

Stay Connected – Sunday 27th July

Sixth Sunday after Trinity

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Luke 11.1-13

Peter's Blurb

Hello everyone,

Talk about writer's block!! I am still totally overwhelmed by Sunday's activities. You will recall that it was Rev. Gav's final service at St. Mark's and what an occasion it was! The church was packed to near capacity with some 154 souls in attendance. Wow! That's an awesome tribute to Fr. Gav and to Helen and a great mark of respect for their 5 years of ministry at St. Mark's

In addition, we enjoyed a small ceremony of Thanksgiving for a Child which was dovetailed into the order of service. We welcomed Colette (Coco) Phoebe Bush – infant daughter of Carol (Carly) and Christian. Carly is a recent addition to our choir. Such a simple, but beautiful ceremony.

The whole service was a lively one – Gav had deliberately chosen some upbeat songs – we finished with Shine, Jesus, Shine and it doesn't get much more lively than that 😊 Because the service was destined to run a bit long Gav decided not to give a Talk – but he had plenty to say later on. A monetary gift, solicited from members and friends and gathered over the past few weeks, was presented to the family.

Following the service we enjoyed a Farewell Lunch – which was a tremendous success (except perhaps for a number of free-loaders who may have assumed it was open to all and that they were included despite not having RSVP'd) – but all were welcome! Catered for 80 I believe but fed more like 100 – 120 – and we weren't eating loaves and fishes 😊 But it all worked out just fine. Huge kudos to the Guild who organized it all – so glad they had the event catered so that they too could enjoy it to the full.

After lunch, the choir sang four of their favourite songs impromptu. Lisa Dawn, as Warden, tearfully described her experiences when she "found" St. Mark's and the joy she had received as a result. Fr. Gav, on behalf of himself, Helen & Keir gave moving thanks to all of St. Mark's for their welcoming, supportive and joyful acceptance of them and the work they had done over the past 5 years (+ months and days). I, too, gave my own thanks for the Tyte family's own welcome to me personally, treating me as a part of the family over many post-choir practice Thursdays – which ultimately expanded to an informal, ad hoc Supper Club that also embraced members from both churches, welcomed newcomers etc. There were also remarks from Pansy as Guild President, Nicki Horan as Warden and the whole occasion was very moving and filled with love. I dare say that there was not a dry eye in the room. (Apologies, if I've overlooked anyone – it was a very busy affair.)

And so here endeth the tenure of Rev. Gavin Tyte as Associate Priest at St. Mark's and Holy Trinity. It has truly been an adventure in so many ways. The liturgy has been modernised, except for the traditional 8.00 a.m. worship which has been varied according to the season of the Church year. Our sounds have altered dramatically – the choir has grown from 4 or 5 of us "originals" to well over a dozen. We mustered 17 in the choir yesterday! The choir is now equipped with a sound system and renders a blend of modern worship songs, sung to backing tracks created and recorded by Rev. Gav., with traditional hymns (sometimes pepped up) backed up with the full organ. Our services are now delivered to the congregation via screens with liturgy and songs presented on a series of slides all lovingly created by Gav.

In addition, on the distaff side under the leadership of Helen, the Lord's Larder has served many needy people over the years initially by re-purposing excess products from local shops and gradually segue-ing to pre-prepared, home cooked meals which Helen, and her volunteers would cook, package and freeze for needy families to collect or to receive.

Here are some random snaps of yesterday's affair: (Thanks Annie 😊)



And last, but by no means least, those of us who have gotten to know Helen's son, Keir, will miss his quick wit and dry sense of humour. We have enjoyed watching him grow from a young teenager and blossom into a fine young man. He has done well with his studies at



Warwick Academy and has developed a keen interest in Design Technology which will be his course of study when he goes to the University of the West of England (UWE) in Bristol this fall. (UWE Bristol) is generally ranked within the top 1000 universities globally and is also recognized for its strong international student community and has been noted for its high placement rates for graduates. Keir will be challenged and we wish him success as he pursues his studies towards an eventual career path and look forward to hearing news of his striving and thriving.



Please read Archdeacon John interesting recollections and tributes. Anyway, moving on. Also, there are a number of events coming up – do check them out. Please do read through and make note of those that are of interest or that you wish to be involved in.

So, apart from that, that's all I have for this week except to reiterate my thanks to our erstwhile first family for all they have done for me, in love, support and partnership. I miss you guys already 😊
Love, Peter

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



Archdeacon's Thanks

Among the words shared by many on Sunday at Gavin and Helen's farewell service, Archdeacon John adds:

Some people see God's hand at work in even the smallest turn of events. I sometimes do myself. But more often it's in the larger shifts that happen in our lives that we can particularly see God's providence.

So, when in March 2020 and I picked up the phone to Gav who was in England to say 'your work permit has come through, how soon can you get here?' and Gavin said that there was a flight tomorrow and they would be on it - I think that was very much part of God's plan.

Most of you will know the next part of the story, how that was the last flight into Bermuda for quite some time. The coronavirus pandemic was just beginning. Gav and Helen and Keir were holed up in the rectory here, in quarantine with just a few possessions, and then Bermuda moved into 'shelter-in-place' and none of us could venture out anywhere, with very few exceptions.

If I ask myself, 'who would I want to have as my closest colleague and a good friend during a pandemic?' the answer is Gav. In serving our churches through the various stages of Covid, we never flouted the ever-changing rules set by the Department of Health. Instead, we found all sorts of innovative ways to worship in the best ways possible, to keep people spiritually fed, to help people know they were pastorally cared for. Gavin led the way.

We didn't only record or live-stream talks and prayers so that people could worship online at home - Gav also arranged for seniors at home to record their own messages and blessings so that these could be relayed to everyone else.

In tandem with Holy Trinity, Gav and Helen brought St. Mark's into full participation in the daily meals program provided by the Lauren Hotel and funded by Butterfield Bank, delivering beautifully prepared lunches in huge numbers to isolated individuals and families. Then, when that program ended, they began the Lord's larder, continuing the distribution program with groceries and right up to the present, with delicious home-cooked meals.

So, when we emerged from Covid and other churches were wondering what to do next, Sunday worship at St. Marks was already much simplified and in full swing with traditional, contemplative worship at 8.00, and vibrant

music at the 9.30 service led enthusiastically by Angie and the Choir, with all ages in mind so that children and families could enjoy taking part.

I'm generally sceptical when people look back to a period of time and say 'that was a golden age'. But the last five-and-a-bit years have been very special. Here at St. Mark's and in the partnership with Holy Trinity, and the more recent association with St. George's, Gav and Helen have truly helped us all to see that God's kingdom is closer than we ever thought, and to know that His love is for each and every one of us.

So now that they have left, it'll be only the fish around the shores of Bermuda that will think 'yay Gav has gone, he won't be able to find us now!'

I sincerely believe that wherever they find themselves, wherever God puts them, Gav and Helen will still be fish finders - and by that I'm not thinking of the piscatorial creatures that live in the sea - I mean that they will be bringing folk like you and me, people of all sorts, into the kingdom of God.

John

Diocesan Corner

Message from Bishop Nick:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepared for the annual joys of the Cup Match holiday – we do so reflecting that the days of celebration mark Emancipation Day and Mary Prince day – a sober commemoration of the ending of the era of chattel slavery and the freedom of enslaved persons in our Island home. Recognizing that the progress towards racial justice has not been fully achieved, the Racial Justice Committee are requesting that the Charter, approved and adopted by the Synod of the Anglican Church, be read at some point during services in this period and that, as previously requested, a copy of the charter be placed in a position of prominence in our churches and/or offices to reflect our commitment towards living out the truth of our equality before God in creation and redemption with equity, justice and in reconciled relationship under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

In anticipation of the gathering of every nation, from all tribes, peoples and languages before the throne of God redeemed by Christ – we seek to manifest this sign of his Kingdom in our love and unity – willing to repent and change, to restore and repair, to celebrate and rejoice as a foretaste of that Kingdom – on earth as it is in heaven.

With every blessing for a happy Cup Match Holiday,

See: <https://anglican.bm/racial-justice-charter-2/>

+Nick

In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Father Don, Margaret Blanchette, Al Spearing, Gill Rossiter, Sam & Marjorie, Gwyneth & Ralph, Jill, Barbara (Dyer), Vinette, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Robert & Kalreeta and for Sally Brown and Hilda Warner. We also ask for special prayers for all members of the church family who are travelling over the next few weeks.

This 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, **3rd August** – There will be our usual 8.00 am Peaceful Worship followed by our Contemporary Worship at 9.30 am. Children will break out for Junior Church in the Parish Hall. Services will be led by Archdeacon John Stow.

Coming Events

- **Bible Studies in Luke – Marks of a Disciple** – a series of lunchtime Bible Studies will be held in the Cathedral on Thursdays at 12.15 p.m. For details contact the Diocesan Office. Dates on poster below.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd August** in the Parish Hall.
- **Take-Out Bar-b-que** – St. James' Church will be hosting a Take-Out Bar-b-que on **Saturday, 20th August 2025**, The in the Church Hall. **Save the date** - details to follow.
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 22nd August;**

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!



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

THE HOSPITALS AUXILIARY OF BERMUDA IS IN NEED OF ADULT VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN OUR PINK CAFÉ &/OR AT THE BARN.

THE AUXILIARY IS A REGISTERED CHARITY AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERING THEIR SERVICES SINCE 1953. WE OPERATE THREE BUSINESSES, THE PINK CAFÉ AND THE GIFT SHOP AT KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN PAGET AND THE BARN IN DEVONSHIRE. IN ADDITION TO VOLUNTEERS WORKING IN THESE AREAS, WE HAVE VOLUNTEERS AT THE INFORMATION DESKS IN THE ACUTE CARE AND GENERAL WING OF KEMH. WE ALSO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEAS VISITORS IN THE HOSPITAL. FUNDS RAISED THROUGH OUR BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND DONATIONS, ARE USED TO PURCHASE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THE HOSPITALS WHICH, IN TURN, BENEFITS THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE MADE UP OF VERY SPECIAL MEN AND WOMEN WHO GIVE THE MOST IMPORTANT GIFT OF ALL – THEIR PRECIOUS TIME.

IF YOU ARE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND WILLING TO VOLUNTEER ONE DAY A WEEK FOR 3 – 3 ½ HRS., PLEASE CONTACT NANCY OUGHTON, GENERAL MANAGER AT 239-1525 OR E-MAIL NANCY.OUGHTON@BHB.BM TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT UNDER THE CHARITIES ACT, ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK.



**The Anglican
Church of Bermuda**

**Bible Studies in Luke – Marks of a Disciple
Thursdays 12:15-1:00
In the Cathedral Hall**

24th July

Aug 7th

Aug. 14th

Aug. 21st

Aug. 28th

Luke 11:1-13

Praying