of action in discipleship. That parable is a lesson taught by Jesus on faithful action. Action which heals and cures and cares compassionately for those in need. In the story of Mary and Martha, Jesus has come to pay a visit at the invitation of Martha. During this occasion Martha works in the kitchen but Mary abandons Martha and sits at Jesus’ feet listening to him. This lesson is a different one. As you heard Jesus say: this is not about being busy and appearing to be busy; it is about settling into a peaceful time of listening and learning when the opportunity presents. Mary is as much a disciple to Jesus as his male followers. She is not letting herself get caught up in the housekeeping because He is saying things she wants to hear and understand. The lesson from Jesus is about listening for the spirit and being attentive to the teaching.

May that keep us faithful: open to doing and listening to the will of God, reading us for action.

The Editor, using the notes from Rev. Anne’s sermons

IN MEMORIAM

Ken Hughes passed away on August 27. There will be a memorial service for Ken in October, the date and place to be confirmed later. At this time we remember Ken and his late wife, Irene (who died in August 2015), both long time faithful members of Dewi Sant and pray for Trish Stevenson and her family and all members of this Hughes family.

Editor

WELSH COMMUNITY NEWS

ICELAND V. WALES!

You must have been doing a Rip Van Winkle act this summer if you were not immersed in the Soccer World Cup and swept away by the success of the two small countries- Iceland and Wales. Actually Wales got to the semi-final, one round above Iceland, but neither country would have been high on the "expected to be successful" list.

But it was not soccer that drew me to Iceland this summer, en route to Wales. (To be honest, I am a rugby fan!) Iceland Air has been doing a superb job enticing visitors to Reykjavik "at no extra cost for a stopover" that I decided to take advantage of their offer! I fell in love with the country and was overwhelmed by what we in Wales could learn from this tiny country.

It seems that only a few months ago the entire country was in a steep economic downfall, but no longer. They have pulled themselves up by their bootstraps and all is running like clockwork. What was it about Iceland that made me think that Wales could/should emulate? First it was the language. Although spoken by only 350,000 inhabitants, it is not endangered. Why not? Because, even though all Icelanders are at least bi-lingual, English being their second language, Icelandic is the country's official language and school children are not allowed to start learning a second language until they are totally fluent in speaking, reading and writing their own. I immediately noticed that everyone I dealt with spoke to me in English but when they spoke to each other it was in Icelandic. And visitors did not get miffed about this - unlike non-Welsh speakers, who get very irate if one speaks one's own native language in their presence. (Thinks: the T shirt at the Eisteddfod with the wording, "You're in Wales, We speak Welsh, Get used to it!").

Tourism is now the greatest source of Iceland's revenue. How did they achieve this? By marketing their country. Why doesn't Wales do this? (When you have the answer, please let me know!) What does Iceland have that we don't - apart from the odd volcano and a few geysers??? What does Wales have that should be marketed? So much! Our countryside is beyond beautiful, our beaches are amazing, our culture is enviable, and even our food is superb. But how much of these aspects do we market abroad to entice visitors? Iceland has learned how to maximize its attractions- even its sheep and horses! As if Wales doesn't have enough of those!

I really want to share with the rest of the world how superb Wales is. Unfortunately I don't know how to achieve this single-handed! We need more effort from the Welsh Tourist Board and/or the Welsh Assembly. We need to be as proud of our own country as the Icelanders are of theirs. Wales was positively brimming over with the Soccer World Cup repercussions. Long may they last!

P.S. I do recommend a stopover in Reykjavik next time you go to Wales.

Hefina Phillips

SURFING IN SNOWDONIA

Following from Hefina's plug for Welsh tourism, how about this? A younger member of the Dunets-Wills household attended surfing classes at Surf Snowdonia this August. This was in addition to doing the traditional climb up Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) in the rain (and back down in the rain).

Surf Snowdonia is an artificial wave pool at Dolgarrog in the Conwy valley, north Wales, owned by Conwy Adventure Leisure Ltd. It is the world's first commercial artificial surfing lake and the United Kingdom's only artificial surfing lake. In 2007 the Dolgarrog Aluminium plant (which was previously an Alcoa plant) closed, and a group was established to decide what should be on the site in its place. Plans for a surfing attraction were unveiled in 2013. Much initial decontamination work had to be undertaken, following a century of use as an industrial site. The site opened to the public August 1, 2015, having cost a total of £12 million.

Surf Snowdonia has a freshwater pool which contains a wave-generation mechanism and a contoured base that can generate three different sized waves, at a rate of one a minute. The company claims this is the longest man-made surf wave in the world. The pool is filled with rainwater collected from Snowdonia reservoirs including Llyn Cowlyd. This water passes through the adjacent hydro-power station, originally built to power the former aluminium plant, before being pumped from the tail-race into the surfing pool.

Have a look at their web site surfsnowdonia.co.uk. Lots of activities for children as well as adults. Those who don't surf can watch from the restaurant.



AFTER BREXIT - FIRST MINISTER MAKES CASE FOR WALES IN MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER

First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones welcomed Prime Minister Theresa May to Wales today. In his initial meeting with Theresa May, the First Minister called for fair funding and a proper, lasting devolution settlement for Wales.

During the meeting, the First Minister stressed the importance of remaining focused on safeguarding the long-term future for the steel industry in Wales. The First Minister also set out the importance of Wales playing a full and active role in the forthcoming EU negotiations, and called on the Prime Minister to guarantee that the current levels of funding Wales receives from the EU will remain post Brexit. Commenting on the meeting, the First Minister said: "Today's meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May was a constructive and positive start to our working relationship. "It was a useful opportunity to talk openly with the Prime Minister about the full role Wales must play in the forthcoming negotiations about the UK's exit from the EU. I once again called for the UK Government to guarantee that the £600m of invaluable funding we currently receive from the EU will continue to flow to Wales after the UK's exit takes place. "My immediate focus remains on securing a sustainable future for Wales' steel industry and I am encouraged by

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will resume on Oct. 6th at 10 am in the Clinton Room. It is a great opportunity to discuss current world events in context with Bible readings. All are welcome!

Rev. Anne

MISSION & SERVICE

Are you available to volunteer at the Scott Mission, 502 Spadina Avenue, on Monday, September 19th? That morning (9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.), our group of volunteers will help at the lunch time meal provided daily to many of the needy in the area. We have gone as a church group before and the experience is always uplifting. The mission provides a much needed service to area residents and the atmosphere is one of warmth and caring. Please consider adding this day to your calendar of events for September.

If you are able to help, please contact the church or Betty Cullingworth directly. I must let the coordinator know of our numbers well in advance so early contact would be appreciated.

Diolch.....Betty Cullingworth



Also please bring donations for the Food Bank which Rita will gladly accept on your behalf and deliver to Lansing United Church which operates the Food Bank for North York. The Food Bank is in need of financial contributions as well as they must purchase 60% or 6 tons of their required food items each month and the cost of basic food items has increased 15% or more in the past 6 months. Contact Rita Hoffmann for details on this.

WELSH CLASSES

Once again, John Otley has offered to hold Welsh classes to teach beginners and advanced intermediate students to speak and write in Welsh. John donates his time and efforts to this cause and has done so for many years! If you are interested in participating, please note the following schedule.

Beginners' Class: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Friday nights beginning Friday, September 23, 2014.

Intermediate Class: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon Saturday mornings beginning Saturday, September 24, 2014.

As in the past, the classes continue until the weekend prior to Victoria Day, 2017. And, as has been our practice for many years now, no classes will be held on long weekends, over the Christmas break, or when the church requires the library.

