

SAINT DAVID'S DAY, MARCH 1
(Dydd Gwyl Ddewi Sant)

The roar of the red dragon awakens sleeping
Bulbs beneath the ground to send leafy
Tendrils upward into chilly breezes
To blossom cups to catch the falling rain
And hold God's promise of New Life again.

Gold daffodils greet winter-weary humans
Stiff blooms out-glisten an artist's paper sculpture
Daffodils in sun-drenched colors contrast
To winter's waning cold dregs of ice
Daffodils, crocus, grape hyacinths, lilies of the valley
Take intricate shapes and hues that fascinate small children
Young people whiz fast, past their startled elders
Kids undulating, adjusting their balance
Upon skateboards traded from pack-aways, snowboards and sleds
Kids speeding for the thrill of moving
Or coasting upon spring's windy equinox.
Kids speeding nowhere in particular.

For adults forever speeding nowhere in particular
Old Wales' salient Celtic cross recalls
Saint Ddewi's reaching toward the weary, teaching:
Forever is not forever without the Christ.
Welsh, worldwide, in four-part harmony:

VI. Yr Hen Ganfed (Old Hundredth)

With dignity

(M.H.) M.5.

SALMYDD GENEVA (1551)

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes a repeat sign at the end of the first line of music.

Y Tad, y Mab, a'r Ys - bryd Glân. A - men.
Praise Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Welsh words, tr.,
Howel Harris (1714-1773)

English words,
Thomas Ken (1637-1711)