

Capel y Boro
Sun 3 Oct 2021 at 11am

A Hymn for Wales:
A service inspired by
the first *Dechrau Canu,*
***Dechrau Canmol* and**
Songs of Praise
60 years ago

Trinity Chapel, Swansea and
Tabernacle Welsh Baptist
Chapel, Cardiff, 1961

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85941786751?pwd=azNFU3BuLzliRzJCWmZC YnBWZ0FuUT09>



Opening music:
Anthony Newley/Leslie Bricusse
Feelin' Good
Cy Grant (voice); Bill Le Sage (piano)

Intrada and welcome

Video excerpt, Rachel Clarke
on her grandmother Betty Campbell

Video, Channel Five News report
on the statue unveiling of Betty
Campbell, Wales's first Black
headteacher, in Cardiff this week



Dechrau canu, dechrau canmol
(William Williams, *Y Delyn Aur*)
Côr Meibion Dyfnant

Waldo Williams
Cofio

Hymn for Wales 1:
Arglwydd Iesu arwain fenaid
(Samuel Jonathan Griffith, *Morswyn,*
tune Caradog Roberts, *In Memoriam*)

R S Hughes
Elen Fwyn
(Words by Hiraddug)
David Lloyd (tenor);
Meirion Williams (piano)

Robert Herrick
To Daffodils

Mansel Thomas
Cennin Aur
(To Daffodils)
(Robert Herrick *cyf.* T Gwynn Jones)
Pendyrus Male Choir
National Eisteddfod 2012

Prayers from
Parch Jill-Hailey Harries,
Trinity Chapel, Swansea, recording
location of the first *Dechrau Canu,*
Dechrau Canmol, 1 January 1961

Hymn for Wales 2:
Tydi a roddaist liw i'r wawr
(T Rowland Hughes, tune Arwel
Hughes, *Tydi a roddaist*)



Video excerpt, *Songs of Praise* –
60th Anniversary documentary,
on the first programme
Aled Jones (BBC)

Video excerpt, *Tonight*
Cy Grant and Cliff Michelmore
(1950s-60s, BBC)

Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild
(Charles Wesley, tune 13th cent.
French, *Innocents/Parish Choir*)
Glasgow High School

Hymn for Wales 3:
Ar fôr tymhestlog teithio rwyf
(Evan Evans, *Ieuan Glan Geirionydd,*
tune T Hopkin Evans, *Penmachno*)

Prayers from Parch Denzil John
Tabernacle Welsh Baptist Chapel,
Cardiff, recording location of first
Songs of Praise, 1 October 1961



Hymn for Wales 4:
Mawr oedd Crist yn
nhragwyddoldeb
(Titus Lewis, D Jones, T Lewis, tune
J M Nicholas, *Bryn Myrddin*)

Prayers and Gweddi'r Arglwydd

Hymn for Wales 5:
Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtwydd
(Ann Griffiths, tune John Hughes,
Cwm Rhondda)

Or
Hymn for Wales 5:
Os gwelir fi bechadur
(Harri Siôn, Dafydd Morris, Hannah
Joshua, tune D Christmas Williams,
Clawdd Madog)

Blessing and closing music:
George Frideric Handel
***Messiah* – “Rejoice greatly”**
Heather Harper (soprano);
London Symphony Orchestra/
Sir Colin Davies



Arwel Hughes and Cy Grant at the first *Songs of Praise*, Tabernacle, Cardiff 1961

Opening music:

Anthony Newley/Leslie

Bricusse

Feelin' Good

Cy Grant (voice); Bill Le Sage
(jazz accompaniments)

Birds flying high, you know how I
feel
Sun in the sky, you know how I
feel
Breeze driftin' on by, you know
how I feel

It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life for me, yeah

It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life for me, ooh
And I'm feeling good

Fish in the sea, you know how I
feel
River running free, you know
how I feel
Blossom on the tree, you know
how I feel

It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life for me
And I'm feeling good

Dragonfly out in the sun you
know what I mean, don't you
know?
Butterflies all havin' fun, you
know what I mean
Sleep in peace when day is done,
that's what I mean

And this old world, is a new
world
And a bold world for me, yeah-
yeah

Stars when you shine, you know
how I feel
Scent of the pine, you know how
I feel
Oh, freedom is mine
And I know how I feel

It's a new dawn
It's a new day
It's a new life for me

I'm feeling good

"Feelin' Good," a song perhaps best known in Nina Simone's version, was written by British composers Antony Newley and Leslie Bricusse and comes from their musical "The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd." The song was first performed on stage in 1964 by Cy Grant who we hear in this recording. Cy was also in the first "Songs of Praise" recorded in Cardiff in 1961.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UW4fE2x1hxk>

Intrada

Ysbryd y tragwyddol Dduw,
disgyn arnom ni; Ysbryd y
tragwyddol Dduw, disgyn arnom
ni: plyg ni, trin ni, golch ni, cod ni:
Ysbryd y tragwyddol Dduw,
disgyn arnom ni.

*Spirit of the eternal God, descend
upon us; Spirit of the eternal God,
descend upon us:
fold us, treat us, wash us, raise us:
Spirit of the eternal God, descend
upon us.*

Good morning and welcome
to Capel y Boro for our service
today which celebrates the
sixtieth anniversary this year of
two of TV's longest-running
programmes the hymn-singing
shows *Dechrau Canu Dechrau
Canmol* and *Songs of Praise*. They
were both first broadcast in 1961
with *Dechrau Canu Dechrau
Canmol* first on 1 January and
then *Songs of Praise* on 1
October. Both were recorded in
Wales *Dechrau Canu Dechrau
Canmol* at Trinity Chapel,
Swansea and *Songs of Praise* from
Tabernacle Welsh Baptist Chapel
in Cardiff. In today's service we
celebrate those first recordings
and those who took part in
them. And as *Dechrau Canu
Dechrau Canmol* announce the
result of an S4C viewers poll to
find Wales's most popular hymn
for the programme's sixtieth
anniversary, over the next four
weeks we will sing all twenty of
their judges shortlisted hymns so
you can decide which is your
favourite. We will have five of
them in today's service. And you
can also tell us after we have
heard all twenty which should be
on the list but may have been left
out. We would love to hear from
you on this.

Our opening music this morning
was "Feelin' Good" by Antony
Newley and Leslie Bricusse, first
performed on stage in 1964 by
Cy Grant who we heard singing
it in this recording. Cy or Cyril
Grant who was born in 1919 and
died in 2010 was a Guyanese
actor, musician, writer and poet.
In the 1950s, he became the first
black person to be featured
regularly on television in the UK,
mostly due to his appearances on
the BBC current affairs show
Tonight. And we will see a short

clip of him on that later. In 1961 he also appeared in the first *Songs of Praise*, which was recorded in Cardiff.

Cardiff has long been one of the most ethnically diverse communities in Britain and this week saw the unveiling in the Welsh capital at the start of Black History Month of a new statue, of Wales's first black headteacher Betty Campbell. It was Wales's first statue of a living woman. One of our most popular services this year was our Mother's Day service when we looked at the contributions of some remarkable Welsh women. One of them was Betty Campbell and you may remember Betty's granddaughter Rachel gave us a talk on her mother's achievements in which she shared her excitement about the future unveiling of the statue of her grandmother.

Video excerpt, Rachel Clarke on her grandmother Betty Campbell

Rachel Clarke is a founder of Apex Education, an organisation working for equality and diversity in schools.



Rachel Clarke

I am the granddaughter of Betty Campbell and it is amazing to know that Betty is somebody

that you are going to be hearing about in your Mothering Sunday service. My grandmother was born in 1934 in the Tiger Bay docks areas of Cardiff.

Community spirit and that sense of working together was something that she held really dear as did many others from that area. It was a very diverse, multicultural areas and still is. She achieved a lot, she was the first and only black head teacher in Wales and it remains that way and she was also one of the first in the UK. While those broad achievements are things to be celebrated, actually what she also was, was a good friend, somebody who listened, somebody who people in the community went to for advice, somebody who thought about people, and took time in investing in relationships with people and that supported conversations that might have not been easy but it really did support the listening. She signed passports for local community members, she brought presents back from holidays. She would read through CVs and support people on their career paths. Her real love was people and she believed that she could achieve the supporting of the ambition of people through education and her work there. She was also an honorary patron of BBC Wales and this gave her plenty of opportunity to spread the word about equity as well as equality.

One of the reasons why her role as a head teacher was celebrated was twelve she was told by one of her teachers at school that when she was older she would not be able to become a teacher because she was black. When she asked her teacher why and what

do you think I could be her response was a cleaner. However, Tiger Bay is an incredibly spirited place and one where determination plays a huge role so she just kept going. Despite being a woman, despite being a black woman, despite having four children, one of whom grew up with lots of disabilities, she still managed to achieve that and support her local community. In fact she became a councillor in Butetown as well as being on different boards of education and being on lots of race relations boards, also because she really believed in the fact that anybody can if they are determined enough and have the right support structures around them can achieve what they want.

And this passion is something that has been handed down to me from her. My mother, her daughter was a head teacher in London and I am a deputy head teacher and also someone who works in schools particularly on the anti-racist agenda and making sure that spaces are inclusive for all people.

Betty Campbell was an absolutely formidable lady. She was somebody who could hold her own but she did so with compassion. She didn't hold her own at the expense of others but she wasn't afraid. There is a statue going up at some point this year to mark all her achievements and also to remind everybody of the long-lasting impact that she really has had on Cardiff and wider society.

Video, Channel Five News report on the statue

**unveiling of Betty Campbell,
Wales's first Black
headteacher, in Cardiff this
week**



The statue unveiled this week in Cardiff of Betty Campbell by artist Eve Shepherd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjhELfUGpQM>

**Dechrau canu, dechrau
canmol**

Yn mhen myrdd o oesoedd maith
Y bydd pawb o'r gwardedigion
'R ochor draw ar ben eu taith;
Ni bydd diwedd,
Byth ar sw'n y delyn aur.

Nid oes yno ddiwedd canu,
Nid oes yno ddiwedd clod,
Nid oes yno ddiwedd cofio
Pob cystuddiau a fu'n bod;
Byth ni dderfydd
Canmol Duw yn nhŷ fy Nhad.

*Singing starts, extolling starts,
After a thousand of vast thousands,
Jesus shall be of the delivered ones
Delightful yonder at their journey's
end;
There shall be no end,
Ever to the sound of the golden
harp.*

There is there no end to singing,

*There is there no end to praise,
There is there no end to
remembering
All the afflictions which have been;
Never will end
The extolling of God in my Father's
house.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0E5_InuIZ5E

**Waldo Williams
Cofio**

Un funud fach cyn elo'r haul o'r
wybren,
Un funud fwyn cyn delo'r hwyr
i'w hynt,
I gofio am y pethau anghofiedig
Ar goll yn awr yn llwch yr amser
gynt.

Fel ewyn ton a dyr ar draethell
unig,
Fel cân y gwynt lle nid oes glust a
glyw,
Mi wn eu bod yn galw'n ofer
arnom –
Hen bethau anghofiedig dynol
ryw.

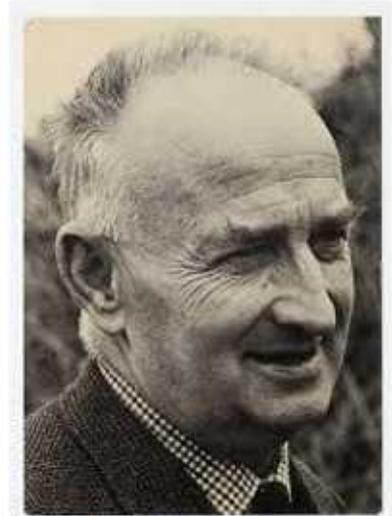
Camp a chelfyddyd y
cenedloedd cynnar,
Aneddau bychain a neuaddau
mawr,
Y chwedlau cain a chwalwyd ers
canrifoedd
Y duwiau na wŷyr neb amdanynt
'nawr.

A geiriau bach hen ieithoedd
diflanedig,
Hoyw yng ngenau dynion
oeddynt hwy,
A thlws i'r clust ym mharabl plant
bychain,
Ond tafod neb ni eilw arnynt
mwy.

O, genedlaethau dirifedi daear,

A'u breuddwyd dwyfol a'u
dwyfoldeb brau,
A erys ond tawelwch i'r calonnau
Fu gynt yn llawenychu a thristáu?

Mynych ym mrig yr hwyr, a mi yn
unig,
Daw hiraeth am eich 'nabod chwi
bob un;
A oes a'ch deil o hyd mewn Cof
a Chalon,
Hen bethau anghofiedig teulu
dyn?



Waldo Williams

Remembrance

*One fleeting moment as the sun is
setting,
One gentle moment as the night
falls fast,
To bring to mind the things that are
forgotten,
Now scattered in the dust of ages
past.*

*Like white-foamed waves that break
on lonely beaches,
Like the wind's song where no one
hears the wind,
They beckon us, I know, but to no
purpose –
The old forgotten things of
humankind.*

*The artistry and skills of early
peoples,*

Small dwelling-places and enormous
halls,
Old well-told tales that have been
lost for ages,
The gods that now no mortal could
recall.

And little words of languages long-
vanished,
Lithe words once lively on the lips of
men,
And pretty in the prattle of small
children,
No tongue will ever utter them
again.

Oh, earth's innumerable
generations,
Their sacred dreams and fragile
sanctity,
Is the heart silent that was once
acquainted
With sadness and with gladness and
with glee ?

Often at close of day, when I am
lonely,
I long to know you all, bring all to
mind;
Is there a heart or memory still to
cherish
The old forgotten things of
humankind?

Translation by Alan Llwyd



Mike Evans

A reading to mark Waldo Williams's
birthday last Thursday of a poem
about things we have lost. It was
inscribed on the wedding ring of
Mike Evans, the founder and

director of Black Mountain Records,
who sadly died recently. He was
very helpful to us in Capel y Boro in
providing recordings and videos of
choirs and was a close friend and
mentor to our producer Mike
Williams. This is our tribute to him.

Hymn for Wales 1:

Arglwydd Iesu, arwain f'enaid

At y Graig sydd uwch na mi,
Craig safadwy mewn
tymhestloedd,
Craig a ddeil yng
ngrym y lli;
Llechu wnaif yng Nghraig yr
Oesoedd,
Deued dilyw, deued tân,
A phan chwalo'r greadigaeth,
Craig yr Oesoedd fydd fy nghân.

Pan fo creigiau'r byd yn rhwygo
Yn rhyferthwy'r farn a ddaw,
Stormydd creulon arna' i'n curo,
Cedryn fyrdd o'm cych mewn
braw;
Craig yr Oesoedd ddeil pryd
hynny,
Yn y dyfroedd, yn y tân:
Draw ar gefnfor tragwyddoldeb
Craig yr Oesoedd fydd fy nghân.

Lord Jesus, lead my soul
To the Rock that is higher than I
Firm rock in the storms
Rock which keeps in the
might of the flood
I will hide in the Rock of Ages
Come deluge, come fire,
And when the creation disintegrates
The rock of the ages shall be my
song.

When the rocks of earth are tearing
In the storm of judgment to come
Bloody storms battering me
Unshakable myriads around me in
terror;
The rock of the ages keeps at such
a time,

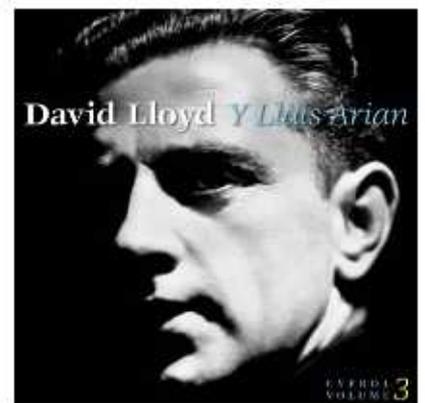
In the waters, in the fire:
There on the flood of eternity
The rock of the ages shall be my
song.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBglyGpuOg4>



**Dechrau Canu, Dechrau
canmol** was first broadcast on
Sunday 1st Jan 1961 at 1.30pm on
BBC Television. It was recorded
at Trinity Chapel, Swansea and
the hymns were introduced by
Rev Dr. Gwilym ap Robert
with Leader Mansel Thomas and
Arwel Hughes playing the organ.
It was produced by Jack Williams.
The guest soloist was the tenor
David Lloyd.

R S Hughes
Elen Fwyn
(Words by Hiraddug)
David Lloyd (tenor);
Meirion Williams (piano)



David Lloyd (1912-69) was one of
the first Welsh solo singers to seek
a broader audience beyond Wales,
in the concert halls and recording

studios of England, mainland Europe, and North America. During his lifetime, Lloyd was renowned in opera, oratorio, and in recital, in particular for his performances of Verdi and Mozart. As a Welshman, however, he is remembered most for his renditions of the hymns and songs of his homeland.

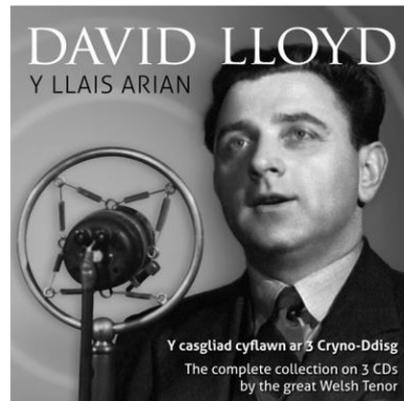
David Lloyd was born in Trelogan, Flintshire. He was one of seven children, the son of a coal miner. At age 14, he left school to become an apprentice carpenter, but soon began to acquire a reputation as a singer at local eisteddfodau. He entered the Guildhall School of Music in 1933, having won a scholarship to study singing under Walter Hyde. He won several prestigious prizes at the school, and then in 1938 took on his first notable role, as Macduff in Glyndebourne Festival Opera's production of Verdi's "Macbeth." It was the first professional production of the opera in England.



David Lloyd at the National Eisteddfod by photographer Geoff Charles

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Lloyd's career was put on hold, spending five years serving in the band of the Welsh Guards. He resumed his professional singing in 1946 as the principal tenor at the Verdi and Mozart Festival of the Netherlands, and the Verdi Festival of Britain soon after. In June 1954 he had a

serious accident whilst working on a programme for the BBC, which resulted in a fractured spine. Lloyd was not able to perform for the next six years, only making his comeback at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in July 1960 and then recording "Dechrau Canu" in the first broadcast from Swansea in 1961. We don't know what he sang in that broadcast here he sings R S Hughes "Elen Fwyn" he accompanied by Meirion Williams.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_29QeXDL04

Robert Herrick To Daffodils

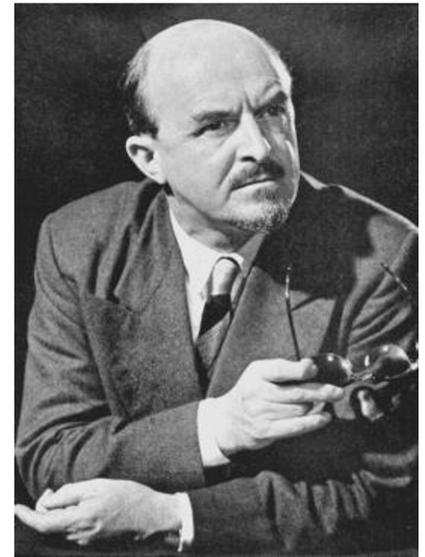
Fair Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.

We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;

Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

Mansel Thomas Cennin Aur (To Daffodils)

(Robert Herrick cyf. T Gwynn Jones)
Pendyrus Male Choir
National Eisteddfod 2012



Mansel Thomas

In the first "Dechrau canu" from Swansea, the leader of the congregational hymn singing was the great Welsh composer Mansel Thomas. We are going to hear one of Mansel Thomas's most popular compositions and that is "Cennin aur," it is a setting for choir of a translation by T Gwynn Jones of a lyric by the seventeenth century English poet Robert Herrick "To Daffodils." Like Waldo's "Cofio" it is a poem about things we have lost. Mansel Thomas's setting of that poem in Welsh translation "Cennin Aur" is sung in this recording from the National Eisteddfod 2012 by the Pendyrus Male Choir for whom it was composed in the 1920s.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZjT3xu4grw> (from 4:30 to the end)



Exterior, Trinity Chapel, Swansea

The location in Swansea for the first *Dechrau canu* was Trinity Methodist Chapel in Sketty. It was built in 1954 to replace Trinity Chapel, Park Street in the centre of Swansea which was destroyed by bombing during the Second World war. The decision for the congregation to move here was due to the fact that a Sunday School had been built on this site by the chapel in 1925. The new chapel was built next to this and it is now used as a vestry and meeting room.



Interior, Trinity Chapel, Swansea

The chapel was designed by the distinguished Welsh architect Percy Thomas and from the exterior is a building of a very simple Italianate design, the facade with a wide, molded stone arch around the door and a small circular window to the gable, furnished with a decorative radiating iron grille. The side elevations are stepped out to accommodate the aisles which, unusually, sit either side of a central bank of pews on the interior.

The interior is strikingly simple. The single, central bank of pews are of a light oak, as is the boarded pulpit with bronze railings to the steps either side. Behind the pulpit is a full height bay of oak panelling with inset mesh panels for disseminating the organ music. The grey brickwork is largely left exposed, with only the aisles being plastered and painted white. This, together with the tall, flat-headed windows, gives the interior a particularly light and airy atmosphere. There is an end gallery, fronted with grey material, and with a raking set of pews identical to those on the ground floor. The ceiling is covered with square white tiles and there are a series of 10 lights. Each of these comprises of an oak circle from which hangs six white glass pendants. In addition to the main form and fittings, there are additional items such as the deacons' chairs and umbrella stands which complete the remarkable survival of Thomas's interior. We are delighted that today's minister of Trinity Chapel, Swansea, Jill-Hailey Harris has sent us prayers.

Reading from
Parch Jill-Hailey Harries,
Trinity Chapel, Swansea, location
of the first *Dechrau canu*, *Dechrau canmol*, 1 January 1961



Parch Jill-Hailey Harries of Trinity Chapel Swansea

Ephesians 5:13-20

Everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Arwel Hughes, organist on ***Dechrau canu* and *Songs of Praise* first programmes**



Arwel Hughes

One of Arwel Hughes's most beloved works is the hymn *Tydi a roddaiſt liw i'r wawr* to words by T Rowland Hughes. It is on the *Dechrau Canu*, *Dechrau canmol*

top 20 shortlist of the best Welsh hymns so let's sing it now:

Hymn for Wales 2:

Tydi, a roddaist liw i'r wawr

A hud i'r machlud mwyn,
Tydi, a luniaist
gerdd a sawr
Y gwanwyn yn y llwyn,
O cadw ni rhag colli'r hud
Sydd heddiw'n crwydro
drwy'r holl fyd.

Tydi, a luniaist gân i'r nant,
A'i su i'r goedwig werdd,
Tydi, a roist i'r awel dant
Ac i'r ehedydd gerdd,
O cadw ni rhag dyfod dydd
Na yrr ein calon gân yn rhydd.

Tydi, a glywaist lithriad traed
Ar ffordd Calfaria gynt,
Tydi, a welaist ddafnau gwaed
Y Gwr ar ddieithr hynt,
O cadw ni rhag dyfod oes
Heb goron ddrain
na chur na chroes.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Thou, who gavest colour to the dawn and charm to the pleasant sunset, Thou, who didst design the poetry and savour Of the Spring in the grove, O keep us from losing the charm Which today is wandering throughout all the world.

Thou, who didst design a song for the brook, And its whisper for the green forest, Thou, who gavest to the breeze a string and to the lark a verse, O keep us from the coming of the day when our heart fails to set a song free.

Thou, who didst hear the stumbling of feet on Calvary's road of old, Thou, who didst see the drops of blood of the Man on a strange

course, O keep us from the coming of an age without a crown of thorns or wound or cross.

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCpY7vsaFPc>



The first broadcast of *Dechrau Canu* in Swansea on 1 January was to be followed by the BBC with a programme with a hymn-singing format in English, *Songs of Praise*. Its first broadcast was 1 October and was also from Wales, from the Tabernacle Baptist Chapel in Cardiff. But *Dechrau Canu* and the BBC's Welsh language output of religious broadcasting especially of morning services was a big influence on the creators of *Songs of Praise*, as Aled Jones explains:

Video excerpt, *Songs of Praise* – 60th Anniversary documentary, on the first programme

Aled Jones (BBC)



Aled Jones in Cardiff

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00104dn/songs-of-praise-where-songs-of-praise-began>
(from 4:34-10:23)

Aled Jones shared with us in this clip an interview with Donald Baverstock who was the assistant controller of the BBC back in 1961. Baverstock was born in Cardiff and initially worked for the BBC in their Talks Department, where he was the Editor of the topical magazine programme *Highlight* and then co-devised and edited its more ambitious and better-remembered successor *Tonight*, which began in 1957. I am sure it is no coincidence that one of the regular contributors to *Tonight* the singer Cy Grant who we heard singing in the opening of our service today was asked to perform in the very first *Songs of Praise* that Baverstock was instrumental in creating. Cy Grant was a household name during the late fifties and early sixties on the *Tonight* programme, here he is with presenter Cliff Michelmore as he sings the programme's signature tune.

Video excerpt, *Tonight*

Cy Grant and Cliff Michelmore (1950s-60s, BBC)



Cliff Michelmore and Cy Grant, *Tonight*

Cy Grant, who sang on BBC's "Tonight" topical songs to a calypso rhythm, some of them written by

the journalist and critic Bernard Levin. Grant is most famous as an actor, theatre company founder and singer but he was also a barrister and was among the first RAF officers from the West Indies. In 2008, he was the founder of an online archive to trace and commemorate Caribbean airmen of the Second World War after finding no records of them in the Imperial War Museum and RAF museum. We don't know what Cy Grant sang in the first "Songs of Praise" but we do have some pictures of him during the recording of it in Tabernacle with Arwel Hughes who was the organist for the programme just as he was a few months earlier for the first "Dechrau canu" in Swansea.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IezY-f383Ik>



Cy Grant in the recording of the first *Songs of Praise* at Tabernacle Baptist Chapel, Cardiff, with (above) producer Gethyn Stoodley Thomas and assistant producer Margaret Price and (below) with Arwel Hughes, organist

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,
Look upon a little child;
Pity my simplicity,
Suffer me to come to Thee.

Lamb of God, I look to Thee;
Thou shalt my example be:
Thou art gentle, meek and mild;

Thou wast once a little child.

Fain I would be as Thou art;
Give me Thine obedient heart:
Thou art pitiful and kind;
Let me have Thy loving mind.

Loving Jesus, gentle Lamb,
In Thy gracious hands I am;
Make me, Saviour, what Thou art,
Live Thyself within my heart.

We do know there was a children's choir performing in the first "Songs of Praise" as for the fiftieth anniversary efforts by the BBC were made to reunite the choir. We know they sang "All things bright and beautiful" and this hymn "Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild" which is sung here by Glasgow High School.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Txl0tynysl>

Hymn for Wales 3:

**Ar fôr tymhestlog teithio
'rwyf**

I fydd sydd well i fyw,
Gan wenu ar ei stormydd oll:
Fy Nhad sydd wrth y llyw.

Trwy leoedd geirwon, enbyd
iawn,
A rhwystrau o bob rhyw
Y'm dygwyd eisoes ar fy nhaith:
Fy Nhad sydd wrth y llyw.

Er cael fy nhaflu o dòn i dòn,
Nes ofni bron cael byw,
Dihangol ydwyf hyd yn hyn:
Fy Nhad sydd wrth y llyw.

Ac os oes stormydd mwy yn ôl,
Ynghadw gan fy Nuw,
Wynebaf arnynt oll yn hy:
Fy Nhad sydd wrth y llyw.

A phan fo'u hymchwydd yn
cryfhau,
Fy angor, sicir yw;
Dof yn ddiogel drwyddynt oll:
Fy Nhad sydd wrth y llyw.

I mewn i'r porthladd tawel, clyd,
O swm y storm
a'i chlyw
Y caf fynediad llon ryw ddydd:
Fy Nhad sydd wrth y llyw.

*On a tempestuous sea I am
travelling
To a world where it is better to live,
Smiling at all its storms:
It is my Father who is at the helm.*

*Through rough, very dangerous
places,
And obstacles of every kind
I have been led already on my
journey:
It is my Father who is at the helm.*

*Though I am cast from wave to
wave,
Until fear almost takes my life,
I am freed again and again:
It is my Father who is at the helm.
And if there are more storms left,
Kept by my God,
I will face them all with boldness:
It is my Father who is at the helm.*

*And when their surge strengthens,
My anchor, secure it is;
I will come safely through them all:
It is my Father who is at the helm.*

*Into the quiet, cosy harbour,
From the sound of the storm
and its earshot
I will have cheerful admittance some
day:
It is my Father who is at the helm.*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_-XwB30fxM



Exterior, Tabernacle Baptist Chapel
Cardiff

Tabernacle is the Welsh-language Baptist chapel in the Hayes in the centre of Cardiff, Wales. It is a Grade II* listed building. A chapel existed on the site from 1821, enlarged in 1840, then further enlarged and rebuilt between 1862 and 1865 in an Italianate style under local architect J. Hartland and Son. The front of the building is set back from the main road behind a forecourt, fronted with wrought iron railings and two gate pillars. The chapel façade is two generous storeys including a stair tower at each corner. The main interior space is surrounded on all four sides by a high-level gallery with a wrought iron balustrade, all supported on iron columns. The main ceiling is flat coffered with a large ceiling rose. A large arch at the back of the space encloses the organ and a wooden pulpit.



Interior, Tabernacle Baptist Chapel,
Cardiff

Viewed from inside, the stained-glass windows can be appreciated. The central pair of upper level round-headed windows portray colourful scenes from the Bible, with one being the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. The windows were installed in 1928 in memory of the previous minister, Charles Davies (d. 1927), though it is unusual to have images like these in a nonconformist church. We heard from Denzil John, minister at Tabernacle for 30 years, earlier in that interview with Aled Jones. We are delighted that he has recorded a message and psalms for us at the Boro from inside Tabernacle on the exact day of the sixtieth anniversary of the first *Songs of Praise* on Friday. Denzil John:

Prayers from Parch Denzil John

Tabernacle Welsh Baptist Chapel, Cardiff, recording location of first *Songs of Praise*, 1 October 1961



Parch Denzil John of Tabernacle Baptist Chapel, Cardiff

Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations

Salm 149

Molwch yr Arglwydd.
Canwch i'r Arglwydd gân newydd,
ei foliant yng nghynulleidfa'r ffyddloniaid.
Bydded i Israel lawenhau yn ei chreawdwr,
ac i blant Seion orfoleddu yn eu brenin.
Molwch ei enw â dawns.

*Praise the Lord.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.
Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;
let the people of Zion be glad in their King.
Let them praise his name with dancing*

Father God we come to you and to your courts with praise and thanksgiving and we do through a variety of means and through an array of locations with all the languages of earth and yet with one accord to celebrate that you are the God of love, the God of faith, the God of forgiveness and the God of peace and as people have worshipped you in music and hymn-singing over the centuries we thank you for the sixty years where *Songs of Praise* and *Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol* have been a vehicle whereby so many can join a

congregation in knowing and understanding something of their faith. Bind us together Lord with chords that cannot be broken. Amen.

The first presenter of Songs of Praise and Dechrau canu, Dechrau canmol – Rev Dr Gwilym ap Robert



Rev Dr Gwilym ap Robert

Rev Dr Gwilym ap Robert was described as one of the men who inspired a generation of young people to campaign for Wales and its language. When he died in 2014 after a long illness Emyr Llywelyn, one of the leaders of the Welsh Language and Recovery Association, said "Nonconformity, the national movement and the peace movement lost one of its most important figures."

Gwilym ap Robert was the minister of Baker Street, Aberystwyth, in the days when students there began to campaign seriously for the language in the 1960s "The chapel was full of students," said Emyr Llewelyn. "He was a very important figure and a great influence on students, very outspoken and supportive. He believed in the social gospel.

He later stood up for Plaid Cymru against Labour's Michael Foot in Ebbw Vale and doubled the party's vote.

Like his father, Gwilym ap Robert was a conscientious objector during World War II and began his ministry at Glynneath Place of Worship - after graduating at Cardiff University and gaining a Doctorate at Jesus College Oxford and Hertford Connecticut College in the United States.

He returned to Glynneath Place of Worship and then to Bethel Chapel, Caerphilly after a devastating stroke struck him in 1980 and forced him to give up lecturing in Theology at Cardiff University. At that time, he had to learn to write and walk afresh and was able to resume part-time lecturing.

He died in the Bangor area where he had moved after losing his wife, Beryl, to be closer to his daughter, Elen ap Robert, until recently Artistic Director of Pontio in Bangor, and her family. In his last years he was living with dementia and in a nursing home.

It was while he was in Aberystwyth in his younger days, that he was asked to be the first presenter of both *Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol* and *Songs of Praise*. His association with these long running programmes is possibly rather unsung, I wonder if he imagined that those first programmes would lead to decades of further shows and with countless presenters after him – Aled Jones, Huw Edwards, Alwyn Humphreys etc.

Hymn for Wales 4:

Mawr oedd Crist yn nhragwyddoldeb,

Mawr yn gwisgo natur dyn,
Mawr yn marw ar Galfaria,
Mawr yn maeddu angau'i hun;
Hynod fawr yw yn awr,
Brenin nef a daear lawr.

Mawr oedd Iesu yn yr arfaeth,
Mawr yn y cyfamod heddi,
Mawr ym Methlem a Chalfaria,
Mawr yn dod i'r lan o'r beddi;
Mawr iawn fydd ef ryw ddydd
Pan ddatguddir pethau cudd.

Mawr yw Iesu yn ei Berson,
Mawr fel Duw, a mawr fel dyn,
Mawr ei degwch a'i hawddgarwch,
Gwyn a gwridog, teg ei lun;
Mawr yw ef yn y nef
Ar ei orsedd gadarn, gref.

*Great was Christ in eternity,
Great wearing human nature,
Great dying on Calvary,
Great vanquishing death itself;
Especially great now,
King of heaven and earth below.*

*Great was Jesus in his purpose,
Great in the covenant of peace,
Great in Bethlehem and Calvary,
Great coming up from the grave;
Very great will he be some day
When hidden things are revealed.*

*Great is Jesus in his Person,
Great as God, and great as human,
Great his fairness and his beauty,
Bright and ruddy, fair his appearance;
Great is he in heaven
On his firm, strong throne.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le1qZvpKd5Y>

Prayers

Let us pray in a very difficult week for calm and for solutions to the current fuel issue and haulage driver shortages.

Let us pray for the family and friends of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa, and indeed those of all women who have died as a result of acts of violence, that their loved ones will be able to draw on your unending love and strength and support, and give us the resolve we need to make the world a safer place.

Lord, may the gifts of voices and melodies of instruments move with the work of your Holy Spirit. May they bring light into dark places, restore hope and vision to all who are oppressed, and well-being and health to all those who suffer.

Today Lord, we give you our worship. May it be a platform for you, Lord God, to touch our lives afresh and build your church.

Amen.

Gweddi'r Arglwydd

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zzf49HPfQzM>

Hymn for Wales 5:

Os gwelir fi, bechadur,
Ryw ddydd ar ben fy nhaith,
Rhyfeddol fydd y canu
a newydd fydd yr iaith,
Yn seinio buddugoliaeth
Am iachawdwriaeth lawn
heb ofni colli'r frwydyr
Na bore na phrynhawn.

Fe genir ac fe genir
Yn nhragwyddoldeb maith
Os gwelir un pererin
Mor llesg ar ben ei daith,
A gurwyd mewn tymhestloedd,
A olchwyd yn y gwaed,
A gannwyd ac a gadwyd
drwy'r iachawdwriaeth rad.

Os dof fi drwy'r anialwch
Rhyfeddaf fyth dy ras,
A'm henaid i lonyddwch
'R ôl ganwaith golli'r maes;
y maglau wedi eu torri,
A'm traed yn gwblu rydd:
Os gwelir fi fel hynny,
Tragwyddol foli a fydd.

*If I am seen, a sinner,
Some day at the end of my journey,
Marvellous will be the singing
And new will be the language
Resounding "Victory"
For full salvation
Without fear of losing the battle
In neither morning nor afternoon.*

*It will be sung and it will be sung
Throughout eternity
If one pilgrim is seen
So weary at the end of his journey,
Beaten in tempests,
Washed in the blood
Born and kept
Through the salvation free of cost.*

*If I come through the desert
I will marvel forever at thy grace,
And my soul to stillness
After a hundred times losing the
field;
The snares having been cut,
And my feet completely free:
If I am seen thus,
Eternal praise will be.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JL3C03Lpgvk>

Blessing

Lord God
You hear us, our words in
prayer, our silent thoughts and
pleas, and each note or melody
we sing or play. May our praises
today connect with heaven and
unite our hearts with the sound
of eternity.
Amen

Closing music:
George Frideric Handel
Messiah – “Rejoice greatly”
Heather Harper (soprano);
London Symphony Orchestra/
Sir Colin Davies



Heather Harper

The star billing in the “Radio Times” listing for the first “Songs of Praise” was for the much-loved Belfast-born opera singer, the soprano Heather Harper. Sadly Heather Harper died last year so our closing music is a tribute to her. I don’t know what she sang in “Songs of Praise” but my bet is it would have been an aria from Handel’s “Messiah,” in which she excelled and sang many times worldwide. Here she sings “Rejoice greatly” from a famous recording of “Messiah” with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Colin Davies.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3AW_V_D2xc (from 44:37 to 48:50)

Readers:

Waldo Williams

Cofio

Glyn Pritchard

Robert Herrick

To Daffodils

Neil Evans

Prayers from

Parch Jill-Hailey Harries

Trinity Chapel, Swansea, recording

location of the first Dechrau canu,

Dechrau canmol, 1 January 1961

Jill-Hailey Harries

Prayers from Parch Denzil John

Tabernacle Welsh Baptist Chapel,

Cardiff, recording location of first

Songs of Praise, 1 October 1961

Denzil John

Prayers, Blessing, script links

Neil Evans

Producer Mike Williams
