

THE ANCHOR

A Community Newsletter of
The Anglican Church of Bermuda

JUNE 2023

Holy Spirit, You are Welcome



Pentecost & 10th Anniversary of Bishop Nick Dill's Consecration

On Sunday, May 28, the churches in the Bermuda diocese gathered in the Botanical Gardens under the big top to celebrate Pentecost and give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Nicholas Dill.

Photos: Top, Marion Paul, one of the interpretive dancers from Christ Church's Spiritual Systas, getting ready to share her gift and, below, from left, Bishop Dill's mom, Bitten Dill, his sister Karin Johnson and Terrilyn Allison get in the spirit of the event.

More articles and photos about the occasion can be found inside.



Thy Kingdom Come 2023

Ascension to Pentecost



By **Nicholas Dill**

**Bishop of Bermuda/Dean
of the Anglican Cathedral
of the Most Holy Trinity**

Just prior to his return to the Father, Jesus gave his disciples a charge to continue his work and to be his disciples from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria to the utter ends of the earth – to make disciples of all nations. After Jesus’ ascension, his disciples were instructed to wait until the Holy Spirit came upon them, empowering them to fulfil this great calling. As they waited, they prayed. Each year we are invited to use this time to do the same – to pray for the work of evangelism and mission in our world today and to wait upon God for his empowering and equipping. In particular, we gather on the Day of Pentecost and invite the Holy Spirit to come and revive us again – to refill our emptying tanks, to renew our faith and to help us be better witnesses.



As part of the preparation this year, we embarked upon a “Cycle of Prayer,” bicycling from one end of the Island to the other, stopping and praying at each of our parish churches. It was a delight to arrive at the ferry terminal in Hamilton to embark on the journey, which was to start in Somerset, and to find that I would be starting on the pilgrimage with 11 others. The oldest was Keith Desilva, the youngest his grandson Dominic. Many of the participants were from





the Men’s Breakfast Bible Study group. Some were seasoned riders; others hadn’t been on a bike for years. It was a joy to ride together, to chat and to pray; but at each church there was an open door, someone to let us in and to highlight their needs as a church.

The warmth of their hospitality and their passion to see their churches flourish and grow was inspiring – the cut-up fruit, water, cookies and cakes, a full picnic lunch in St. George’s – and enabling. So, we went from St. James’ to St. Anne’s to St. Mary’s to St. Paul’s to St. Mark’s to St. Peter’s to Holy Trinity, Christ Church, St. John’s. At times, our numbers grew and along the way others stopped to rest. Walter Carlington joined us enroute on his electric scooter to encourage and keep us going. Sore saddles, knees and backs – but full and thankful hearts – it was a great day.

Our God rains!

On the Tuesday afternoon prior to Pentecost, I went to the airport to pick up some special guests for the rest of the week – Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon and his wife, Comfort. They arrived during torrential

rain, which continued to pour down its blessings upon us all week – 8.91 inches! We hoped that this was illustrative of God’s outpouring of his spirit upon Bermuda – as indeed he did. The bishop, originally from northern Nigeria, had been the secretary general to the Anglican Consultative Council. We met at the Lambeth Conference, where I casually mentioned a visit to Bermuda. He arrived from Texas, where he is now bishop-in-residence, to be our guest speaker for Pentecost, but also to encourage, motivate and help us to fulfil our mission whilst being connected to the worldwide fellowship of Anglicans.

The clergy and their spouses enjoyed an evening together with our visitors in fellowship and support and it was good to experience the generosity and hospitality of the worldwide communion.

Comfort, his wife, is currently the diocesan president of the Mother’s Union in the Diocese of Southwark in



Food for Mind, Soul and Body



“No One Left Untouched”

*Cont'd from Page 3 and
onto Page 5*

England, and formerly in Kaduna, Nigeria, where she also headed the Women's Guild and the Girls' Guild. She and her husband also set up a farm as a conference and retreat centre to bring Christian and Muslim young people together in an area known for struggles with Islamists.

At a luncheon at Willowbank, she addressed a group of over 30 of our guild members and clergy spouses on the work of the Mother's Union today, in bringing more than just fellowship and fundraising but in working with families, prisoners and any other disadvantaged groups of people in their societies. Bermuda had a long association with the Mother's Union, but it lapsed many years ago. We were reminded that the MU provides an opportunity to be resourced and connected not just in the local church but as part of a movement around the world that has had significant impact for the gospel and for individual lives.

On the Sunday morning, His Grace preached a stirring sermon to the Cathedral congregation. He drew extensively from John's account of Jesus' resurrection appearance in the upper room. He noted firstly that on that occasion there were disciples missing and asked us, as a congregation, what are we doing to seek and make room for the ones missing in our churches. He quoted Jesus who said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you," and challenged us to see ourselves through the lens of being those who are sent. At the same time, they were sent with the power of the Holy Spirit, which is still being poured out today. The challenge is to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and to go out, to ensure that the missing are found

and invited not just into church buildings but to Christ as part of his family.

The highlight of the week, however, came in the afternoon. The rain stopped falling and the sun struggled to come out as we all went to the Botanical Gardens to see what kind of life and growth the Holy Spirit would bring to us. Set in the middle of the ring was a massive tent – filled with 500 seats, a stage and instruments and speakers. Gradually, from 1:30 p.m. onwards, it began to fill. By 3 p.m., it was completely full of brothers and sisters from the Anglican Church and those joining us from other denominations.

The atmosphere was electric, the joy palpable as we were led by Deacon Wendell Dill, who introduced musicians, groups, duets, a massive diocesan choir and



band – all clad in red, oranges and yellows. We were enthralled by the ladies of Devonshire parish who danced their way onstage to an old gospel track; a youth choir; a holy duet of violin and cello; a stirring solo of Keith Green's song, "Rushing Wind," "One Voice" singing group of six women; the Somerset Brigade Band; mem-

bers of the Salvation Army band and, of course, the City Singers.

There was delicious food, Bibles handed out to those who wished them, prayers said and a mighty sermon delivered by the archbishop, reminding us of the need to be born again, not like dead wood but trees, living



Atmosphere Electric



with the Spirit of God within; to return to the basics of bible reading, prayer and service, and to continually be filled with God's spirit; each using the gifts that God has given.

What started at 3 p.m. as a service, ended with a wonderful time of prayer ministry, service, food, music, fellowship and laughter – and it felt like God was in the room – with his blessing, his love. Fiona and I finally left at 7 o'clock that evening. No one left untouched – and we were thrilled to be together, full of hope for our church, amazed at how **many** gifts we have in our midst. The archbishop left us with many challenges, but we were able to listen, knowing that having been around the world, having grown and multiplied ministry in his diocese and seen the young people arise in great numbers to follow Jesus, that his was a message delivered with humour and gentleness that needed to be heard and was earthed in experience.

When I was elected as bishop over 10 years ago, I wept; I was uncertain, a little scared, not really wanting what God and the church had that day requested. On the stage on Sunday, I was equally emotional and unable to control the tears, but it was on account of

the love, the support, the joy – still feeling unworthy – as I was surrounded by sisters and brothers who wanted to give voice to their faith in this dark and complicated world and whose brightness and whose service shone. The Day of Pentecost came and, by his grace, God's spirit moved in many hearts. The fruit of that day will only be seen over time, but over the long haul and with prayers and boldness we can grow in the strength that God provides. This was the best way to celebrate an anniversary.

The only thing to say now is thanks to the archbishop and his wife – but equally to those who pulled it off on our behalf – to Canon Jerry and his team: Lisa–Dawn Johnson, the Rev. Gav Tyte, the Rev. Jennie Foster Skelton, Elsa Barros and all the musicians and performers, those who helped to set up and take down, the technicians and caterers – to every person who came and joined in – and gave.

“Just as the Father sent me,” says Jesus, “so I send you.” ... “be filled with the spirit and go.”





Additional photos from Pentecost in the Park. It takes a community to create a celebration. And we did!



The Tools Handed to a Bishop

With the office of the bishop come various items that symbolize his episcopacy:

The Bible: given by the Archbishop of Canterbury – the ultimate gift of God to every believer – containing, as it says in the coronation service, the Wisdom and Gospel of God, the Royal Law and the lively oracles of God. A bishop is the guardian of the faith – once revealed in the words of Holy Scripture. Although the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby was not present at Bishop Nicholas Dill's consecration and installation, he gave our bishop a copy of The Bible, which the chief consecrator, Bishop Nicholas Baines, presented on that day. Bishop Dill preaches from it each week.

The Ring: represents the reminder of Christ as the bridegroom and the church as his bride. Traditionally, it is set with an amethyst. The word amethyst in the Greek language (*αμέθυστος*) means 'not drunk' - a reminder that on the Day of Pentecost, when the spirit came and the first disciples preached the word, they were not drunk, as some accused them of being, but were filled with the Holy Spirit. Bishop Dill's amethyst was given to him by his mother, who had herself been given it on a business trip to Brazil, and the gold for the ring came from his sister who donated a family heirloom, which was so ugly she would never have worn it. It was made in Bermuda and presented by a member of the Anglican Parish of Pembroke.

The Pectoral Cross: was given to Bishop Dill by a member of the church where he had been a curate. It is designed as if made by nails. The person who made it had been involved in youth ministry in the church. At one point Bishop Dill had to ask him to step down from that ministry due to a personal struggle, but they remained connected. He designed and made it by hand – knowing that the cross is a reminder of the service of Christ, and that Christ is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. It is worn close to the heart. The nails also remind us that we share in the sufferings of Christ.

The Staff/ Crozier/ Crook: is carried by the bishop as a reminder that he is to shepherd God's people under the Good Shepherd. Bishop Dill's staff was designed and made for him by his father and brother from Bermuda cedar. It was designed not only as a shepherd's crook – but also with a fish's tail – in that we are called to be shepherds and fishers of men.



Mother's Union

Comfort Idowu-Fearon Shared About Women's Union

By Michelle Haigh

During the recent visit of Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon and his wife, Comfort Idowu-Fearon, Comfort shared with our guild members and clergy wives about the Mother's Union and the role the union has played within the Anglican Church since its inception in 1876, in England, by Mary Sumner. Mary wanted to create an organisation for women that brought together rich and poor to build a network that would support mothers of all kinds as they brought up their children in Christian faith.

Vision

Our vision is a world where everyone prospers. We actively pursue this vision through prayer and action, helping to build confident people and resilient communities. Our movement seeks to bring about justice, challenge prejudice and advocate change.

Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by helping the sustainable transformation of communities worldwide. We do this by helping to nurture strong relationships at all levels, promoting peace and reconciliation locally, nationally and globally.

We Aim to:

encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children maintain a worldwide fellowship of

Christians united in prayer, worship and service; promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children; help those whose family life has met with adversity; promote and support married life.

A Global Movement

Present in 84 countries, our members are not all mothers, or even all women. They are single, married, parents, grandparents, or young adults just beginning to express their social conscience. Mothers' Union provides a network through which they can serve Christ in their own community. This is done through prayer, financial support and actively working at the grassroots level in programs that meet local needs.

The Bermuda Mother's Union

While Bermuda has had a Mother's Union historically, many factors contributed to it 'closing its doors' some years ago – but there is renewed hope that this can be revived in a meaningful way here in Bermuda, to meet the needs of our communities, given the challenges facing families in this modern world.

If you are keen to meet and chat about how this future may look or simply to connect, please reach out to Michelle Haigh on michelle.haigh@outlook.com. This is a commitment to make a meaningful impact on those around us.

May God bless this ministry to your heart for prayerful consideration and contemplation.



Brief Encounters at Pentecost

Confident in God

By Canon Jerry Smith

We used to sing a kids' song to which the chorus was: "Surprise, surprise, God is a surprise; right before your eyes, it's baffling to the wise.

"Surprise, surprise, God is a surprise; so, open up your eyes and see!"

As much as I believe this, I don't always anticipate being surprised.

Early afternoon on May 28 (the Feast of Pentecost), I made a quick trip to the Bermuda Botanical Gardens, where I knew the sound check was beginning for the afternoon event. I was nervous, as a lot of energy had been put into the event, the weather had been sketchy all week and it was equally unstable that morning. As much as we had been ambitious with advertising, I was extremely cautious as I anticipated the attendance that afternoon.

The event was to officially start at 3 p.m. I knew the musicians would be in the vicinity prepping and checking sound equipment, but I was amazed (surprised) at the size of the crowd already gathering.

Someone asked me the week following, if I was thrilled with the turnout (we had 500 chairs out and there were another 30-50 standing around). My response was that at 1:30 p.m., I was confident that God was going to pleasantly surprise us. My eyes were opened then. The large gathering at 3 p.m. was like icing on the cake.

Candidly, all the planning in the world will not guarantee the success of an event. The key was that tons of prayers surrounded our celebration in the park and only prayer opens the heavens so God can surprise us.

My personal thanks to the organizing team (you know who you are) for all the prayer and sacrifice of time and energy offered to lay the track for the locomotive of God's power to be made present with us. He did make himself known and we were all pleasantly surprised.

My Little Bit of Pentecost

By Elsa Barros, Executive Assistant to the Bishop

What a day; it turned out to be so much more than I expected. I'm not surprised anymore. I'm learning that when people pull together to celebrate and pray in Jesus's name, anything is possible. As Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon said, sometimes we get tired; we lose that fire in our belly; we start to lose faith and what we need is to get back to basics. I admit, I was overwhelmed, couldn't see it coming together but it did. As a team, I'll call it my Anglican team, we made it happen but not without God's grace and love. I'm so grateful for my Anglican team.

One very important observation that I'm sure others noticed and which fit in so appropriately with the archbishop's message about 'where is the 12th disciple,' was the sign

language translator/interpreter sitting a few feet away from me. Sometimes I forget how blessed I am to have my vision and my hearing when there are many out there who don't. Those who cannot hear deserve to hear the Word of God just as I do. Thank you to the sign language translator/interpreter for doing what you do. Translating the Word of God to the deaf is a true calling, and to see it happening right before my eyes made me have no doubt that the Holy Spirit was truly present.

Yes, maybe back to basics means to slow down or to start reading the Bible again or maybe it simply means learning how to communicate. Without communication, how will we find the 12th disciple?

Meeting My Cousin Connection

By Marjie Smith, Editor

The Pentecost in the Park event brought an unexpected blessing to me personally. It all started when my husband spoke favorably about Robert Steynor, the warden at St. James', who has worked with him during the weeks he alternates with the bishop in taking services or attending meetings during the absence of a priest.

I paused for a moment before saying, "Steynor? He wouldn't be related to my cousin Kim's husband, Stephen?" I knew her husband was from Bermuda – the west end – and I had met her mother-in-law some three decades ago, but I'd lost Kim's contact information over the years and had been trying to track her down to let her know about a death in the family.

Jerry wrote Robert and the connection was verified. Thanks to Robert, I was able to contact my cousin and catch up. We hope to meet sometime in Toronto, where they live, or in Bermuda.

What I wasn't expecting was to have a man approach me at Pentecost in the Park and introduce himself as the link to my cousin. He told me I looked like her - something my dad had always said. Guess we both gathered our features from the Whittington gene pool.

What a wonderful day it was in so many ways.



Spirit is There Once Let In

By Lisa-Dawn Johnston

On Thursday afternoon, I attended the luncheon in honour of Comfort Idowu-Fearon, and listened avidly as she shared the work of the Mother's Union and the Women's Guild.

Thinking of all that they do, made me sadly conclude that I am doing nothing to share God's message outside of the church. As consolation, I concluded that being new in my journey, perhaps it was best for me to focus on my own journey as I learn about and grow closer to God.

Next came Pentecost Sunday and Pentecost in the Park. From these, a new perspective – from a seed of an idea that was planted earlier that day – began to blossom and grow.

As I stood under the tent at Pentecost in the Park, and watched streams of people walking through the gates; As I smiled when they greeted each other with delight, and exclaimed, "How are you? I haven't seen you in ages;" As I dragged four chairs at a time from the north to the south of the tent, and thanked those who helped me; As I looked out over the sea of faces, like a nervous mother, hoping all was going well; As I watched the audience clap to the music, sing, dance, exclaim "Amen!" to the archbishop's nuggets of wisdom shared; my mind cast back to that morning, when the Rev. Gav sowed that seed in my mind.

He shared that once we invite the Holy Spirit in, we are bestowed with spiritual gifts to be used for God's purpose, both in the church and in the world. So, there I was, remembering the Holy Spirit and gifts, when the realization grew that my passion for planning and organizing, which led me to offer to help with Pentecost in the Park, was actually God using HIS gift, to allow others to minister, through song, music, dance, kindness, love and fellowship. It doesn't matter where we are in our journeys to know God, once we invite God in, the Holy Spirit is at work in us.

This day, I learned that, sometimes, ministering to others can be an indirect interaction or communication. Our gifts may be facilitators, where someone else uses our spiritual gift as a springboard to use their spiritual gifts. Pentecost

night, as I lay on the sofa, staring at the fading light on the ceiling, exhausted, but too wired and elated to sleep, I received a voice-note from a friend: I loved today! I wrote 15 pages of notes from the archdeacon's message, and I am going to read them NOW!

I smiled. The Holy Spirit was there at Pentecost in the Park, and inspired... breathed... into us all... in different ways.

My favourite moments:

When I thrust a basket for donations into one of my guild member's hands and walked away, she asked, "How did I get this?"

Later, when she came back with a basket full of bills, she said, "You know, walking with a collection basket is outside of my comfort zone, but I'm glad I did it! I saw people I have not seen in years!"

I said, "Well done! I'm glad you took the basket!" She looked at me with a twinkle in her eye, and said, "Took? You pushed it into my hand and let it go! It would have disrespected our God to let it fall!"

Watching Elsa Barros's family – niece, nephew and sister, show up in force to help us set out those 500 chairs. Then her sister went home and brought back a cleaning solution and towels to clean the seats!

Watching Bishop Nick and his family sing, "The Power of Your Love," while the SMC choir was on stage.



West End Ascension Day at St. Mary's Church



Diocesan Briefs

The Next Cycle of the Anchor

The focus of the next issue will once again be on the Cathedral parish. We will take a month off in August, and then start up again in September with St. George's, the cycle beginning, once more, from east to west.

We hope that next year we can focus on who we are as a people, celebrating both individuals and endeavours.

July's issue, as well as the focus on the Cathedral, will have a column by the Rev. Canon John Stow regarding the flower and music show. We hope that Canon Stow can throw a column our way on a regular basis.

Also in the July issue: a focus on the guild by Michelle Simmons and a new column by Fiona Dill on the hidden lives of clergy spouses. So, just because it's summer, it doesn't mean we've got nothing to say in our diocese.

Thank you, for your prayers

Canon Jerry and Marjie Smith would like to thank you for your prayers these past few weeks during the loss of Marjie's sister, Peggy Galbraith, April 26, at age 72, and of the canon's mother, Elaine Smith, unexpectedly, June 7, at age 94.

Farewell Lionel Herbert

Lionel Herbert has died in the UK at the age of 93. Lionel, a chartered surveyor, came to Bermuda in the 1970s to work in the government's estates department. He served on the Synod of the Anglican Church of Bermuda under Bishop Anselm Genders.

He and his Bermudian wife, Megan, worshipped regularly at the Cathedral and Megan was a member of the Guild of the Good Shepherd. They moved to the UK in the late 1970s. Lionel is survived by Megan, their son, Gregory, and stepdaughter, Colleen Clacken. A funeral mass was held at his parish church on May 31. May he rest in peace.

This Month We Visit:

This Old Church

The back – to – front church with its secret chamber



1622 – 1826

St. James the Greater Anglican Parish Church serves as a beacon for Christ due to its position near the cliffs at the west end of Sandys Parish. It is the community church and a marker for mariners looking for a sign to guide them safely to shore.

As a beacon for Christ, its gates and doors are open for all to come in to meditate, pray and praise God. Over the centuries, it has served the community for parish events and ecumenical services, bringing all the churches in the parish together for prayer and worship.

Crossing over the world's smallest drawbridge and arriving in the community of Somerset, one feels a sense of serenity and peace. Journeying up and over Scaur Hill and descending towards Ely's Harbour, you see in the distance the magnificent tower and steeple of the church, gleaming white, towering over all the other buildings in the area. Whether sailing along the water of the Atlantic Ocean on the West End, or from Daniel's Head or Wreck Hill on the South Shore, this is a landmark for all mariners.

Prior to the invasion of persons from overseas, the indigenous Tribe of Us Lot, later known as the Somerset Tribe, was a peace-loving group of people. We welcomed sailors, privateers and any others who were lured towards the land and reefs by our beacon firelights high on the hill overlooking the southern parts of our land. Some of these sailors had the misfortune to run aground and were shipwrecked; hence the name Wreck Hill.

Members of the tribe would dash out to these stricken vessels in their boats, helping themselves and lightening the load of the distressed vessels. The items "gifted" by these mariners would be landed either at Ely's Harbour (the big bay) or the inlet "round de corner," Harbour' Mouth, behind Wreck Hill.

The Bermuda Company's representatives in 1623 sought a site to erect a building to serve as the parish church for the members of the Sandys tribe. They really had a job on their hands. It was separated from the rest of the Bermuda isles by a narrow channel (spanned by Somerset Bridge) with the Atlantic Ocean on one side and the 'great body of water' (The Great Sound) on the other side. With hills and valleys to contend with, they decided on an area at the top of a medium size hill, overlooking the West End and the Atlantic Ocean.

The first church to be built, circa 1620s, was a wooden one. Like all other parish churches in Bermuda, the church originally faced east. There is little known of this first church, as the records available date back only to 1808. According to word of mouth, it was destroyed in the hurricane of 1780. The entrance to this church was from the public road in the 1620s (now known as the West Side Road).

*Note: The communion wine chalice has goldsmith's silver mark *1653 indented in the chalice and is still in use today.*

When the main portion of the present church was rebuilt, on the same site in the 1780s, it had a roof of

St. James the Greater

red cedar shingles. This was completed in 1789. St. James takes part of its beauty from its uniqueness as the only back-to-front Anglican church in Bermuda. The head of the church should be in the east, with the main door to the west. The altar and chancel should be at the east end of the church, the steeple and spire at the west.

The entrance is now from the main access, Somerset Road, instead of from the west coast or West Side Road. This was to secure the present approach from the main road leading to Mangrove Bay, which was built in the 1770s. The long, straight walkway through the churchyard (225 feet) gives either the intended bride or groom ample time to decide to change his or her mind and escape via either a walkway on their left or right before entering the church.

The land between the original churchyard burial ground and the main road, was purchased in 1844 from William Tankard (a prominent Black Somerset property owner). The new graveyard was consecrated in 1851. The grounds were laid out and planted. The imposing entrance gate was designed by Lieutenant Beamish of the Royal Engineers and was built in 1872.

St. James the Greater

The new church was consecrated and dedicated in the name of James the Greater by Bishop John Inglis in 1826.

The north and south aisles were added in 1836. In 1879, the west end of the church was enlarged to accommodate the present sanctuary, chancel and spire – they were completed in 1880, when Bishop Jones consecrated them. Dr. Henry J. Henson was the designer.

This spire was a taller one, “replacing one of more humble pretensions.”

The gallery (balcony) built to accommodate slaves and free Blacks, was enlarged and extended into the aisles in 1839. In 1844, the center gallery was enlarged with the present staircases and a bow front was added with cedar posts.

The work also included the strengthening of the base of the belfry. The money for this was donated by Robert Alexander Tucker in memory of his father Daniel Robert Tucker. Thomas Fowle Tucker of Camden, Paget, gave the pulpit and font (see image on right) to the church. The font was moved from its former position in the middle of the aisle to its present position in 1945.

The altar was donated by Thomas S. Reid of Pembroke; the lectern by William C. Jones; the altar rails by John I. Burrows.

The stained glass windows in the Chancel behind the altar show Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper, Jesus with a herd of sheep and Jesus at his baptism.

Cont'd on Page 14



History provided by Geoffrey Butler-Durrant (above) and Lydia Perinchief.



This Old Church cont'd

The other windows on the western wall show the baby Jesus with the Wisemen presenting their gifts. The window on the south side shows the Christ child being presented to Simeon in the temple.

Part of the new church included a masonry vault under the entrance and spire, as mentioned in the February 1803 minutes of the parish vestry. The minutes disallowed the future interment of strangers in the vault and imposed the sum of £5 for each corpse already there. The vault went into disuse but was rediscovered when restoration work happened in July 2001, while the Ven. Dr. Arnold Hollis was rector.

The vault was made of Bermuda stone, eight feet square with a central height of six feet. There is a trapdoor in the floor near the entrance of the church and this leads down to the vault. The skeletal remains



were reinterred in the graveyard following this discovery. If the religion of a "newcomer" was not known, they

could not be buried in the churchyard – hence the vault or area for interment of strangers.

Our back-to-front church has the strangers' crypt as further evidence of its unique heritage in the firmament of Bermuda's parish churches of the Anglican faith.

The first organ in the church was specially constructed for St. James'. These specifications were drawn up by a convict, who was then serving sentence on Boaz Island hulks. As an aside, the convicts were allowed to bathe once a week in the bathing building situated in the inlet near Woody's.

The organ was placed in the center of the gallery in 1845 and was moved in 1862 to its present site. In 1902, a new organ was installed, having been purchased at a cost of £450.00 (sterling). In the Bermuda Packet Almanac of 1909, it was described as being "ingeniously adapted to suit the gallery in which it

was first placed." Fifty years after being installed, it was regarded as one of the finest organs in the colony, having "well withstood the use and the climate, as still to be in comparatively fair order."



The year 1891 was rung in by the "new bell." On that day the 955-pound bell rang out in its B-flat tone. It was replacing a bell of historic significance. There are two bells in the belfry – the Great Bell, which can be heard over most of Somerset, and the Toll Bell, which is rung during or before a funeral. The old bell, cast in 1806, weighed 250 pounds. It first belonged to a battleship which later became a convict hulk. Then it was used in the convict establishment in Boaz Island.

This bell was later donated to the parishioners of the Grace Methodist Church, North Shore, Pembroke.

Inter-church relationships are extremely strong, with ministers and congregations sharing ecumenical services and activities. As an "inclusive worshipping community," we welcome all to the Lord's House to share our worship experiences. As each has received a gift, we need to use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace in order that, in everything, God is glorified through Jesus Christ.

In 1924, the parish of Southampton was separated from Sandys. From then on, the rector, the Rev. Albert V. Sullivan, had the oversight of the one parish and one church - St. James.

On August 21, 1937, the church was struck by lightning. All the windows and doors were blown out. A large section of the roof was smashed in and much of the ornamental plasterwork was destroyed. The spire was found in the centre aisle where it had fallen, perpendicular.

However, the chancel was unharmed. The church was restored, and the present spire was designed by the late Wilfred R. Onions. It is a marked feature of the beauty of St. James'. The work was completed in November of 1938 and is surmounted by a cross, 95 feet from the ground.

THE FEAST DAY OF ST. JAMES

THE GREATER (JULY 25)

Most saints have designated feast days that are associated with a specific day of the year. The feast days first arose from the early Christian custom of annually commemorating martyrs on the dates of their deaths while celebrating their birth in heaven.

Who or what is a patron saint, and of what is St. James the Greater the patron saint?

A patron saint is a defender of a specific group of people or a nation. There's a patron saint for every cause, profession or special interest. Prayers are considered more likely to be answered by asking a patron saint for intercession on their behalf. Patron saints are not just specific to Roman Catholicism but are also particular to Eastern Orthodoxy, Anglicanism and some branches of Islam. St. James the Greater is the patron saint of pilgrims and the country of Spain.

The Story of St. James the Greater

St. James the Greater was one of the disciples of Jesus and was prominent among the 12 apostles. He was the son of Zebedee and was known as the Greater as he was taller than the other apostle named James. James the Greater is considered a cousin of Jesus, by the sister of the Virgin Mary, and the brother



Martyrdom of St. James by Francisco di Zurbaran, 1639

er of St. Jude Thaddeus.

He worked as a fisherman with his brother, John, his father, Zebedee, and his partner, Simon. John and James were followers of John the Baptist and then Jesus. James and his brother John left their lives as fishermen when Jesus called them to be fishers of men. They followed Jesus as disciples until Jesus was crucified.

James the Greater was chosen by Jesus to be one of the 12 apostles and was given the mission to spread the Gospel.

He made a pilgrimage to the Iberian Peninsula to spread the word of Jesus, and when he returned to Judea, he was beheaded by King Herod Agrippa I, in the year 44 AD. This is detailed in the Bible, in Acts 12 of the New Testament.

“King Herod extended his hands to harm certain ones from the church. ² He killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ Seeing that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to arrest Peter also” (Acts 12, Modern English Version).

The remains, or relics, of St. James the Greater, were then transported by his followers to the Iberian Peninsula (today's Galicia in Spain) and are said to be buried in Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, which is why St. James the Greater is the patron saint of Spain. A legend surrounding how James was transported back to the Iberian Peninsula goes as such: His body and his followers sailed to the Iberian Peninsula on a rudderless ship with no sail. Landing on the peninsula's northwest coast, they proceeded up the River Ulla to land at Iria Flavia, modern-day Padron.



St. James by Albrecht Durer, 1516

St. James' Ministry Over Time

Our Mission

To spread the good news of God's saving grace and the ministry of his church throughout the community. To present Jesus Christ to the people in such a way, that they are led to believe in and follow the fellowship of our church. To provide the spiritual direction and the resources of the sacraments to empower all members of our church to move from membership to discipleship and from maintenance to mission.

Thank You

Geoffrey Butler-Durrant, historiographer, would like to thank all those who assisted in any way with this article on St. James the Greater. Your time and effort were most appreciated – especially that of Lydia Perinchief.

Come Join Us

Sunday church services are held at 9:15 a.m. (since we share the same minister with St. Anne's) and we observe all other church festivals and special events in the community.

At St. James the Greater, you will find open hearts, open minds and open doors. We believe that as people of God, we can all share in God's love, a love that is inclusive, ever abundant and meant to be expressed through our actions in the world. May our assembly be blessed. Let us praise God together, with one mind and one heart as we welcome all as members of our family.

The ministry of the parish church to the community is carried out through its many organizations.

The church had two Sunday schools early on. The Sunday school for the Coloured children was under the care SPCK 1865 – 1963. The Sunday school building used by the Coloured children was also used as a day school for the children in the parish until 1962.

The Sunday school for the White children ran from 1895 – 1963. When the new church hall was completed in 1963, they combined as one. Meetings are being planned to encourage children to attend the Sunday school and youth club.

The St. James Choral Class and Communicants Guild (formed 1919) has as part of its objectives, the care and visitation to sick and shut-in members in the community. The guild celebrates its anniversary on the Sunday nearest to St. James Day, July 25.

- The New Years visitation by the guild to seniors at parish senior homes (not done since the pandemic).
- The guild choir sang during Even-

ing Prayer services until the choirs were integrated in 1964 by the Rev. Jack Peel. The White members of the church choir previously sang during the morning services.

The Women's Fellowship Group (formerly the Mother's Union) is currently inactive.

The St. James Men's Fellowship Group (formed under the rectorship of the Rev. Jack Peel in the 1960s) had meetings and social gatherings.

The St. James Choral (formed in the early 2000s) under the rectorship of the Ven. Arnold T. Hollis, has sung at various churches and concerts over the years.

The Young at Heart Seniors Group, formed in the 1960s under the Rev. Francis Howard, interacts with the seniors in the community through its monthly meetings and activities.

The St. James Stage Group (formed in 1968 while the Rev. Francis Howard was rector) is made up of members from across the island. The group has performed throughout Bermuda, assisting churches and organizations with their fundraising events.

The events listed below started under the leadership of the Ven. Dr. Arnold T. Hollis.

- The church men's and women's groups organize the annual B.B.Q, held in July.
- The care and visitation team check on and, if possible, visit those who are shut-in.

The Christmas Cheer Choir visits the homes of shut-in members just before Christmas and delivers a package of

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thoughtful gifts. However, with the pandemic and its after-effects, it has not been done since 2020.

The Meals Delivery Group – meals were delivered during the shut-in period to over 170 homes in Sandys and Southampton parishes. (The meals were provided by the Loren Hotel and funds provided by the Bank of N.T. Butterfield).

The Activities Committee is responsible for fundraising for the church through lunches and social functions: the parish luncheon in June, the Thanksgiving supper in November and the pre-Christmas fair in December.

The Church Choir and altar guild assist with all parish fundraisers.

The War Memorial was built in 1924 in the east of the churchyard near the main road, to commemorate the men of the parish who died during World War I. Their names are en-

graved on the memorial. Also, the names of the men and women who gave their lives during World War II were added. Remembrance Sunday services are held at the memorial on the Sunday nearest Nov. 11.

Remembrance Sunday services: There are representatives from Government House, the Royal Bermuda Regiment, H.M. Bermuda Customs, Bermuda Police Service, fire and rescue services, Bermuda Post Office, corrections department, Girl Guides and Brownies, The Somerset Brigade Band and Women's Auxiliary and other civic organizations of the parish, including the area members of parliament. All participate and lay wreaths. Sister Lucretia Brangman was the banner bearer for the I.O.D.E. for many years.

The church is also the center for cultural events held in the parish, including concerts, sacred or secular.

Audley Quallo, Church Organist

Audley Quallo is the current clerk of the Bermuda Court of Appeal. He read law at the University of Buckingham, where he obtained his law degree. He would later go on and obtain his master of laws in legal practice with De Montfort University. Audley examined the constitutional establishment of the Bermuda judiciary under a colonially inspired constitution. He intends to go on to further his study by correspondence, for a master's degree in business administration.



Audley was taught piano by Elizabeth Issac at age 5. He was later trained on the pipe organ, at age 17, by William Duncan. Before his organ training, he attended Northwest School of the Arts, Charlotte, NC, U.S., where he studied classical music and music theory.

He trained in the institution's men's ensemble and chamber choir under Dr. William Washington (deceased). He has served as minister of music at CedarGrove Presbyterian Church, Concord, NC, U.S. (2002-2004), as organist at St. Paul AME Church under the direction of then-director of music, Cecil Smith; director of music for Heard Chapel AME Church (2007-2017); St. John AME Church (2017-Present) and organist and director of music for St James' Anglican Church.

Professionally, Audley desires to be a judge of the Court of Appeal for Bermuda. Musically, he wishes to take the St. James' Church music ministry to the next level, and is big on the importance of succession planning and passing on our gifts to those who come behind us.

He loves to travel, cook and play golf. He is married to Jasmine Suffren of St Lucia.

Next month, we will carry a bio on Geoffrey Butler-Durrant, as we ran out of space in this issue. Geoffrey has put an exceptional amount of work into producing information on St. James' Church.

Sally Perinchief, O.B.E.

Myrtle “Sally” Perinchief has been a member of the St. James’ Church family since she was baptized there in 1934 by the then Canon Arthur V. Sullivan. It was not long before she started attending Sunday school until she was a young adult.



Sally was also confirmed and married at St. James’. She has been a member of the altar guild for over 50 years, and is responsible for arranging the flowers at St. James’ Church on a regular basis. She takes great pride in organizing a team of assistants, especially at Christmas and Easter, in order to ensure that the church is radiant in all its splendour. She also decorated St. Michael’s Chapel for over 15 years after taking over from Audrey Todd.

Sally is indeed an individual on whom you can count. She always rolls up her sleeves to help with any church project. She assists with the annual bar-b-que, luncheons, dinners, bingo suppers, the Christmas Fair and any other church function. She was one of the main persons to make posies for the mothers on Mother’s Day at St. Michael’s and St. James’.

At Christmas, she can be seen driving around in the “green hornet”, delivering food to those in need on behalf of the church. She could always be seen wearing her old-fashioned attire at the Easter Monday night concerts as she escorted people to their seats.

Sally is also the vice president of the Young at Heart group, which was formed by the Rev. Francis Howard.

Sally thanks God for giving her the strength to persevere. God has truly blessed her, as she will be 90 years old this year! Her favourite bible verses are from Psalm 121.

Mr. Reginald Tucker, Audio Technician

As a young boy, Reggie attended St. James’ Sunday school. He was confirmed, and like most teens, left the church to pursue other things. His pursuit was sports.

As a young adult, Reggie was approached by Glen Bascome to join a bible study group to study and learn more about the Lord. It was during this period that Reggie rededicated his life to the Lord. As Reggie studied, he started to hear God for himself and through others.

It was during this time God spoke to Jennifer Manders and Lynn Ball who offered Reggie an invitation back to St. James’ Church to assist with the youth program. Who knew that this invite was the beginning of Reggie’s years/decades of service to God?

Reggie gives thanks to the Rev. Hollis for allowing him to serve in the following roles: Sunday school teacher, youth group leader, member of vestry, warden, assisting with bible study classes when asked, bringing the message on several Sundays when asked, assisting with the choir,

Men’s Fellowship member, assisting with the Church Fair and continuing to serve as the church audio technician.

Now and then you may find Reggie and Mrs. Helen Daley blessing the congregation with one of his saxophone musical selections. One can say that whenever Reggie was asked to assist, you knew he would always “show up to serve” and do this to the best of his ability.



Reggie trusts that as he continues this journey called “Life”, he will continue to live his life as an example, serving and pleasing God.

David Dill, Sexton, Verger

David M.A. Dill is the sexton and verger at the parish church of St. James the Greater. He is also the



manager of the church hall and of the graveyard, since May 19, 1992.

As the church presently does not have a dedicated minister, he reports to the church wardens. David himself was also a warden of the church.

As sexton, David is responsible for preparing the church for all ser-

vices, ensuring that all the church vestments are cleaned and ready for the minister and all is in readiness for that particular church service. He is responsible for ensuring that the stock of communion wines, wafers and candles is sufficient. All the brass and other items are polished. He inspects the churchyard grounds and other property at the church hall to ensure everything is tidy and in place.

David's essential duty as the scribe for the church records is to record and maintain all the infor-

mation for all services held in the church or graveside for the presiding minister to sign.

David has extensive knowledge of the graveyard; he can inform you without checking the records. In his years of managing the graveyard, he has dug new graves, restored the ones returned to the care of the church and painted all 820 tombs in the churchyard for many years. He is responsible for recording all information in the files on funeral services conducted by a minister of St. James'.

David carries out his duty with great dignity and assures families that the service for their loved ones is of the highest degree.

As the manager for the church hall, it is David's responsibility to receive all pertinent information for the hiring of the hall, cleaning the hall and grounds, setting up chairs and tables as requested and opening and securing the building. He ensures that supplies for the church office and hall are fully stocked.

He has the responsibility (with an assistant) to count all collections and record and bank the same. David readily assists anyone requiring information about the church and its property. He is a dedicated and vital member of the church's

Frances Spring, Lay Reader

As a child, Frances Spring attended St. James' Church Sunday school until she was 18 years old. She taught at St. James' Sunday school for 23 years. After she retired from Sunday school, she was asked to lead an adult Sunday school, which began at 9:20 a.m., and went until they heard the church bell ring for the 10:30 a.m. service.

In 1996, Frances was installed as a eucharistic minister, and on Sunday, May 29, 2016, she received her license as a eucharistic minister from Bishop Nicholas Dill. Her duties as a eucharistic minister, took her from Boaz Island, through Southampton, St. Anne's Road, Lighthouse Hill and Paget, administering Holy Communion to sick members of St. James' the Greater.

On November 28, 2021, Frances received her certificate in Christian theology and ministry from St. Mellitus College, affiliated with the Anglican Church of Bermuda. She was also licensed as a

lay reader by Bishop Nicholas Dill.

Frances is a reader, chalice bearer, preacher and gospeller. She is also a retired member of St. James' Church vestry and a member of St. James' choral class and communicants guild.

Frances thanks God for his many, many blessings and his gracious love and compassion. She also thanks him and praises him for what he has allowed her to do in his vineyard. She will continue to work for him as one of his servants in his Church.





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St. James Parish has two chapels – St. Michael’s and All Angels, at Somerset Bridge/Hog Bay Level, and All Saints, at Ireland Island. Both are at present leased to other churches.

St. Michael’s and All Angels Chapel, Somerset Bridge, is leased to the Healing Centre Church. It is situated on the grounds of the parish rectory. It was built in the late 1920s and was dedicated by Bermuda’s first bishop, the Rt. Rev. Heber Browne on March 17, 1930.

This chapel was built to accommodate the members of the parish who lived in the White Hill, Hog Bay Level, Somerset Bridge area. The chapel had 11 a.m. Sunday School; 12 noon Holy Communion and 4 p.m. Evensong.

The chapel had its own guild until 1962, when its members joined the St. James choral class and communicants guild. Services continued until 2018 and closed due to declining attendance because of an aging congregation and sickness. The remaining members joined the parish church. It has a seating capacity of 120 persons.

The All Saints Church, Ireland Island, is now leased to Breath of Life Ministries.

The number of parishioners living in the most western part of Bermuda had increased during the 1960s to such an extent that it was necessary to have a church in this part of the parish. Located on Ireland Island, Sandys Parish, the old Methodist Church was leased through the co-operation of the West End Development Corporation and St. James Church. The church has a seating capacity of 100.

The church was badly damaged during hurricane Emily in 1987. Persons residing in Ireland Island relocated and, as a result, the church was then leased to the Touch Through Me Ministries from 1990 until 2020, and later to Breath of Life Ministries from 2022 to present.



Notice regarding The Anchor

The Anchor is a monthly publication. It comes out in the second week of the month, with submissions due the first day of the month in order to provide time to edit, design and print.

For further information, e-mail Marjie, editor, at ms.scribbler@gmail.com, text (441)-525-4733, or contact via WhatsApp.