

Y GADWYN

(The Link)

News of the Toronto Welsh Community
Summer Edition, 2009

Neges y Gweinidog | Minister's Message.

Since my last presentation for the Gadwyn it has been a really busy and very fulfilling time for the Church. Just to prove that Dewi Sant Church is a vibrant and living Church I would like to give you an insight into what has happened here recently.

Let's start on May 23rd, with the annual United Church Women's Spring Bazaar and Bake Sale. A wonderful experience and atmosphere of joy and unity and funds raised for the Cause. Well done, ladies! Thanks for your leadership, Nina. On May 24th the Church held its first ever Blessing of Animals Service, which was a huge success, thanks to the participation of so many of the members, and in particular due to the special efforts of Leona, Pam, Stephanie and Peter.

The weekend of Pentecost was a special time for me as I was accepted to the United Church officially, at a service on the Sunday afternoon. It gave me such pleasure to see so many from the Church attending the service, showing their support for me on the auspicious occasion. This was the culmination of years of preparation, time well worth the effort, in my opinion.

The following weekend saw two services at the Church, including the final Welsh Service before the Summer break, which included the Communion. Both of the services were well attended.

On the Sunday of June 14th the Sunday School Graduation was held. How wonderful to hear so many names called out at that ceremony, and to see the beaming smiles on the faces of children, parents and adults. In addition, the Sunday School pupils are now helping Catherine and Rita with the Lansing Project campaign with their special 'monthly appeal for donations'. The work done by Pamela Evans and her 'team' at the Sunday School is wonderful, and our debt to them is immeasurable.

On June 21st the Communion was shared at the service, and it included a new musical aspect which was well received and will be repeated. Thank you Murray, for your co-operation and friendship.

The following week we held the special service of celebration of my ministry at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. There had been many people involved in the preparation for this service, and I wish to thank all who have worked on and who took part in this very special event. The service was very well attended, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time sharing in the worship and celebration. I will proudly wear my new purple stole in future services.

A REPORT ON THIS SPECIAL SERVICE IS INCLUDED IN Y GADWYN

Furthermore, many other events have been arranged and experienced at the Church. On June 5th a Service of Remembrance was held in honour of Vernon Simpson, attended by over 30 church members. The ladies of the UCW prepared a worthy table for the refreshments following the service. On Wednesday June 17th Colin Christie arranged the morning of Outreach work at Scott Mission, which was a fulfilling experience for those involved. On July 8th a special lunch for octogenarians and partners has been arranged at the home of Betty Cullingworth.

The last Lunch Bunch meeting of the season (but hopefully not the last) was held on June 2nd, where Jean and Catherine were honoured upon their retirement from their leading roles in this valuable and worthwhile activity. The Bible Study Class has now come to a close for the Summer, having grown in attendance numbers significantly this year.

Not only has the Church building been enhanced recently, but also the grounds surrounding the Church. Many members have worked hard on the upkeep of the grounds, and the flowers and plants surrounding the Church over the past few months has brought colour and a vibrant beauty to the place.

All these activities, and others not mentioned but noticed by myself and others, are the result of hard working and conscientious Dewi Sant members who love their Church and work for the good of the Lord in His Kingdom. Thank you all for the work done by each of you at the Church, at the forefront and in the background. No work done for Christ is wasted work, or unnoticed work. Diolch i weithwyr cydwybodol yr Eglwys.

My gratitude to Wanda, for your secretarial duties and skills. Thank you, Myfanwy, for all the work done on the Gadwyn. You deserve the Summer break from all the stress involved in the editing of this most valuable newsletter.

I now look forward to writing my 'piece' for you in September. Bendith Duw fyddo arnoch oll. Bless you all,

Deian.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to those who contributed towards the gifts that were presented to me during the Service honouring my ministry at Dewi Sant Welsh United Church on June 28th. I will always consider them as highly valued objects because they represent your appreciation of my ministry and the value you place on the work I do at the Church.

Diolch i chi oll am eich rhoddion a'ch gwerthfawrogiad.

Deian.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

On behalf of Auntie Mair, Irfon and Huw we would like to thank you all at Dewi Sant for the kind welcome you gave them while they were visiting us here in Toronto. They had a holiday that they will remember for a long time. Diolch yn fawr iawn am y croeso.

Annette and Deian.

Some people no matter how old they get never lose their beauty--They merely move it from their face into their hearts.

Octogenarian Celebration

On July 8th, more than three dozen octogenarians and nonagenarians within the Dewi Sant community gathered for a garden lunch and fellowship. What a wonderful time was enjoyed by all! Stories and smiles were abundant as the group had a good old-fashioned 'chin wag' (as one of the celebrants noted later). Old photographs evoked much discussion and tested our memories re the names of many who are no longer with us.

The Outreach Committee and the UCW decided that it was appropriate to recognize the role that our 'super seniors' have played and are continuing to play within the life of our church. One honoured guest remarked that as a society we hold special events for showers, weddings, birthdays etc. but seldom do we just celebrate age. Reverend Deian acted as the MC and encouraged members to share their memories of days past. Iona Rees, Olwen Dunets and Reverend Cerwyn Davies obliged. Some of the volunteer helpers joined in song, a few lines of which are as follows: (sung to the tune of. "On Top of Old Smokey")

Oh you're octogenarians and we're happy to say,
You've all come together, to celebrate this day.
It must have been such fun, traversing those years,
We hope all the good times have erased any tears.

.....

Tell us Dewi Sant stories, then we all can recall,
Reaching 80+ years must have been quite a ball.
We're so very proud of you, oh that you can see,
Reassuring to those younger....how good life can be!!

Special congratulations to Joy David, our oldest honoured guest who turned 94 last February. She was delighted to cut the cake that read 'You're not getting older, you're getting better!!'

Thanks to all the helpers and to Nina Morris, president of the UCW, for organizing the invitations and putting together the special loot bags. Let's hope this is the beginning of a long tradition at Dewi Sant.

Betty Cullingworth.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

It would be remiss of us if at this point we did not thank **Betty and Ross** for their most generous hospitality. Whether it is the function that we have just mentioned above, or a Merched Dewi practice or a church shower their door is always open. There is a cup of tea and decadent goodies! What more could anyone ask.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Lord Roger Roberts, “thought for the day,” recently on Face Book.

Said the robin to the sparrow, “I should really like to know, why these anxious beings, rush about and worry so.” Said the sparrow to the robin, “Friend I think it must be, that they have no Heavenly Father such as cares for you and I.”

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

A Service of Celebration Honouring the Ministry of the

Rev. Deian Evans.

June 28, 2009: what a joyous day in the life of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. How can I possibly convey the wonderful atmosphere at the church that day as members and friends from far and near gathered to celebrate the admission of the Rev. Deian Evans as a full member of the United Church of Canada.

It’s been five years since Deian and Annette accepted the call to minister to the Welsh community in the Toronto area. Any immigrant reading this essay will know that, regardless of ones qualifications back home, one has to undergo further training to satisfy the requirements here in Canada. Deian agreed to attend classes at the University of Toronto (classes that he himself could probably teach!) and on successful completion he would be accepted as a full member of the United Church of Canada. Deian’s “graduation” was in May of this year, and the congregation decided a celebration was in order. (The Welsh here love an excuse for a party!)

Therefore on Sunday afternoon, June 28, at the invitation of the Board of Session, we gathered at Dewi Sant to celebrate and re-confirm our support, love and friendship for Deian and Annette.

Former minister, the Rev Elwyn Hughes set the tone of the service as he led us in the opening prayer.

It was an opportunity to showcase the talent in our church. The children of the Sunday School, under the leadership of Pam Evans, dressed in their red Dewi Sant T shirts and delighted us with their version of “Joy, Joy, Joy”. That word, indeed became the theme of the day, and I have rarely experienced such a feeling of joy amongst the congregants.

Gaynor Jones Low- a child of the church and member of the Canadian Opera Company, and accompanied by her husband David Low- thrilled us with her rendition of “The Lord is My Light”. Gaynor alone would have made the service worth attending. What a voice!

Merched Dewi (of which Annette is a member) sang “Dyma Fi, Dduw”, the words having been translated from the English by Deian, and “Atgof y Ser”, with Sheryl Clay as soloist.

The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir (of which Deian is a member) sang “Ar Hyd y Nos” and my all time favourite, “O Gymru”, with Gwyn Roberts as soloist.

Tributes were given by Betty Cullingworth, the Rev Robert Metcalf, representing the United Church, Deian’s father, the Rev. Irfon Evans, visiting from Wales especially for this occasion, and the Rev. Dr. Cerwyn Davies, also visiting from Wales. Each gave an eloquent, heartfelt tribute to Deian, and Cerwyn ended by stating that, thanks to Deian, all the problems that we had suffered, were no more. The future of our church is secure.

There was quite an ecumenical atmosphere at the service, because celebrating with us were ministers of other churches. We were delighted to welcome Father Charles, who is a member of the TWMVC, and Father Paul of Toronto, who is well know to several of our members.

No Welsh event is complete without a feast. The ladies of the church did us proud, not only with delicious food but also exquisite floral arrangements. Such was the feeling of happiness and celebration that I, for one, did not want the afternoon to end! But, of course, all good things do come to an end, and on behalf of all of us who enjoyed ourselves so very much, I would like to thank all those members who made the event such a great success. Diolch o galon. A dioch o galon i ti Deian, ac i tithau, Annette, am eich ymroddiad dihafal i’n heglwys a’n cymuned.

Hefina Phillips.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

A 98 year old woman in the UK wrote this to her bank. The bank manager thought it amusing enough to have it published in The Times.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to thank you for bouncing my cheque with which I endeavoured to pay my plumber last month. By my calculations, three nanoseconds must have elapsed between his presenting the cheque and the arrival in my account of the funds needed to honour it. I refer, of course, to the automatic monthly deposit of my pension, an arrangement which, I admit, has been in place for only thirty eight years. You are to be commended for seizing that brief window of opportunity, and also for debiting my account £30 by way of penalty for the inconvenience caused to your bank.

My thankfulness springs from the manner in which this incident has caused me to rethink my errant financial ways. I noticed that whereas I personally attend to your telephone calls and letters, when I try to contact you, I am confronted by the impersonal, overcharging, pre-recorded, faceless entity which your bank has become. From now on, I, like you, choose only to deal with a flesh-and-blood person.

My loan payments will therefore and hereafter no longer be automatic, but will arrive at your bank by cheque, addressed personally and confidentially to an employee at your bank whom you must nominate. Be aware that it is an offence under the Postal Act for any other person to open such an envelope.

Please find attached an Application Contact Status which I require your chosen employee to complete. I am sorry it runs to eight pages, but in order that I know as much about him or her as your bank knows about me, there is no alternative. Please note that all copies of his or her medical history must be countersigned by a Solicitor, and the mandatory details of his/her financial situation (income, debts, assets and liabilities) must be accompanied by documented proof.

In due course, I will issue your employee with PIN number which he/she must quote in dealings with me. I regret that it cannot be shorter than 28 digits but, again, I have modelled it on the number of button presses required of me to access my account balance on your phone bank service.

As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Let me level the playing field even further.

When you call me, press buttons as follows:

- 1 To make an appointment to see me.
- 2 To query a missing payment.
- 3 To transfer the call to my living room in case I am there.
- 4 To transfer the call to my bedroom in case I am sleeping.
- 5 To transfer the call to my toilet in case I am attending to nature.
- 6 To transfer the call to my mobile phone if I am not at home.
- 7 To leave a message on my computer (a password to access my computer is required. A password will be communicated to you at a later date to the authorised Contact)
- 8 To return to the main menu and to listen to options 1 through to 8.
- 9 To make a general complaint or inquiry, the contact will then be put on hold, pending the attention of my automated answering service. While this may, on occasion, involve a lengthy wait, uplifting music will play for the duration of the call. Regrettably, but again following your example, I must also levy an establishment fee to cover the setting up of this new arrangement.

May I wish you a happy, if ever so slightly less prosperous, New year.

Your Humble Client,

(Remember: This was written by a 98 year old woman;

DOESN'T SHE MAKE YOU PROUD!)

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Royal Cottages.

In 2007 Prince Charles bought a property Named Llwyn Wermod near Myddfai in Carmarthenshire. The property has been renovated and decorated by Welsh craftsmen, using materials from Wales at the Prince's request.

Private quarters for the Prince and the Duchess of Cornwall are in use when they are on royal engagements in the nation.

When they are not in residence there are two luxurious cottages for rent to holiday makers. The two bedroom and the three bedroom cottages are booked up until the end of September. The renters get to share the grounds, garden and driveway. Bookings have been very strong and there is very limited availability at present. So if anyone out there would like to live like a king for a short while, you

could contact. The Duchy of Cornwall telephone # 01 597 346 473. Or
duchyofcornwallholidaycottages.co.uk

This is not an add! Just an article of interest.

Olwen Dunets.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

One nice thing about egotists: They don't talk about other people.

They told me I was gullible and I believed them!

Protons have mass. I didn't even know that they were Catholic.

Cornel Fach Y Gegin. Kitchen Corner.

Courgettes, / Zucchini Pancakes.

This is a very tasty Summer dish that is fairly simple and quick to make. It can be enjoyed with variety of fresh salads.

Ingredients.

5 zucchini- depending on the size. Aim for 1½ pounds: 1 minced clove of garlic:
4 eggs: ¾ teaspoon of salt: ½ cup of grated parmesan cheese: ¾ cup of all
purpose flour: 1 tablespoon of chopped onion: ¼ teaspoon of black pepper.

Method.

Top and tail the zucchini. Do not peel. Shred coarsely. Place in a bowl and toss with salt. Put the zucchini in a colander and weigh it down well. With a plate and a heavy object such as a can or a saucepan. Stand the colander in the sink. Let it drain for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 300 F.

In a bowl beat the eggs and add the garlic. Stir in the flour, onion, cheese and pepper. The mixture should be lumpy! Add the zucchini and stir until it is combined. Do not stir too much.

To make the pancakes spoon a heaped table spoon of the mixture (batter) into a slightly oiled pan. Spread it to form a three inch circle. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes on each side, over a medium heat. Keep the pancakes warm in a pre heated oven. Serve with sour cream on top, sprinkled with chopped parsley if wished.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Change of Address.

Olwen Whiffin is now in Brantwood Nursing Home: 180 Hagar Ave: Burlington:
Room # 307 905-637-3481 Olwen loves to have visitors.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Wales: Where Visions of a Christian Future Are Being Born.

The land of Wales is a beautiful, intriguing and mysterious part of the world. Most Americans would be hard put to answer the question as to which four nations form the United Kingdom. Yet Wales, a land of some four million people, is one of them. The Welsh people are proud and fiercely independent, most of them dedicated to preserving

their ancient Celtic language and heritage. Parts of Wales were never subdued by the Romans or any other invader and remain today quite isolated and very traditional. Wales' best known poet, R. S. Thomas, has described his homeland this way, "You cannot live in the present, at least not in Wales. there is no present in Wales and no future, there is only the past, brittle with relics, wind bitten towers and castles with ghosts." In a recent surge of Welsh nationalism, this nation now requires that all children be educated in two languages, Welsh and English. This means that a number of people are employed to teach Welsh to immigrant children. When I asked on my recent visit to this country which nation provided most of the immigrants for these classes, I was told, "England." Most people would have never guessed that answer.

I have been privileged to visit Wales on many occasions in the past. I have done lectures in Cardiff, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Hawarden and Barrie. One of my four grandparents was a Welshman, so I have always been drawn to this land and its people. This past spring I had two assignments to fulfill in that wondrous land. One of them took me deep into northwest Wales to the town of Porthmadog, and the other to the eastern edge of Wales about ten miles from the ancient English fortress city of Chester. What I experienced in both places, however, was not the shadows of the past, but the profound energy of Welsh people pressing the edges of knowledge and engaging the future. Both of my stops caused me to wonder if Wales has changed since their poet R. S. Thomas wrote his words about Wales having only a past.

Porthmadog, my first assignment, is a small town in a sparsely populated rural part of Wales. Set in the midst of exquisite mountains and on a tidal river, this community reflected the beauty for which Wales is famous. The power and the energy that I met there, however, was quite unlike what one would expect from the stereotype of contemporary Welsh people. They were totally engaged with the future. The energy that produced this invitation came from a group of people who were expressing discontent with the current state of Christianity in Wales. So instead of simply complaining, they decided to put on a weeklong conference to be held in the center of that town to which people from the entire region were to be invited. Although the sessions were held in a Welsh church, the agenda was clearly to point institutional Christianity in another direction. They called the conference "Prifio," which is a Welsh word meaning "growth." The vicar of St. John's Church, where the conference was held, was the original source of the vision. His name was Aled Jones Williams.

In addition to being an Anglican priest, he is also a poet and a playwright. Indeed, he had a play entitled "Christa," about Jesus as a woman, which is even now playing to packed houses in Cardiff. It is not his recognized genius, however, that was so remarkable to me; it was rather his ability to bring other people who shared his interest in his vision. Two of these were incredible lay people. Nick Golding, the co-owner with his partner, Michael Bewick, of a highly regarded bed and breakfast known as Plas Tan-yr-allt, was one, and Carys Lake, who teaches "Immersion Welsh" for newcomers to Wales, was the other. Two of them were clergy: The Rev. Nia Morris from Bala, and the Rev. John Butler, who once served as Chaplain at the University of Wales at Bangor. Demonstrating that this conference was not one person's dream, these four people took over the details of the conference and drove it successfully to a conclusion without Aled even being present, since an illness removed him from any participation at all in the scheduled week.

Among the invited guests who served as the faculty for this weeklong gathering were Richard Holloway, a Scottish writer and broadcaster, who retired as the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church in 2000 and who calls himself today a "Post Christian" or even "Post Religious." There is no doubt from his most recent writings that this gifted man walks the religious frontier. Others were Mark Vernon, formerly an Anglican priest, who left the priesthood to become an atheist and who now describes himself as an agnostic, and Menna Elfyn, a poet and playwright, who has been appointed "Poet Laureate" for the children of Wales and who describes herself as a "Christian anarchist." No one would mistake the speakers at this conference to be those who would turn this event into one more humdrum act of religious propaganda. This faculty was specifically called together to define quite openly the reasons why Christianity was in the death throes and what it might take to enable it to return in a new form. It is hard for me to imagine many church groups that would assemble such a faculty, especially for a conference to be assembled in a parish church in a small town in rural Wales. Yet that is what happened at Porthmadog and I found it not just dynamic and exciting but beyond any of my expectations.

I served as the closing lecturer at the "Prifio" conference in the final session held on Saturday night. More than 200 persons crowded into that small church to participate. My topic was "Why Christianity Must Change or Die." In the discussion that followed the lecture, there were no questions that revealed threat, fear or the kind of anger that so often marks religious behaviour. I know of few religious groups able or willing to talk with their critics or to listen to those who have moved beyond religion or out of religion in order to learn why traditional religion no longer satisfies them. Yet this is exactly what these people in Wales did. Other tangential but interesting things were noted. A number of women, both lay and ordained, were in significant leadership roles. Openly gay and lesbian couples were visible and involved and the number of clergy who had ventured far out of their security systems were present sharing in leadership. This conference empowered people to dream. Seldom have I personally received so sustained and long lasting applause following a presentation. It was as if the presence of a Scottish bishop to open this conference and an American bishop to close it conveyed permission for the people to venture beyond traditional boundaries. A community of people that bold and that visionary is clearly living in the present and preparing for the future.

When this conference ended we traveled through Wales about two hours north and east from Porthmadog to Hawarden, where St. Deiniol's Library and Conference Center is located. This library is named for a Welsh saint and was originally part of the estate of William Gladstone, Prime Minister of England in the 19th century. It was built to house the prime minister's extensive library, but it grew into a center to which scholars come to do research, and an Anglican Church center housing small but intense conferences of about 50 people. St. Deiniol's is, I believe, unique among the church-related conference centers of the world. I have led conferences there on six occasions over the past 12 years. Its trustees have elected me to the honorary position of being a "Fellow of St. Deiniol's Library." If one were to look at the prefaces of my last few books, a number of references to St. Deiniol's would be apparent. Here I developed the material that would later form my books. The title of this conference was the finally adopted title of my yet to be published book, <http://astore.amazon.com/bishopspng-20/detail/0060762063> Eternal Life: A New Vision. Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell. This was to be the last testing place.

John Selby Spong Submitted by **Nêst Pritchard**. *** There are still some interesting observation to follow, which I will include in the next Gadwyn*** Please keep this at hand so that you can follow the theme next month.....Myfanwy.

Gadwyn Donors.

Lilian & Steve Stephens: Janet & Cliff Davies: Margaret & Harold Rowland:
St. David's Welsh Society of Peterborough & District: Haulwen Edwards:
Maureen & Ceiri Jones: David Jones: Margaret & John Reynolds:
Edward Morgan

Thank you again for the donations.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Er Parchus Cof In Memoriam.

The spring of 2009 was not kind to Dewi Sant Welsh Church and the Welsh Community. Within two weeks in May, three long-time members of the Church passed away and a lady with strong family connections to the Church departed this life on June 6th.

Our condolences go out to the families of these very good members of our community, namely:

Eirys Brobyn, Jack Morgan, Elizabeth Jamieson, and Eunice Stephens

Geraint H. Jones.

BROBYN, Eirys – (1923-2009)

Eirys Brobyn passed away Monday, May 4th after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 86. Eirys, beloved wife of the late Robert George Brobyn, was a devoted mother to Ken (Sandi), Derek (Heidi) and Stephen (Sandra). She will be missed by her eight grandchildren. Eirys and George met and married in Bryn-crug Meirionnydd Wales during W.W. II, where George was stationed as a pilot in the RCAF. Moving to Toronto in 1945, Eirys adapted to life in Canada and with George became a member of Dewi Sant Welsh Church. In accordance with her wishes there was no funeral service. Eirys and George's ashes will be taken to Bryn-crug.

MORGAN, John (Jack) Theodore

Peacefully at Bethany Lodge Nursing Home on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at the age of 97. Loving husband to the late Sarah Mercia. Will be greatly missed by his sons John (Sandra), Gary (Pauline), Ken (Jo-Anne), Fred (Kathy). Dear grandfather to Scott (Karen), Candace (Dave), Sean, Joanne (Rodney), Brian (Lauren). Proud great-grandfather to Hannah, Meghan, Meredith, Kiersten, Joshua, Tyler, Jack, Luke. Jack was a long time member of Dewi Sant Welsh United Church. He was born in Llanelli and came to Canada as a young man in the twenties. For many years Jack was a Trustee and Chairman of the Board at

Dewi Sant Welsh and in the 30's and 40's did a wonderful job as editor of the Church's monthly magazine. Funeral service took place on Monday, May 11th at York Cemetery in Willowdale with our Minister, the Reverend Deian Evans officiating.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

JAMIESON, Elizabeth Ann (Betty) (nee Evans),

passed away on Monday, May 18th, 2009 at Leisureworld Caregiving Centre in Etobicoke. She was born in Seven Sisters, West Glamorgan, Wales on November 3, 1921. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard Trevor Jamieson. She is survived by her loving and cherished daughter, Laura Catherine Jamieson of Mississauga, and was a devoted and loving Nana to Rhiann Alexandra Sweeney of Scarborough. Betty was a faithful member of Dewi Sant Welsh for several years. Her wishes were that she be cremated and her ashes buried, with those of her late husband, in Creunant, West Glamorgan, Wales. The funeral took place on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 in Creunant.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

STEPHENS, Eunice Hannah (nee Davies) – June 13, 1925-June 6,

2009 After a long and rewarding life, Eurnice passed away quietly on June 6, 2009. Eunice was married for almost 50 years to W. Ray Stephens (predeceased) and will be remembered lovingly by her two sons David James Stephens and Glyn Raymond Stephens, along with her daughters-in law, Debbie and Katherine and her four grandchildren. Eunice was born in Carbon, Alberta of Welsh parents but moved to Wales with her family until the Second World War broke out. The family then relocated to Toronto. One place that was always special to Eunice was the cottage in Gravenhurst. There she spent every summer for the past 55 years with family and friends. People were always welcome to drop by and have a chat with "Eunie", take a dip in the lake or join her in a game of cards. Wonderful memories were had there and she will rest comfortably with her spirit still in the Muskokas. A Memorial Service was held in Oakville Ontario on June 12th and her ashes placed in St. Judes Cemetery. Eunice was the daughter of David and Margaret Davies. Her father was a real estate broker in Toronto and was responsible for acquiring the property upon which Dewi Sant Welsh Church is located. Her father came from Crynfryn Bychan Tregaron and her mother's family from the Groeslon area near Caernarfon. David Davies was a long time life Elder in the Church and a staunch and loyal supporter of all things Welsh.

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

Thanks for the memories!

On Tuesday, June 2nd, 2009 the LUNCH BUNCH gathered for a farewell Beach Party, and what a party it was! We had 38 revellers clad in sassy beach attire playing beach ball, penny pitch, guessing the number of beans in a jar and trying their skill with hoola-hoops! The gyrating winner without question (D.E.) no names mentioned of course, gave us all an encore during our lunch time. Many prizes were awarded for

different skills and the final prize went to Marjorie Tsipuras for being the youngest at heart (sweet 94) in attendance that day. Buffet tables were decorated with frogs, river rocks, flamingos, sea shells and a fish bowl of aquamarine coloured water sporting fish and ducks bobbing to the bottom constantly. Of course, no outing would be complete without a sing-along and always willing, Dr. Murray, accompanied our seaside songs.

It was a day of reflection on what we had shared over the past FIVE years. Such happy memories, ie: speakers representing Toronto Fire Fighters, Alzheimers Womens' Shelter and Sleeping Children Around the World (generously supported over the years by Lunch Bunch) the Arthritic Society, an historical review on stained glass and, Humour in our Daily Lives.

Presentations were numerous, entertaining and educational, and included

- a professional barrel organ player (complete with monkey)*
- turning rocks and semi-precious stones into jewellery (by our own Ross Rocky Cullingworth)*
- St.David's Day Celebrations each year with song, poetry, daffodils and a memorable rendition of The Women of Fishguard by The Hollyberries, attired in Welsh costume, brooms and all.*
- an Eisteddfod which included choral recitations, solos, duets, musical instruments and poetry and the memorable Chairing of the Bard.*
- a Last Night at the Proms with all the Pomp and Circumstance you could wish for , ending with a pub lunch.*
- a colourful morning where we learned much about growing Orchids presented by Brenda Sutton.*
- we observed Advent, Mothers' Day,. Valentines and Thanksgiving over the years and included a pumpkin carving contest with first time master carver, Gareth Evans, taking the trophy and mysterious Merlin the Magician weaving his spell over the audience. We also discovered that we had some serious Bingo and Scrabble players in this group, let it be known.*

- our Christmas Galas seemed to gain momentum each year as we enjoyed our programmes and then participated in a delicious chicken dinner. Here again The Hollyberries entertained with Broadway favourites (Hello Dolly, boas included, Mame, Singing in the Rain and Pyjama Party) much to the delight of all.*

We had two most enjoyable theatre outings to see Hello Dolly and Oliver and on one great occasion we chartered a (pseudo) plane for an excursion visiting Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England, Italy, Germany, China , finally arriving in Hawaii. The hall was set up to represent the inside of a plane, complete with seat belts, and after touching down at each country the passengers were presented with an appropriate souvenir representing such country. Of course passing through Security was a must and Passports required stamping upon entering each country.

The idea for the LUNCH BUNCH came about many years ago but there never seemed to be an appropriate time to launch it until January, 2004. Its' purpose was to bring together a few (I estimated five to six) people who perhaps never shared a meal with someone else during the month and would like to spend an hour or so with their own brown bag lunch over a cup of tea and a piping hot bowl of soup, sharing our stories of joy and, no doubt, sadness and supporting each other as best we could. Never did I anticipate the 40 odd dedicated sweethearts who faithfully braved weather and travel to attend each month!

During the past five years we were deeply saddened by the loss of several of our dearest, namely *Hedd-wyn & Iris Williams, Mary Taylor, Elwyn Morris, Lorna Hobbs* and *Anne Boswell*. We also missed the participation of faithful *Anne Croombs* and *Elwyn and Vi Clay* (who moved to Elliot Lake.)

Throughout these past five years I have been blessed with the precious friendship, support and love of my dear *Catherine Otley*, who has been my shadow in the planning and enabling of each new endeavour. Diolch yn fawr i ti, *Catherine*. All of this would never have been possible without you at my side.

The LUNCH BUNCH was a fellowship group -

- those who came together in friendship, support, companionship, respect, camaraderie and communion of spirits.

And didn't we just do that!! What a marvellous way to spend five years of our lives during our own personal life journey. However, "to everything there is a season."

And so, dearest friends, now that we have untied the ribbon on our last Lunch Bag

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your faces,
And the rain fall softly upon your fields,
And until we meet again.
May God always hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Deep Peace,

Jean Iona Thompson

IN GRATEFUL APPRECIATION.

To all members of the LUNCH BUNCH, we wish to thank you most sincerely for your beautiful gifts and cards presented to us at our final meeting. Most of all, thanks for your friendship and faithfulness, humour and willing spirits. You are THE BEST and we have been enriched by sharing time and breaking bread with you.

Deep Peace to all

Catherine Otley -and- Jean Iona Thompson.

Daughter of Dylan Thomas has died
The only daughter of poet Dylan Thomas has died, aged 66, after suffering from cancer.

It is understood Aeronwy Thomas-Ellis, one of the poet's three children who lived in London, passed away peacefully in her sleep. Writer Paul Ferris, biographer of the late poet, said he was told the news by the Dylan Thomas Trust. Mr. Ferris said: "Aeronwy Ellis was a friend of mine, she was a very self assured character."

He added: "She loved poetry and wrote herself, she also lectured on her father's work in America." David Woolley, director of the Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea, worked closely with Aeronwy Thomas-Ellis for many years to promote her father's literary heritage.

He said: "She was great carrier-on of her father's legacy and was fantastically supportive of all the work that Swansea and the Dylan Thomas Centre has done over the past 15 years.

"Nothing that was ever said or done about her father put her off, as obviously a lot of unpleasant things have been said over the years.

Aeronwy Thomas-Ellis speaking in 2003 about growing up with father Dylan Thomas "She was genuinely interested in his work and knew a lot about it. She was never fazed by all the talk about what her parents got up to.

"She inherited a certain amount of her father's charm and mischievousness and probably something of her mother's sharp tongue when she wanted to use it.

Aeronwy Thomas-Ellis, who was also known as Aeronwy Ellis, was born in London in March, 1943.

She was heavily involved in the Dylan Thomas trust and often ran poetry reading events and lecture tours about her father's poetry.

It is understood her ashes will be scattered at the Boathouse in Laugharne, Carmarthenshire where the poet and his family lived.

Please mark on your calendar the following church activities.

Dewi Sant Church Services are held every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m.

Y Gwasanaeth Cymraeg/The Welsh Service – September 6th 7:00 p.m.

Sportball classes August 24 – August 28, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Hope Korean Church Friday evenings 7:00 –9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 6:00 – 7:30 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. and Sundays 2:00-5:30 p.m.

******Please make an effort to send me articles, news etc. I really do need input from our readers. I am only the "editor!" *** M***

**Please note that Y Gadwyn Deadline will be on September 20th. 2009
Email / mail your submissions to: myfanwy@rogers.com 905 737 4399
34 Carrington Drive, Richmond Hill. L4C 8A2 Diolch, A Bendith Duw.
Myfanwy.**