

## Sunday 22nd June 2025 - PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

**Peter and Paul, Apostles. Matthew 16:19, 'I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.'**

These were the words spoken to St Peter after he confessed at Caesarea Philippi that Jesus was the Christ the Son of the Living God. I have been reminded of the giving of those keys while on holiday in two places in Europe, which I recommend to you if you haven't visited them already. Both reminders came in Latin which was the language of worship for so many Christians in Europe for more than a thousand years. Inside the dome of St Peter's cathedral in Rome you will find the verse at the beginning of this reflection in Latin: Tibi dabo claves regni coelorum, I will give to you the keys (claves) of the kingdom of heaven. This text became the basis of the claims of papal government and authority. The second reminder of this text is in the city of Barcelona, where there is a hill called 'Tibi dabo' hill, but this has nothing to do with Peter's promise of the keys to lock and unlock entry into the kingdom of heaven. Tibi Dabo hill reminds us of the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, when Satan said to him: 'I will give to you, 'tibi dabo', all the kingdoms of the world and their glory if you will worship me.' That is what happens if we forget that God's kingdom is not worldly.

Peter and Paul share this feast day today, June 29<sup>th</sup>. They were very different people who did not always agree, as we learn from the New Testament. Paul accused Peter of eating with Gentiles but withdrawing from them when James came because Peter was afraid of Jewish influence. Peter did baptise Gentiles in the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion, when he realised that the Gentiles had also received the Holy Spirit. It was only Jesus at work in Peter through the Holy



Spirit that enabled him to be the rock, which was the name that Jesus gave him.

In spite of their apparent differences, St Paul's message was essentially the same. He said that he was the least of the apostles because he persecuted God's Church, 'but by the grace of God, I am what I am' (I Corinthians, 15:10). When Paul, like Peter, was conscious of his own shortcomings, he heard the voice of Jesus saying to him: 'My grace is sufficient for you because power is made perfect in weakness. So I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me' (2 Corinthians 12:9). Those are words that all Christians need to learn whether lay people or ordained deacons, priests or bishops, however long we have been baptised or ordained or if we are being ordained this week-end.

The Church is built upon the rock of Peter's faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is built upon the faith of the Apostles, Jesus Christ himself being the corner stone. (Ephesians 2:20). Jesus himself is the key to the kingdom, just as he was the key that unlocked the doors of their prisons for Peter and Paul. Jesus has entrusted the keys of his kingdom to frail earthen vessels like ourselves. We are called to be 'living stones' in his temple, as Peter reminded us, and to use our various gifts in his service, as Paul urged us. If God calls us to do something for him, he will give us the strength to do it.

**Canon Arthur Edwards**

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## READINGS

### COLLECT

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread. When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, and was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realise that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

Acts 12:1–11

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 125**

Response: **O praise the Lord, Alleluia!**

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion:  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

As the hills stand about Jerusalem:

so the Lord stands round about his people, from this time forth for evermore. **R**

The sceptre of wickedness  
shall not hold sway  
over the land allotted to the righteous:  
lest the righteous turn their hands to evil. **R**

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good:

and to those who are true of heart.

Those who turn aside to crooked ways the Lord shall take away with the evildoers:

but let there be peace upon Israel. **R**

### **A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY**

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that

through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

I do not call you servants but friends,

because I have made known to you

everything that I have heard from my Father. **Alleluia!**

### **GOSPEL**

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

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

Matthew 16:13–19

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord God, the source of truth and love,

keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,

united in prayer and the breaking of bread,

and one in joy and simplicity of heart,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Licensing of Rev Kay Denly

On 25th June, Bishop Cherry Vann; Archdeacon Jonathan Williams; Ministry Area Clergy; Licensed Lay Ministers; Lay Worship Leaders, Ministry Area Congregation and members of the community celebrated the licensing of Revd. Kay Denly as vicar in the Beechwood Ministry Area, Newport.

Thank you to all involved including Christchurch Music Society.



**CAERLEON FESTIVAL—"BIG FREE"**

**IN THE FESTIVAL MEADOW**

**12TH JULY 2025, 11.00AM TO 4.00PM**

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CAERLEON AND PONTIR  
WILL BE THERE**

***YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE WELCOME—DO COME ALONG!***



## Trip to Exeter Cathedral – Saturday 13th September

We are organising a trip to Exeter Cathedral on **Saturday 13th September**.



The cost is **£35**, which includes:

- A guided tour of the cathedral
- Afternoon refreshments
- Attendance at Evensong

If you would like to join, please submit your **name and a £10 deposit** in an envelope **as soon as possible** and give to Julio Benavides. Places will be allocated on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Thank you.

**Easyfundraising total for St Cadoc's Refurbishment Fund**

**has now reached £2988.83**

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

**Sponsor a chair total including Gift Aid is currently £14333.05. To find out how you may sponsor a chair, please go to**

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

**Thank you for your continuing support.**



## 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 29th June

10.30am

#### TRINITY 2

Sung Eucharist Service, St Cadoc's Church,

Rev'd Sue Pratten

12.30pm

Holy Baptism, Lillie Grace Rose Meyer, St Cadoc's

### Wednesday 2nd July

10.30am

Said Eucharist at St Cadoc's church

Rev'd Sue Pratten presiding

10.30am

Churches Together Memory Cafe at Lodge Farm Church, Caerleon

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Clergy Networking, Diocesan Office

4.00pm

Clergy Team Meeting, Ty Williams

7.00pm

Bell Ringing Practice

### Thursday 3rd July

Charles Williams CinW Primary Assemblies KS2, EY

7.00pm

St Cadoc's choir practice

### Friday 4th July

12.00pm

Funeral, Patricia Carol Champion, Gwent Crematorium

### Saturday 5th July

9.30am to 10.30pm

Caerleon Festival—Literary Day—*see poster overleaf for details*

### Sunday 6th July

10.30am

#### TRINITY 3

Sung Eucharist Service, St Cadoc's Church,

Rev'd Sue Pratten

4.00pm

Archdeacon Jonathan Williams Retirement Service

Newport Cathedral

### Monday 7th July

10.30am

Holy Communion at Caerleon House Nursing Home

11.00am

Holy Communion at Eleanor Hodson House

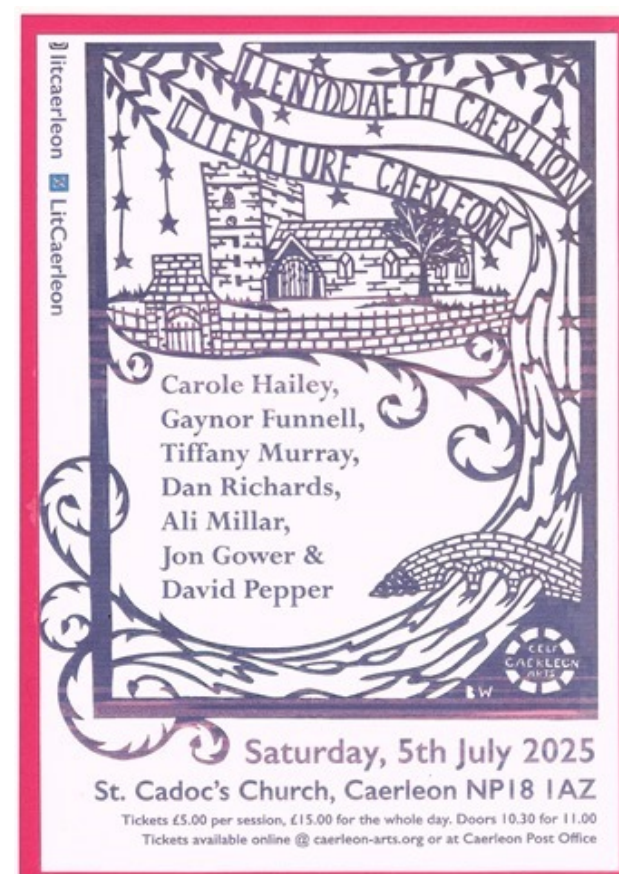
### Tuesday 8th July

12.00pm

Funeral, Anthony Edwards, St Cadoc's

7.00pm

St Cadoc's LCC meeting, St Cadoc's



## 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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Please use this QR code to go to St Cadoc's website.