

Stay Connected – Sunday 16th March

Second Sunday of Lent

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Bible Reading: Luke 13. 31-35

Peter's Blurb

And the beat goes on – and here we are again 😊

It was a well filled church today although it did seem that some of our youngsters were having a lie-in as only three rocked up to participate in the "children's hymn". One of the three was Lily Howarth who was in the news this week as she sacrificed 10 inches (I think) of her lovely blond hair to a worthy cause – the St. Baldricks Foundation.



For those who may be unfamiliar with St. Baldrick's, or those of us who may have forgotten, the St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer and donor-powered charity committed to supporting the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and give survivors long and healthy lives. Their regular events are held locally to raise funds and, for the second time, Lily decided to take the plunge. She is now all over the social media pages and is quoted as follows:

I helped to raise money for childhood cancer research

"My Name is Lily, I am 9 years old and this is the second time I will be donating my hair to locks of love. I want to cut my hair and donate it to help kids

who don't have hair. I also want to help our community by raising money for kids who are sick. Thank you for supporting me and helping make a difference. Love, Lily."

What a heroine young Lily is and we applaud her courage and her willingness to lend a helping hand (er, Hand 🙌) Bravo Lily!

Fr. Gav, who was struggling during the past week with a throat problem, was definitely better today (though not completely) and was on good form this morning. Gav gave up his hair a long time ago but probably not to such a worthy cause! Ouch! 😊

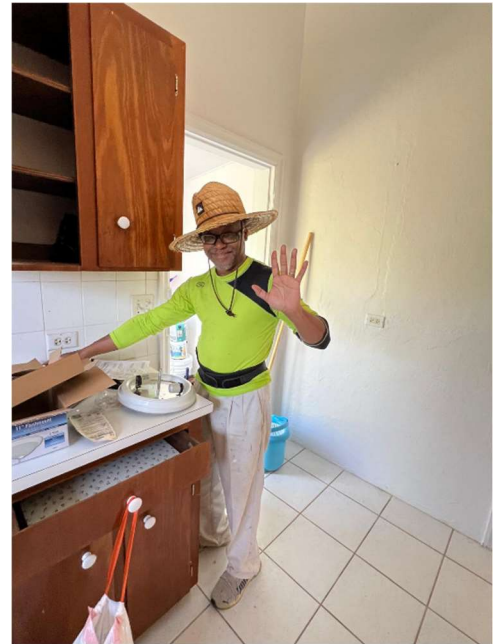
We were saddened this past week to learn of the passing of Charles "Sonny" Charves – a lifetime member of St. Mark's at age 96. He has been resting at home for the past few years. Carys remembers him well, posting "Very sad to hear about Mr Charves – he was a very active member of the church along with Violet. Condolences to the family and of course Stuart (Easton) as his brother-in-law."

Colin Campbell gave a fine tribute too when he posted, "Sonny and Stuart (Easton) were the quiet backbone of maintenance around the church grounds for years. Never had to ask, they met Saturdays and quietly went about

the grounds cleaning and tidying, keeping the property spotless. Sonny had a keen sense of humour, I shall miss his enthusiasm."

All of us who remember Sonny & Vi will do so fondly and will miss them both. "Sonny"'s funeral will be at St. Mark's on Friday at 2.00 pm (I believe – check RG to be sure.)

Speaking earlier of Sonny and Stuart's ever-willingness to give of their time doing maintenance tasks around the campus it is good that the spirit of volunteerism is still alive and well. We are grateful to all those who pitched in to tasks associated with preparing for imminent new tenants in our Cottage #4, Mount Hope Lane. We are thankful to you all.



Any of our readers who are able to spare an hour or so on a weekend, or on a long summer evening there are always tasks that need handling so please consider offering a little time. Mention your interest to Lisa-Dawn.

Enjoy the rest of the weekend and the week ahead. We are expecting a few days of warmer, sunnier weather – March will soon be over.

Wishing all our readers a happy and healthy week – see you next week. 🤔
Peter

Fr. Gav's Talk

You can read, listen to, or watch today's Sunday message from Rev Gav here:

<https://anglican.bm/how-do-we-press-on-towards-our-goal/> and/or here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksedAsY8fMQ>

From the Distaff Side

Helen's Talk – Fishy business

We currently have guests at the Rectory from Canada. Obviously, they're here to visit us, but I really think the main reason they're here is to go fishing. They arrived on Friday afternoon, we met them at the airport and went straight to a fishing mark at the Causeway! Yesterday Gav took them out on a boat and Cheryl caught the biggest fish she's ever caught. It reminded me of a story I wrote a while ago...

The Reverend Jim Smith was woken up one Sunday morning by his alarm clock. He checked his notes for that morning's worship and forced himself out of bed. Reverend Jim looked out of his bedroom window and saw it was an exceptionally beautiful, sunny spring day. He checked weather.bm and frowned when he realised that the tides were just right, with the wind coming from a perfect direction. If you know, you know....

He decided he just had to go fishing. Reverend Jim messaged a pastor colleague that he was feeling sick and

convinced her to lead the worship instead of him that day. As soon as the other pastor had agreed to help out, Reverend Jim quickly put on his old fishing clothes and hat and jumped into his car where his fishing gear was already waiting. He drove to his favourite rock mark in St. George's where he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Sending out his first cast, he took in a deep breath and prayed that the fish would be hungry. Reverend Jim felt the sun on his face and was grateful to have the spot all to himself. Nobody else was around because, of course, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

Saint Peter was watching Reverend Jim from the heavens and he leaned over to the Lord and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?" The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Reverend Jim hooked into a huge fish. The reel screamed and the heavy mono line flew off the spool as the fish fought back. Jim gave just enough slack for the fish to run and tire itself out, without it being able to throw the hook from its mouth. From the way the fish was fighting Jim knew it was a tuna, and a huge one at that. He reeled in and played the fish for an hour, before he saw the creature break the water's surface just below him. Jim was in luck, there was a ledge on the rocks below that he was able to drag the tuna onto before jumping down onto the ledge to grab the fish. Reverend Jim was overjoyed as he held the huge tuna in his arms and estimated that it weighed about 50lbs. It was a personal best, a once in a lifetime fish, and the first tuna he had ever caught from the shore.

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell? Just watch his face when he realises he won't be able to post any photos on Facebook!" 

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), Vinette, Marianne, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Robert & Kalreeta. Carys & Glenn, Charles & Sue, and for Helen's friends Kathi and Andrew. We also ask for prayers for the family and friends of Charles 'Sonny' Charves who passed away this week.

This Sunday



Fr. Gav's message may be read and/or listened to here:

<https://anglican.bm/how-do-we-press-on-towards-our-goal/>

and/or here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksedAsY8fMQ>

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, 23rd March, there will be Peaceful Worship at 8.00am followed by our Contemporary Worship at 9.30am both led by Fr. Gav. Youngsters will attend Youth Church in the Hall. All are welcome. We gather together in the Hall after the service for fellowship and refreshments

Coming Events

- **Lent Courses** – an eight-week series of Lent courses will be available at the **Cathedral** commencing **Monday, 24th February** and a five-week series will be available at **St. Paul's Christian Education Centre** from **Tuesday, 11th March**. Please see article in newsletter above for details.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** – Save the date! **Tuesday, 4th March** in the Parish Hall from 6.00 – 8.00 p.m. Details in newsletter.
- **Life Group** meets every 2nd Monday (**next meeting 17th March**). The group meets at Bob and Jeanie Flath's

home and share a light meal together. The group is currently going through Ephesians. Reach out to Bob/Jeannie for directions.

- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 22nd March**;
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 6th April** in the Parish Hall;

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!