



Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community

June/Mehefin 2018

To my friends at Dewi Sant:

I now have only two more Sundays to worship God in your good company: June 10 and June 17. On these remaining Sundays I intend to speak about the things that make for abundant life and what belongs in the cup of life. I have now completed fifty-three years of ministry and I think it is time for me to walk on some new paths. Nevertheless, I do thank you for the privilege of being with you. If you add February and August of 2017 to my term from September, 2017 to June 2018, then I have been with you for a complete year.

I have experienced living and worshipping with some of the saints of God. I think that the faithful few, who continue to worship and support Dewi Sant, Sunday by Sunday, should be awarded with the honour of Companions of the Order of Canada! What constancy and faithfulness!

I do leave Dewi Sant with some regret and sorrow. But I observe that this is a church that is strongly devoted to its particular traditions of worship and community life, and that it is steadfastly determined to follow its chosen path into its future. May that work for you!

But it is important that what is happening in the world is recognized. First, our world is becoming more and more secular. And, although some peoples, from South Asia, who come to Canada are still quite religious, this is not so for many. (I am told by a Roman Catholic priest friend that the only reason why the Roman Catholic Church is flourishing in the Toronto areas is because of the immigrants coming from the Philippines and other Asian countries.) From what I hear about Wales the people there are becoming very secular and are leaving the church.

This is the second thing to note: Canada, in particular the greater Toronto area, is becoming very cosmopolitan. There was a time, in my past, when the Peel region, for example, was 35% Protestant and United Church. This is not so any more.

Thirdly, if anyone is reading the religious journals of the day, such as *The United Church Observer*, you will know that many of our younger generation, the millennials, state quite specifically that they are spiritual but not interested in institutional religion. Nevertheless, I find it interesting that many aging United Church congregations are researching and finding creative ways to keep alive. This is a must for Dewi Sant.

These two women were faithful Jewish women who had become believers in the Christian way and Paul understood that Timothy's Christianity was a direct result of his upbringing with Lois and Eunice. And finally, Paul lived with and then travelled extensively around the Mediterranean with Prisca and Aquila, wife and husband, preaching the new Christian faith. Paul left them at Ephesus where once again they opened their house for Christian worship services. It is important to note that Prisca is mentioned first in Paul's correspondence.

The Pentecost Sunday service focussed on the presence of the spirit in our lives. Sheryl Clay-Newell sang *Hear My Prayer* by Mendelssohn which includes the beautiful melody *O for the wings, for the wings of a dove*. The congregation sang the uplifting Voices United hymn *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*:

*Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
Blow thro' the wilderness
Calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness
Stir me from placidness,
Wind, wind on the sea.*

In his homily Rev. Bell spoke on the gift of charisma. The apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians: "I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own special gift from God, one having one kind and one of another" (1 Corinthians 7: 7). The Greek word Paul used for "gift" is *charisma*. But each of us has charisma. All we need to do is claim it. Listen to what the apostle Peter wrote "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4: 10). Charisma is the disciplined giving of gifts received by us from God to others who reach out to us and to whom we reach out. Paul also used the word *charisma* for the dramatic breakthrough of God's forgiveness to us all in the gift and grace of Jesus Christ (Romans 5: 15 – 16). But we all make breakthroughs when we seize the moment, and offer what we are and have in the life around us, when we exercise our desire and will, and start running with it, when we offer what we are to our families and friends, our community and church, our country and world. Indeed, if we are truly people with charisma – *to each her own, with one another and for one another, as sons or daughters of God* – then we have no choice but to use our charisma where and how we can.

The Message of Peace and Goodwill was read in English and Welsh by Nest Pritchard and Rebecca Gibson. This year the Message of Peace and Goodwill is 95 years old, and since 1922 the message has been an inspiration for the humanitarian and international work of the Urdd Gobaith Cymru (an organization for children and young people to learn and socialise in the Welsh language). The first message was sent by Reverend Gwilym Davies from Cwm Rhymini. He was a pacifist and was prominent in the establishing of the Welsh Union of the League of Nations and UNESCO. He believed in uniting the children of the world.

The message this year was prepared by the young people of Mid Glamorgan. The message gives thanks for the opportunities available to young people and the hope that those opportunities are available to all young people emphasising the need to listen to the voices of young people, and for young people to feel able to discuss and overcome problems. You can read the complete message on www.meiccymru.org/a-message-of-peace-and-goodwill/ and see a video of the Youth of Wales presentation on www.urdd.cymru/en/humanitarian/hum/peace-and-goodwill.

On May 27th we had another Special Music Sunday led by members of the congregation. The highlights included Sheryl Clay-Newell singing *I Will Sing New Songs* by Dvorak, and *Y Nefoedd*

by T Osborne Roberts; a flute solo by Rebecca Gibson (who knew Rebecca played the flute as well as sang?) which was a medley of tunes; and a piano solo Arabesque #1 by Debussy played by our Matthew Coons. Merched Dewi performed *Anfonaf Angel* by Robat Arwyn.



Rebecca Gibson



Matthew Coons



Betty Cullingworth presented a reflection on Music: The Universal Language and some key points are summarised here. In the Bible, there are many references to music - songs of trial and tribulation or of thanksgiving are integral to the text in the Old Testament. Perhaps one of the more famous reference to music in the New Testament is in Matthew 26:26-30 at the conclusion of the Last Supper, "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives". Jesus himself sang hymns as part of his time with his disciples.

In Wales, the hymns of William Williams Pantycelyn swept forward the Revival starting in the mid 1730's giving the newly converted the language in which to express their new-found faith. It is interesting to note that in those days, the hymns were sung in unison with no

instrumental support. There was little musical education available at that time and it wasn't until the start of the 1800's that printed music became available.



It was through the development of the tonic sol-fa during the nineteenth century that people developed to ability to sing in parts either as a congregation or in choirs.

Merched Dewi singing Anfonaf Angel

Betty ended with a quotation about music from Arthur Shaughnessy: *We are the music makers, we are the dreamers of dreams* (and this poem has been set to music several times). Yes we are the music makers and it is our actions and efforts in life that ensure that the metaphorical music we produce is harmonious. If we all make a joyful sound unto the Lord and serve the Lord with gladness, we will all be doing our part, however small, in making the world a better place for you and for me, just you wait and see.

The Editor

IN OR OUT OF HOSPITAL

As many of you know, Ed Newell, Sheryl's husband, has been in hospital for heart surgery, but has been moved to Bridgepoint (430 Broadview Avenue) for rehabilitation. The latest news is that he may be discharged on June 5, but that is tentative. However you can call him to check if you are thinking of visiting. Ed can be reached at 416 333 8166 and loves to have visitors.

OUTREACH

Kick-off summer with us at the church picnic! Meet on the lawn on the west side of the church immediately following the church service on Sunday, June 24th. Bring your own lunch and lawn chairs and folding tables, if you have them. Lemonade and ice cream will be provided! We will have an opportunity to talk more about future activities for mission and service and outreach at the picnic.

Meanwhile, please mark September 12 on your calendars as the date of our Dewi Sant visit to the Scott Mission. We are looking for a group of 8 at least.

And finally, did you know that when it is your birthday, anniversary or are not feeling well and get a card from the church, it is Rita Hoffmann who sends it to you? Rita chooses these cards with care and donates all the costs involved with the purchasing and postage. Please take a minute to let her know, if you get one of these cards, the pleasure they have given you

Anna Dunets, Chair, Outreach Committee

WELSH LANGUAGE SERVICES

As you are aware Dewi Sant Welsh Church was established 110+ yrs. ago by a small group who wanted to hold a religious service in their native tongue - WELSH. In an effort to adapt to changes Dewi Sant Welsh United Church has modified its form of worship, and other aspects of church life.

There is concern about the decreased attendance at the regular Sunday services, as well as other church functions. The **Welsh language service** is a particular focus of attention. Within living memory the number of services has decreased from 20 per year to a maximum of 8 per year. The attendance at these services has been minimal. This might be explained to some extent by the fact that we no longer have a resident Welsh speaking minister. The time of the service (Sunday at 7 p.m.) was mentioned as another factor affecting attendance and so a questionnaire was circulated in 2017, and as a result the time was changed to 10 a.m. In general, this has made no noticeable difference.

Presently, the content of the services depends largely on the message relayed by the AV system from Welsh speaking ministers, and the musical participation of Merched Dewi. The future plans for worship in the Welsh language at Dewi Sant [The Only Welsh Church in Canada] are in the balance, and **your input is very important**. The questionnaire below was completed by those who attend the service and congregational meeting on June 3rd. You still have an opportunity to comment so please complete the following and send to Nêst Pritchard by June 17 - email (npritchard38@gmail.com) or mail (575 Avenue Road, Apt #704, Toronto, On M4V 2K2).

Please indicate if you are Welsh speaking or non-Welsh speaking since if you are non-Welsh speaking you are not likely to complete questions 2 and 3.

| I am | Welsh speaking | non-Welsh-speaking | | |
|---|----------------|--------------------|----------|--|
| 1. I think:- | | | | |
| • there should be a Welsh only service at DS | strongly agree | agree | disagree | |
| • there should be more Welsh in the regular service | strongly agree | agree | disagree | |
| • there should be less Welsh in the regular service | strongly agree | agree | disagree | |
| • there should be the same amount as is now | strongly agree | agree | disagree | |
| • there is no need for Welsh in the regular service | strongly agree | agree | disagree | |
| 2. I am prepared to (please put your name on this if you are saying Yes to any of the following): | | | | |
| • help plan a Welsh language service | Yes | No | | |
| • participate in a Welsh language service | Yes | No | | |
| • attend a Welsh language service at 10 a.m. | yes | No | | |
| • attend a Welsh language service at 7 p.m. | yes | No | | |
| 3. A Welsh language service should be held | | | | |
| • Less often (e.g. Once / twice /yr.) | | | | |
| • More often (e.g. >10/yr.) | | | | |
| • As at present – 8/yr. | | | | |
| 4. Other comments :- | | | | |

Thank you / Diolch yn fawr.
Nêst Prichard

on a UK passport that was DENIED entry onto the plane because he did not have the appropriate visa! Just a heads-up if you have friends or family coming over...
Lynette Jenkins

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY OF TORONTO

Annual General Meeting
Thursday, June 21, 2018
7:00 p.m.
Dewi Sant United Church

New and current members welcome. Membership dues will be collected:

- \$20 per person
- \$30 per couple

Anyone who wishes to serve as a director on the ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY should contact Julie Wenz - juliewenz@yahoo.ca

Strawberry fayre will be served.



CALAN IN TORONTO AGAIN

Some of you may have attended the last time Calan performed in Toronto a few years ago. They are back on August 16 at 8:30 pm - 11:00 pm at Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. West. The tickets are \$25 - \$30 and can be bought online at Hugh's Room website: hughsroomlive.com/event/calan-vishten.

Calan bring together the remarkable talents of 5 young musicians giving a fresh and vibrant sound to traditional Welsh music. With a contemporary and lively approach they breathe new life into the old traditions through their sparkling melodies, foot tapping tunes and spirited and energetic performances of Welsh step dancing. They blast their way through some of the old favorite reels, jigs and hornpipes with fast paced and uplifting arrangements before melting into some of the most beautiful and haunting songs.

The five-piece have been playing to big audiences and rave reviews at concerts and festivals around Britain and Europe, including the coveted Cambridge Festival; Celtic Connections, Glasgow; Shrewsbury Folk Festival; Moseley Folk Festival; Derby Folk Festival; Bromyard Folk Festival, Whitby Folk Festival a concert tour of Italy, Austria and Belgium along with a number of performances at the Festival Interceltique de Lorient, Brittany, where they've received the award for the best group. In 2015 they performed alongside Bryn Terfel and Sting at the Royal Albert Hall in London as part of Bryn Terfel's 50th birthday party.

Siân Thomas

FALL FAIR

Please mark our Fall Fair on the 27th October. Please think of how you can help us help the church for this event:

- your assistance on the Friday before in setting up;
- your presence on the day of the sale itself;
- donating items for us to sell;
- baking yummy goodies for the Bake Table;
- helping us clear up afterwards; or
- ALL of the above!

Whatever you will be able to do will be gratefully accepted. The important thing is that you know early on to keep the date clear...

Many thanks, Lynette Jenkins

ROWAN WILLIAMS SPEAKING IN TORONTO

Registration is now open for this year's Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship being held from November 11-13 at Yorkminster Park Baptist church in Toronto. Rowan Williams, a former Archbishop of Canterbury, will be speaking on Sunday November 11th at 7:00. This worship service event is open to the public and is free. To discover the full line up of speakers, preachers and workshop leaders visit www.lesterrandall.com.

This year's theme, *Reaching and Preaching for Peace*, grows out of the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War One on Nov. 11, but as you will see from many of the workshops and leaders, the theme launches into a number of inspiring and hopeful directions.

Rowan Williams was born on 14 June 1950 in Swansea, Wales, into a Welsh-speaking family. He was the Bishop of Monmouth and Archbishop of Wales. Since stepping down from his position as Archbishop of Canterbury he became a Master of Magdalene College at Cambridge University and Chancellor of the University of South Wales.

The Editor

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 contact Anna Dunets at adunetswills@gmail.com. Thanks for donations to the following – some of whom may have been missed in the past months: Joyce Crook, Lyn Jones, Phyllis McLeod, Iona Rees.

CONTACT US AND SUBMISSIONS

Anna Dunets, Editor. Email: adunetswills@gmail.com or 416-485-4074.

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