

Sunday 23rd February 2025

CREATION SUNDAY

In the beginning before time, before people, before the world began, God was. Here and now, among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven, God is. In the future, when we have turned to dust and all we know has found its fulfilment, God will be. Not denying the world but delighting in it, not understanding the world, but redeeming it, through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God was, God is, God will be.

In Psalm 65 the psalmist reminds us of God's power and care for his creation.

You show your care for the land by sending rain; you make it rich and fertile.

You fill the streams with water; you provide the earth with crops. This is how you do it:

You send abundant rain on the ploughed fields and soak them with water; you soften the soil with showers and cause the young plants to grow.

Humanity to a large extent has exploited and plundered the resources of God's creation, planet Earth and rejected the call to stewardship. Nature now groans in turmoil. We see crops fail due to drought, or overwhelmed by flooding. Deforestation of the Rainforests for farming or mining is leading to global climate change. The trees absorb the greenhouse gases that fuel global warming and fewer forests means larger amounts of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere.

There has been loss of habitat for multitude of species. 70% of Earth's land animals and plants live in forests. Rainforest plants have been used to treat a variety of diseases, including malaria, arthritis, and muscular disorders. Some examples of rainforest plants with medicinal properties include:

Cat's claw: an Amazonian plant with anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties, shown to help with arthritis.

Curare: an Amazonian plant used in modern medicine as a general anaesthetic and to treat muscular disorders.

Cinchona tree: The bark is used to extract quinine, which is used to treat malaria.

Creation, sadly, has been treated as a mere commodity to be consumed or exploited.

However, scripture teaches that all will be restored as God intended it to be through the redemptive work of Christ and His rule which is to come in the fullness of time. Romans 6 speaks of a time when *'the creation will be set free from the bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.'* And Revelation 21-22 looks towards the time when there will be a *'new heaven and the new earth'* with its river and tree of life bearing twelve kinds of fruit.

I am delighted that we have partnered with A Rocha UK as an Eco church, seeking to protect the environment, supporting and protecting the rich diversity of wildlife that visit the church grounds and introducing initiatives like 'No Mow May'. Achieving silver status has been so encouraging and I am grateful to the hard work and commitment of Huw Lewis. The refurbishment project will secure our 'Green' credentials by reducing our carbon footprint through the installation of air source heat pumps, a Photovoltaic (PV) system, and LED lighting. We cannot stop there. Purchasing 'Fairtrade' products and recycling must continue. We are all aware of the need to 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.'

I am so proud of what we have achieved at St. Cadoc's and I look forward to 'Toilet Twinning' when the church re-opens. Run by Tearfund, Toilet Twinning funds global water, sanitation and hygiene programmes. Toilet Twinning provides dignity and self-respect for individuals whilst alleviating poverty and access to safe sanitation. Toilet Twinning funds hygiene education via community-led workshops and sourcing local materials for families and communities to build their own toilets. I encourage you to use the link to find out more information on this life changing initiative.

<https://toilettwinning.org/transparency>

A Gaelic Blessing (John Rutter)

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.

Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.

Deep peace of Christ to you. **Amen.**

Yours in Christ,

Rev'd Sue

READINGS

COLLECT

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for-ever. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up – for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground – then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’ Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, ‘This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.’ Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:4b–9, 15–25

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 65: 1, 5-9

Response: **Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth.**

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion:
to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.
In your strength you set fast the mountains:
and are girded about with might. **R**

You still the raging of the seas:
the roaring of their waves and the clamour of the peoples.
Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels:
the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise. **R**

You visit the earth and water it:
you make it very plenteous:
The river of God is full of water:
you prepare the grain for your people,
for so you provide for the earth. **R**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal. Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.’ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honour and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives for ever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’

Revelation 4

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power,
for by your will all things were created. **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Luke **Glory to you, O Lord**

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

Luke 8:22-25

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Caerleon & Ponthir Churches Together
LENT LUNCHES 2025



Lodge Farm Church
 12 noon - 1.30 p.m.
 March 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th
 April 3rd, 10th
 All welcome
 Good food and fellowship
 Donations to charity



"THE 100 CLUB"

You are invited to become a subscriber to this church fundraiser. For £24 per year, payable in advance, you will be allocated a number. Every month, one of the numbers will be chosen at random and the winner will receive a prize of £25.

You may hold more than one subscription, and we need a minimum of 50 to make this viable.

Please complete the form below and return it to Carol Wessel (0795 277 2468)

Name

Contact

I enclose payment of for..... subscription(s)

Signed



SERVICES

You are all invited to join us in our worship in person or watch via livestream on Sunday mornings from St Cadoc's.

Sunday 23rd February

10.30am

Creation Sunday

Sung Eucharist Service, led by Rev'd Alan Maunder. Charles Williams CinW primary school.

Wednesday 26th February

10.30am

Said Eucharist at Caerleon Town Hall - Rev'd Alan Maunder presiding

10.30am

Churches Together Memory Cafe at Lodge Farm Church, Caerleon

7.00pm

Bell Ringing Practice

Thursday 27th February

7.00pm

St Cadoc's choir practice, Lodge Farm Church.

Friday 28th February

7.00pm

St David's Day 'Poem & Pints' Fundraiser, The Red Lion, Caerleon

Saturday 1st March

10.00am to 1.00pm

MA Stewardship Course (Part 3), St Teilo's Church, Always

Sunday 2nd March

10.30am

Transfiguration Sunday

Sung Eucharist Service, led by Rev'd Alan Maunder. Charles Williams CinW primary school.

Monday 3rd March

10.30am

Holy Communion at Caerleon House Nursing Home

11.00am

Holy Communion at Eleanor Hodson House

Tuesday 4th March

5.30pm

Church Action meeting

Easyfundraising total for St Cadoc's Refurbishment Fund has now reached £2631.44

Please support us today at <http://efraising.org/XW7a62zaYB>.

Sponsor a chair total including Gift Aid is currently £13787.05. To find out how you may sponsor a chair, please go to

<https://stcadocscaerleon.uk/st-cadocs-church-refurbishment-appeal/checkout.justgiving.com/53lh55wm54>

Thank you for your continuing support.



World Day of Prayer

JOIN US ON FRIDAY, 7TH MARCH, 2025 FOR THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

at Ponthir Baptist Church at 1.30pm

The theme is "I made you wonderful", Cook Islands

Followed by refreshments.

Everyone WELCOME

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



ST DAVID'S DAY

POEMS AND PINTS FUNDRAISER

Friday 28th February 2025 at 7.00pm at The Red Lion, Caerleon

Ticket £10 to include lamb cawl / vegetarian option available

For tickets and more information, contact Tim Ford (07711 683454)

St Cadoc's Church Refurbishment Appeal "Building a worship & community space fit for the future"

THE RED LION

ST CADOC'S CAERLEON

CONTACT

If you have anything you'd like to communicate to the people of St Cadoc's, please let Rev'd Sue know. Also, if Rev'd Sue can be of help to you at any time, please get in touch!

Vicar

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