

BRYN SEION WELSH CHURCH

A home for those that seek Christian Worship, Fellowship, and Singing in the Welsh Tradition
Located at 22132 S. Kamrath Rd. Oregon City, OR 97045

Greetings Friends of **Bryn Seion Welsh Church,**

May 17, 2021



Regretfully, again this year, there will be no Gymanfa Ganu at Bryn Seion. A year ago, at this time it seemed we were taking things week by week and now we seem to be taking things season by season. There are still too many unknowns to consider further planning an event for this June.

As spring turns to summer, we are optimistic that we will be able to start meeting in person again in the coming months. Singing indoors continues to be a risk but with more people getting vaccinated every day and we get comfortable establishing in person COVID19 protocols we hope to be able to organize a Welsh singing event late in the year, but we will have to wait and see. Notification will be sent to our contact list if that should come about.

We are still not prepared to hold in person services and will continue to hold sermons every 2nd and 4th Sunday via Zoom. We began holding virtual services last summer. A sermon and readings are sent out a few days ahead of time and then we have a cozy informal sermon and fellowship, with Pastor Larry Jorgenson leading the way, he has been a true shepherd to us. We have been fortunate to be able to have old and new friends join us remotely from California, Washington and even on occasion from Athens, Greece. To “attend” a virtual sermon, send an email to BrynSeionWelshChurch@gmail.com for a link.



A few of us met for a sermon on Mother's Day.

Betty Pierce is keeping well and sends a special greeting to you all. We are always glad to see her smiling face visiting before our virtual sermons. She has missed seeing everyone and hopes we will all be ready to sing her favorite hymn, *Gwahoddiad* together for her birthday later this summer.



Although we were not meeting in person, the Bryn Seion Welsh Church congregation continued to financially support the local food pantry and homeless services last winter. We applaud the people locally, nationally and around the world, who have kept charities and services functioning under such difficult circumstances, with greater need and fewer open facilities and resources.

Ruth Takahashi, who chairs the Grounds Committee, along with the gardening crew have continued to keep the grounds in good order through both fire and ice. Ruth deserves a huge thank you for diligently keeping an eye on things and can be found most Fridays, weeding, mowing, or raking.

Diolch yn fawr iawn Ruth and crew for keeping the grounds looking their best.

Bryn Seion Welsh Church is a 501(c)(3) Registered# 93-6040978.
Donate online at www.brynseionwelshchurch.org
Mail: Bryn Seion Welsh Church, PO Box 484 Beaver Creek OR 97004.
Contact: BrynSeionWelshChurch@gmail.com



Work crew cleaning up storm debris.

Ice Storm Clean Up 2021 ~ The icy storm of Feb. 12-15th brought down huge amounts of Douglas Fir branches and damage to smaller trees on the property. Thankfully, except for the gutter falling off by the weight of the ice, here was no damage to the church or Tea House. Crews of worker church members spent several days raking, chain sawing and making huge piles for hauling away by a landscape crew. Thanks to church members Steve and Jan, Brian and Gerri, Janet and her friend Macy, Heidi and Ruth. The daffodils were out in full bloom for St David's Day, March 1st, and now spring flowers are blooming all around the church. ~ *Ruth Takahashi, Grounds Committee*

Wild Fires 2020 ~ We were taken by surprise by the wild fires that threatened Beaver Creek and the surrounding communities last September. When we were alerted of the fire in the area, Janet and Gerri went out and quickly packed as many archival records, documents, and photos as they could, into their cars. The smoke made it difficult to see or breathe and could not do much more than lock the doors and hope for the best. The hamlet of Beaver Creek and surrounding communities were evacuated soon after and for days, the only way we knew the church was still standing was by remotely monitoring the Nest thermostat inside the church. A few church members who live in the area had only minutes to evacuate their homes. It was a collective sigh of relief when there was no longer a threat to the church or nearby the communities.

Other Projects ~ Once the fires were no longer a threat, we were able to continue with the repairs to the church foundation. The corner under the piano was sinking because of a badly placed downspout. A French drain was installed to reroute water around the church, and fortunately only a small section of the wooden footing needed replacing. That same downspout, gutter and fascia board were pulled off in the ice storm. All in all, it could have been so much worse. We have weathered quite a bit this past year, and it seems to have brought us closer.

We have painted, upgraded lights, and installed Wi-Fi heaters in the Tea House and in the bathrooms, allowing us to have as much remote control and monitoring as possible. We have had work crews, both church members and hired, hauling away storm debris and washing smoke residue from windows and woodwork. Keeping the church tidy has been a true labor of love and a welcome diversion. Soon we hope to get the gutters replaced that came down in the ice storm and hope to make progress installing more ventilation inside the church.



New drains and foundation repair

Many thanks for your continued support, your generous contributions in the past have enabled us to continue maintaining the church buildings and our mission this past year, every little bit helps.

Keep well and may God bless.

Please visit www.BrynSeionWelshChurch.org to check when services will resume and notice of future events. We look forward to the time that we can find our way back to meeting in person again.