

Stay Connected – Sunday 27th April

Second Sunday of Easter

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: John 20.19–31

Peter's Blurb

After the frenzy of Holy Week, culminating in the splendour of Easter Sunday last week, it was back to a more relaxed, normal service today. We still had plenty attending and good cadre of youngsters but the beautiful floral decorations had been taken away to be gifted to those who would get benefit and enjoyment from having them instead of them fading away only to be discarded later. I hope the gesture was appreciated by those who received them 🙄

I erred in putting on long pants and sleeves this morning expecting a cool-ish start to the day. Boy! Was I surprised! It turned out to be a lovely early summer's day instead and I was glad to get home and change. With the Guild Anniversary and Evensong service this afternoon I shall be much more comfortable.

Gav's talk on today's theme of Cloning (see Fr. Gav's Talk below) proclaimed that just as Jesus at the last empowered his disciples with the Holy Spirit to continue his ministry into the world, we all likewise are all empowered by the Holy Spirit to do likewise.

I'll let Gav's words explain that better than I can. But he ended his talk with an overview of responses to the "Whither St. Marks" questionnaire recently circulated to members and the congregation at large.

The first question: "What kind of a Church are we called to be?" basically broke down into three main components:- "Relevant; Welcoming and Contemporary" underneath each of which were suggested subheadings for action.

1. What kind of a Church are we called to be?

Relevant

Inclusive and Community Focused

Welcoming

Everyone - esp. Young Families

Contemporary

Forward Thinking and Open to Change

Similarly, the second question: "What can we do as members to help achieve this?" followed the same format breaking down to "Fully Participate; Outreach and Stepping Up" which suggests ways in which every one of us has something to contribute to our future success as a church. Each of us has something to offer in pursuit of our future success.

2. What can we do as members to help achieve this?

Fully Participate

Use our **Gifts and Talents**

Outreach

Friends, Family, and The Community

Stepping Up

Leading and Helping

Question 3: asked “What kind of leadership now will help us get there?”. The responses, which will be a guide to the Wardens & Vestry as they embark on the selection process suggest “Contemporary & Innovative; Energetically Loving and Enabling Ministry and Mission” are the attributes and qualities they should be looking for in their searches.

3. What kind of leadership now will help us get there?

Contemporary and Innovative

Music, Technology, and Teaching

Energetically Loving

Welcoming, Inclusive, Passionate,

Caring, Empathetic, and Attentive

Enabling Ministry and Mission

Supporting and Equipping

Finally, the last question seeking “Thoughts or comments to help plan succession” identified “Continuation; Ministry & Mission and Values” as avenues to be pursued as we collectively plan the way ahead for St. Mark’s Church.

4. Thoughts or comments to help plan succession

Continuation

Progressive, Informal, and Contemporary

Ministry and Mission

Fun, Food, and Fellowship

Values

Diversity, Inclusion, Families,

Prayer, and Mutual Support

Taken as a whole these responses to the questionnaire set us some real aims and objectives to pursue as we move ahead into an exciting future building on all that we have achieved/accomplished during the past 5 years. The survey is still open to any who did not yet complete it. There are paper versions of the survey still in the church (if not, please ask and I will send you one) or you may complete the survey on on-line very easily by going to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TNBWDJ9>. Additional input will be welcome.

Finally, on this topic, do make a date to attend **St. Mark's Annual General Meeting** after our main service on **Sunday, 18th May** in the Parish Hall. Members will be familiar with this process whereby we receive reports on activities during the past year in each department; elect/re-elect Wardens and Vestry members for the coming church year and discuss church affairs generally. **All are welcome** to attend the meeting and participate in discussions but are just not able to vote unless a member. Anyone can become a member, however, and there are membership forms in the church or, if not, we can send you one. Or go to St. Mark's page on anglican.bm, click on "Forms" and complete a membership form there. Only members are eligible to serve on the Vestry.

In the afternoon the action shifted to the St. Mark's Guild Anniversary Service – their 81st can you believe? 🗓 – and what a lovely service it was. Fr. Gav led their traditional Evensong liturgy including some well-chosen hymns. The two highlights of the service were a passionate solo by Demara Maybury, no stranger to St. Marks, and the Guest Speaker for the day – Mrs. Cecille Snaith- Simmons – a well-known historian and writer. She gave us all an overview of the history of the building of St. Mark's Church and the founding of the Guild. Our steeple was the inspiration for other steeples around the island including St. Paul's AME in Hamilton and St. Paul's, Paget amongst others. It was a fascinating and interesting talk. Many will have read her occasional articles in the Royal Gazette which are always treasure-troves of memories of Bermuda in past eras. Cecille was introduced by Guild President Pansy and thanked by Member Leta who presented her with a gift basket.

The afternoon was not complete, however, as there was Afternoon Tea to follow in the Parish Hall. The whole event was very well attended – maybe as many as 100 – and folk from most of the other Anglican church guilds were present with us to share greetings and congratulations from their respective memberships. It was a grand occasion. Well done and congratulations to St. Mark's Guild on their 81st anniversary 🥳



Anyway, that's enough blurb for this week. Let me just wish all our readers a lovely week ahead and ask you to consider our future and ways in which YOU may be able to give of your time and talents as we transition into the future of our Church. 🥳

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

Peter

Fr. Gav's Talk

Fr. Gav's talk can be watched, listened to or read here:

<https://anglican.bm/what-is-our-new-work-in-christ/>

From the Distaff Side

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 and for Charles & Sue.

This Sunday



Fr. Gav's talk can be watched, listened to or read here:

<https://anglican.bm/what-is-our-new-work-in-christ/> 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, 4th May – There will be 8.00 am Peaceful Worship and our All-Ages Service will be held at the usual 9.30 am. There will be Junior Church and services will be led by Fr. Gavin.

- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 4th May** in the Parish Hall;
- **Annual General Meeting** – St. Mark's will be holding its Annual General Meeting on **Sunday, 18th May** following Family Worship. Agenda and Reports will be circulated to members in advance.
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 31st May**;

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.

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