

Stay Connected – Sunday 30th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Bible Reading: Luke 2. 33-35

Peter's Blurb

Once again, this week we have a beautiful Spring morning. And, as I sit here wondering what to write, I realize I out-smarted myself last week telling you about the meaning of Mothering Sunday so scratch that idea. 😊 But we certainly did have a well-filled church this morning being a combined service for all the East End churches.



And, boy, they flocked in from the East. An early bird myself I realized that the church was almost half-full before I started seeing our own St. Mark's folk arriving. But I guess if you have such a long journey, you start out early to be sure to get where you are going in good time. It was lovely to see so many attending and also to find that we recognize more faces than we used to. Getting together once a quarter is good for that and the fellowship and friendships that develop as a result.

I was pleased to see a Hat in church today. People who have read my letters for many years will remember how much I loved to see Hats in church. Back in the day it was quite the thing. We well remember dear 'Aunt' Edna Bean who was never without a hat – she had such a collection of hats, in fact, that they ended up being

auctioned it was so vast. 'Aunt' Phyllis Trott was another who would always wear a hat. My memory is dimming but I would wager a small sum that Janet & Evette's Mum 'Aunt' Lucretia Brangman would have been a regular hat wearer too 😊. There have been many other occasional hat wearers over the decades but those are the ones that stand out as regulars. I used to watch in dismay 😞 as the wearers of hats diminished in number. 'Aunt' Edna was the last regular one so I was delighted to see a hat today. I later complimented the wearer – it was Sydonnie (?) who read the lesson for us today (likely from HTC). She probably thought I was a bit weird of me to mention it – not far off the mark there 😊

It was also our joy and delight to have priests who were (to misquote Gilbert & Sullivan) “plentiful as tabby cats”. In addition to Canon John, we also had Rev's Terry and Jenny on hand all of whom took various parts of the service. Our own Steve West also gave a good account of himself with his introduction to the service. Kudos to Steve too, who managed the sound setup with all its backing tracks and slides in the absence of our normal crew. Not a task for the faint-hearted but Steve aced it. 🎧.

Some congratulations and thanks are warranted in other departments. With our Property Manager Barbara on vacation, we owe a huge debt of thanks to all who have pitched in, in one capacity or another, to help prepare Mount Hope Cottage for new tenants moving in this coming week. An enormous number of tasks needed doing over the past couple of months. I hate to publish an incomplete list of names – please someone let me have others and I'll mention them in a future edition – but I do know of John Nichols, David Bedard, Keith DeSilva, Amy Cabrall, and, of course, Barbara & Brian Willis who all turned up and pitched in. All this volunteer effort realizes an enormous cost saving to St. Mark's and we are grateful to them all in helping to get this vital asset back in business.

While on the subject of gratitude we had an email this week from Al Spearing who wrote:

“I have this morning deposited \$4,907.00 which includes, Jam sales, and a generous donation from a family of \$2,500.00! who wish to remain anonymous.

Once again, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all that are supporting the fund, and keep supplying me with fruit, bottles, and lastly sugar! Best. Alfred”

There's a fine example of dedication to a project that Al conceived and has been engaged in for decades – building a Stained Glass Window Fund. We all are hugely indebted to Al for this and all the other ways he has been supportive of St. Mark's.

I've been running on a bit haven't I but I must, at least, congratulate our senior, senior citizen Sam Johansen whose birthday either just passed or is about to pass soon. We were all enjoying birthday cake this morning in honour of all March babies believing Sam to be 97 when he told us he is actually 98. What a fantastic achievement! All our prayers and good wishes go out to Sam for continued good health and many more years ahead. Happy Birthday Sam 🙌😊😞

And, one more time, we all extend our love and best wishes to Mums, Moms, Mummys, Mamans, Mamás, Madres and Mothers, not just today but every day of the year!

Back to normal worship times next week folks. Wishing all our readers a sunny and happy week – see you next week. 😊

Peter

Terry's Talk

Terry's Talk on Sunday was given extemporaneously but he has been kind enough to supply a short meditation appropriate to the occasion. Terry writes:

Mothering Sunday - March 30th, 2025

Text: Luke 2:33-35

Sermon Topic: Patiently Waiting

The Book of Luke takes us on a journey from Christmas to Easter, offering a rich narrative of Christ's life and

purpose. This morning's passage, when read in isolation, can be understood to a point, but to fully appreciate Simeon's blessing of Jesus, we must explore it within its broader context.

In verses 33-35, we hear Simeon's prophetic words, where he foresees the future destiny of Jesus and the profound impact He will have on the world. Simeon predicts that Jesus will cause many in Israel to fall, but others will rise. He will be a sign from God, yet many will oppose Him. But what is equally important is that Simeon, a religious leader in the temple—similar to Canon John, but much older—was promised by God that he would not die before witnessing the Messiah. We find this promise in verses 25-32, where we learn about Simeon's devotion and the divine assurance he received. Here, we see Simeon as a man who was "Patiently Waiting" for Jesus.

In verses 36-38, we meet Anna, a prophet and daughter of Penuel from the tribe of Asher. After seven years of marriage, her husband passed away, and she chose to live in the temple, dedicating herself fully to prayer and worship. At the age of 84, after many years of "Patiently Waiting," she too finally sees Jesus and shares the joy of His arrival with all those who were also "Patiently Waiting."

Simeon's message to Mary speaks of Jesus' redemptive work through the cross. Through His sacrifice, He paid the penalty for sin, satisfying the demands of divine justice, and reconciling humanity to God. Jesus triumphed over sin, death, and eternal darkness. It is through His resurrection that He secured redemption for all who believe in Him.

On this 4th Sunday of Lent, which is also Mothering Sunday, we too are called to "Patiently Wait" for Jesus' return. And as we wait, let us continue to share the love of Christ with all those we encounter. May our words and actions reflect the forgiving heart of Jesus, whose compassion for our sin-filled world knows no bounds.

Helen's Talk – Not this week

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.

This Sunday



Fr. Gav's talk will return next Sunday.

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

Next Sunday, 6th April - , There will be 8.00 am Peaceful Worship and our All Ages Service will return to the usual 9.30 am. There will be Junior Church and services will be led by Fr. Gavin.

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.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 6th April** in the Parish Hall;

- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 26th April**;
- **Bingo Night** – St. John's Guild invite you to their **Light Supper and Bingo** evening on **Saturday 26th April** in the Pembroke Sunday School Hall. Please see poster below for the relevant information.
- **St. Mark's Guild Anniversary** – St. Mark's Guild will be celebrating their **81st anniversary on Sunday, 27th April** with an **Evensong Service at 3.00 pm**. The Guest Speaker will be Mrs. Cecille Snaith-Simmons – Retired nurse, historian, writer and author of "The Bermuda Cook Book" first published in 1982.

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://anglican.bm/churches/st-marks/>
- **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!

