

## Stay Connected – Sunday 3rd November

Fourth Sunday before Advent

### This Week's Reading

**Bible Reading: Mark 12.28–34**

### Peter's Blurb

*O Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.  
Peace be within thy walls, and plenteousness within thy palaces.*

Hello everyone,

Well, it has been an exciting week. 😊

A small group of our church family turned out on Wednesday evening to support the two Helens at the (wait for it – it's a long one ) at the:

#### **“Graduation Ceremony for the Diploma in Christian Theology and Ministry and Exploring Theology Certificate”**

Phew! This ceremony was the graduation presentation for the cohort of students which commenced their course of study in 2023. Along with 5 other graduates our Helens have been studying hard (and I understand that it really is hard!) for a whole year. So love and congratulations to them both – and to all the others too.

The ceremony was beautifully wrapped up in a delightful Evensong Service under the leadership of Rev. Canon Ant Pettit with Archdeacon The Ven. Dr. Jerry Smith as President (Bishop Nick is currently on sabbatical leave). The presentations were made by The Rev. Dr. Marcus Throup, Director of St. Mellitus College, London who had also been the guest speaker at the recent Nesbitt Lecture series earlier in the month.



For the information of those of our readers who may not have been aware of these educational programmes, all of this study and activity takes place under the auspices of “The Anglican Theological Institute of Bermuda” which was established 6 or 7 years ago at the instigation of Bishop Nicholas Dill as a programme of Training for Ministry for the Anglican Church of Bermuda. With the appointment of Canon Ant Pettit as “Director of Training and Discipleship” and the formation of an Affiliation Agreement with St. Mellitus College, London (UK), the Anglican

Church of Bermuda has developed courses of Theological Education and Formation for discipleship, training for lay ministries (including licensed ministries) and in preparation for Ordination in self-supporting roles.

So the outcome of all that blurb is that our two Helens have now been awarded their Exploring Theology Certificates. Congratulations to them both for all their hard work and on their achievement. Congratulations also to Rev. Terry Hassell who received his Diploma in Christian Theology and Ministry at the event. Way to go Terry & Nicole. Rounding out the ceremony were awards to 11 folk who had completed "Introduction to Biblical Hebrew" and another 13 who had completed "Introduction to New Testament Greek" (a half-dozen of them actually did both ☺☺). It was a truly inspiring evening on all levels.

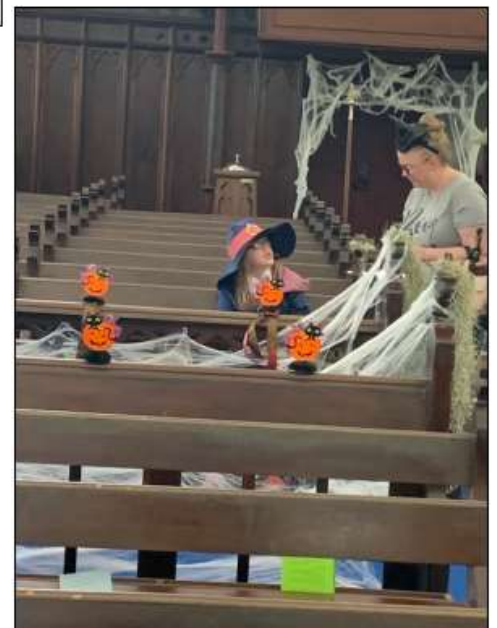
That was Wednesday! Come Thursday – it was **Hallowe'en at St. Mark's**. And what a "frightful" evening that turned out to be.

Actually, it wasn't a scary wonderful group of dressed up the church for on lots of activities and youngsters. There were ones to count how many there are in the church, into the pulpit etc. and encouraging the boys and the answers. The was possibly the biggest full advantage of the around with the rest. children heard to remark been in the church before. parents, will come back about us. We hope so. 😊



**"Come into my parlour."**

**Said the spider to the fly!  
"Hee! Hee! "Hee!"**





And to close on this event here is a quote attributed to an Angie karan (and I've no idea who she is/was) which seems to fit the occasion well.

**“There’s a Child in All of Us! No matter what the number may say or how old someone looks they started out as a child... And that child lives inside! -LOVE YOUR INNER CHILD- ~As you connect to the beautiful inner child, miracles happen~ Let your inner child run wild! Remember the days when you were innocent and carefree and discover that you are still that hopefully, wide-eyed kid at heart”**

How true that is! And no-one exhibits their inner child better than... Ta! Da! Dr. Steve as Eeyore! 😊

That was Thursday! So finally, the highpoint of our week was our Sunday service which is always satisfying, enriching and – well – just such a lovely family affair. Today, it was our absolute joy and delight, during our service, to witness and participate in the double Baptism of Rys Warnich and his cousin Oscar Gilmour. Rhys’s Mum, of course, is Kelly Gilmour and Oscar is



the son of Kelly’s brother James. What a wonderful occasion for both families and especially for new grandparents Sue and Paul who have suddenly been inundated with two grandsons. Two delightful bundles of joy – a surfeit of blessings all around. Congratulations and love to all the “extended” family. I’m sure they won’t be overwhelmed – as Paul remarked – ‘You can always give them back’ 😊

The ceremony was a lovely opportunity too for some of our Junior Church members to get up close and personal and assist Gav with the presentation of Bible Story books and the lighting and giving of the Baptismal Candles. I am sure that they were very excited to be included.

And that brings to a conclusion a wonderful week for the church family. The day was rounded out by excellent



refreshments provided by Kalreta and Robert and others together with an enormous Baptism Cake which will keep the Gilmour family – and the whole of Jennings Land – fed for the rest of the month 😊

But Sunday was not yet complete. Oh No! For it was off to Holy Trinity at 4.30 in the afternoon for the annual celebration of All Souls – a solemn service at which we commemorate our loved ones dearly departed. I was unable to participate this year but I am told that it was a lovely service – as it usually is. Votive candles were lit for each name called during the roll call and, once again this year, as for last, a lit candle was placed on every grave in the graveyard from the top of the hill down to the seashore. A magical tribute and a fairyland-like effect in the darkening evening. What a massive task it must have been to achieve it. Well done Holy Trinity.

And, at last, that was Sunday. What a wonderful day.



Finally, do be sure to check out the **Coming Events** section below. There are even more great events on the horizon and you surely will not wish to miss any of them. Please take note. 👁️

Until next week,

Peter 🙏

## Fr. Gav's Talk

This Sunday's talk can be watched, listened to and read here:

<https://anglican.bm/as-christians-what-laws-are-we-under/>

## Fr. Gav's Article

The text of Fr. Gav's article in last Saturday's RG is the same as last Sunday's talk but can be read here

<https://www.royalgazette.com/religion/lifestyle/article/20241102/what-does-it-mean-to-see-jesus-and-be-seen/>

## From the Distaff Side

### Helen's Talk – On inclusivity

Last week in our worship we were thinking about how we disable those with additional needs in our community, and this week the Bible reading reminded us of the commandment to 'love our neighbours'. With this in mind the Junior Church members sought Vestry approval to send all of the donations that we collect at the Kids' Takeover on 24th November to a very special children's charity in South Africa. In Bermuda we take certain things very much for granted, and one is inclusion and education for all.

Siyakwazi is a community-based organisation in South Africa, founded by Shirene Fulton's sister-in-law Cathy in 2013.



They recognised the need to provide specialised services for children with disabilities and inclusive services for all children within their education centres. They support families through home-based programmes as well as offering support to local schools. They run programmes within the community and, in 2018, built a resource centre which became the heart of all their work and activities. They strive to support every child in reaching their full potential regardless of ability, expressly focussing on inclusion and school readiness.

Siyakwazi works with groups and communities to:

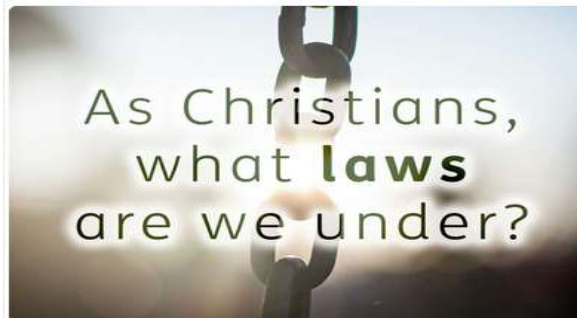
- Raise awareness and reduce stigma.
- Provide tailored individual educational support.
- Empower and equip parents and guardians.
- Strengthen early stimulation and learning.

We are also developing asking the children to tidy out their cupboards and donate toys that they have grown out of for a Junior Church table at the Vendor's market in December. So get rummaging through those toys you no longer use, and on the 24th November remember to bring extra dollars to fill the donation box for Siyakwazi. 🇺🇸

## In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Father Don, Margaret Blanchette, Al Spearing, Gill Rossiter, Sam & Marjorie, Phyllis, Gwyneth & Ralph, Jill, Barbara (Dyer), Sonny, Vinette, Marianne, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Robert & Kalreeta. Carys & Glenn, Charles & Sue, Susan Darrell and Ashleigh & Max & Eva. Also for John White, Margaret Blanchette's son, who is recovering from heart surgery.

### This Sunday



There will be no video of today's service. Today's talk, however, can be watched, listened to and read here:

<https://anglican.bm/as-christians-what-laws-are-we-under/>

Previous services and other videos are on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda> and/or our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

### Next Sunday

Coming Sunday, 10th November, there will be Peaceful Worship at 8.00am followed by Contemporary Worship at 9.30am both led by Fr. Gav. We will be observing Remembrance Sunday. There will also be Junior Church and activities for youngsters in the Parish Hall. All children welcome. We gather in the Hall after the service for fellowship and refreshments

## Coming Events



- **Diocesan Guilds' Thanksgiving Service** – this service will be held on **Sunday, 17th November at 3:00 p.m.** in the Cathedral. All are welcome;
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 23rd November**;
- **Kidz Takeover** – This year's edition of Kidz Takeover Sunday will be held at 9.30 a.m. on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. They did such a brilliant job of running the entire service last year that you really do not want to miss this;
- **Inn Sights** – This year's edition of this popular evening of study and prayer will take place at Swizzle Inn on four consecutive Monday evenings commencing **Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30 p.m.** Buffet Supper will be served. Bar service available;
- **Bermuda Church Society AGM** – The annual meeting of the BCS, of which all Bermuda Anglicans are voting members as of right, is on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** at the TN Nisbett Hall, Christ Anglican Church, Devonshire, starting at 6.00 pm;
- **Bereavement support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place on at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 1st December** in the Parish Hall;
- **Journey together with God** – this new initiative will be hosted by Jeannie & Bob Flath and led by Steve & Cathy West. This **Life Group** is an opportunity for mutual pastoral support, learning, and to get to know people. Come along and help get this started. The first meeting will be on **Monday, 2nd December**. Time and venue to be determined;
- **Annual Candlelight Service** – Christ Church, Devonshire will be holding their service of Carols and Lessons on **Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December** from 5.30 p.m. See <https://anglican.bm/events/annual-candlelight-service-4/> for details;

## Church Life

**Down the Debt** – St. Mark's needs your help in reducing the size of our debt which inhibits future investment in our church. If you feel you may be able to help with this please go to <https://stmarks.bm/donate/> where you will find details and an opportunity to donate.

## Links:

Just a reminder – if you want to check vot's happnin' or vot's comin' dahn de road – you can find it all at our:

- **Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>
- **YouTube Channel:** <https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda>

- **Website:** <https://stmarks.bm/>
- **Holy Trinity Facebook page:** <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinitychurchbda>

## End Stuff:

**Here's a thought.** It is always a great time for us all to review our pledging. If each of us is able to increase our pledge by 10% that would be a great boost to our cash flow (which as you know is tenuous at best). And, with our in-person collections still inhibited by numbers restrictions, please consider the opportunity to convert to pledging by Direct Deposit (see below). Your support is vital.

As always, another huge thank you to all of you who continue to support our church family with your pledges and donations via online transfer.

**Direct deposits** can be made to: Butterfield Bank for the account of:

**St. Mark's Church Wardens – A/c No. 20-006-060-104125-100.**

- **For Pledge Envelope donations** – if you already have a Pledge envelope number just be sure to enter your Name and Env # e.g. “Nash Env 190” in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Grave Payments** – when paying Grave Maintenance fees be sure to enter Grave Number and Name of Lessee e.g. “Grave 273 Peter Nash” in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.
- **For Cash donations** – if you do not have an Envelope # just be sure to also enter your Name and “Donation” e.g. “Nash Donation” in the **Beneficiary** space on the on-line transfer form.

**Use of the “Beneficiary” space is IMPORTANT – it is the only way we have to identify who is paying and for what.**

**Come to St. Mark's – not just a Church but a family!**