

Stay Connected – Sunday 24th August

Tenth Sunday after Trinity

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Luke 13.10-17

Peter's Blurb

Hello everyone,

Well, it could have been so much worse!! Erin passed Bermuda as a large Category 2 hurricane, with its closest point to the island at 7pm Thursday when it was about 372 miles northwest. Less than 1,000 homes lost their power, most are already restored. Damage reports are not in – there surely must be some but tomorrow's RG will tell us all about it but it seems like it won't be too much.

Next storm up is TS Fernand which is currently ESE of us and tracking NE. Doesn't look serious just now apart from maybe some small wind and rain effects. We remain ever watchful at this time of year though. There is another disturbance to the S of Fernand, so far unnamed, and we wait for the tracking pattern to become apparent. Fingers crossed!



A better turnout today, with more children, seems that vacations are winding down and we will soon be back to normal. A great joy and delight to have Carys' daughters Sian and Ffion, and 3 grands with us to day. So many memories there 🥰

One of our Wardens – Lisa-Dawn celebrated her birthday yesterday and she was suitably serenaded – twice actually, once in church, once in the Hall. The main difference being that the latter came with cake. Mmm! Good! That went down really well 😊

And talking of joy and delight we were blessed to have Fr. Terry leading our main service today. He came to choir practice on Thursday evening to learn the sung Thanksgiving music and carried that off well. And he gave us a fine, powerful Talk (see below). He brought his own support team with wife Nicole and (I think) an aunt and uncle. I think Terry told me the gentleman was his grandfather's brother (?) which would make him Terry's great uncle? 🤔 Anyway, it was lovely to have them all with us today.

Now, next Sunday, we will be having just one service and it will be at Blue Hole Hill Park so swimsuits (if so inclined) and sunscreen will likely be the order of the day. It is suggested that we bring a seat or blanket to sit on so let's all be boy scouts and "Be Prepared!" We will be joined by congregations from all the East End Anglican Churches. Sounds like a good day!

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

Now for some exciting news:

SAVE THE DATE:

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**Bishop Nick invites everyone to the
Installation Service of Archdeacon John Stow & Calvert Prentis
Wednesday, 3rd September 2025 7:00 pm-9:00 pm
At the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity.**

**Announcement of the appointment of the Revd. Calvert Prentis as the next Canon
Residentiary and Sub-Dean of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity.**

It is with great pleasure that I announce the appointment of the Revd. Calvert Prentis as the next Sub Dean and Canon Residentiary of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity. Revd.



Calvert has worked across six dioceses in the Church of England in a variety of cultural and social situations. Initially from Leeds, he is married to the Revd. Dr. Sharon Prentis, who will be joining him in Bermuda. They were members of the same youth group which met in the basement of their local church many years ago and have shared in ministry ever since then. They have one adult daughter, Maya, who will be visiting often.



Having started his ministry as a Youth worker, Calvert is passionate about making disciples of all ages. Having worked in a number of cities in both prosperous and deprived areas he has a history of outreach into communities seeking to build bridges among those living there, whilst addressing the real-lived issues presented. In that regard he and his wife have been involved in racial reconciliation work throughout their ministry. Evangelism and church growth have been another hall mark of his ministry, and he has experience in church planting initiatives. Calvert's greatest passion, however, is in helping develop and encourage discernment of God's working in the life of individual disciples and discerning and supporting their call to ministry. In that regard he has played senior Diocesan roles as the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, most recently in Birmingham— which has resulted in working across dioceses from small parish churches to Cathedrals to encourage people in their gifts and enable them to minister.

Building on the foundations and hard work of previous Canons, Calvert wants to hit the ground running and to get to know the members of the Cathedral and those living and working in the City of Hamilton. He plans to enable us to draw up a Mission Action Plan – and his first acts, he says are to 'Look, Listen, Learn, Love and Lead'. He has visited Bermuda twice and is excited to understand our unique Bermudian culture and how the gospel can influence the next generation of disciples and leaders within the Church. In his own words: I am very honoured to be the next Canon Residentiary (Sub Dean) working with Bishop Nick, the Vestry, and everyone in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity and the Diocese of Bermuda.

Subject to obtaining the necessary permissions, Calvert and Sharon are due to arrive in Bermuda during the summer. It is hoped that Sharon will be enabled to use her gifts and skills in theological reflection and education and racial justice here even as she may continue in assisting the Church of England in those roles.

Please join me in praying for them in their transition and praying for the growth of the gospel in Bermuda through their ministry.

Fr. Terry's Talk

Weekly Reflection: He Sees Us — Even When Others Don't

Luke 13:10-17

In this week's Gospel, we're invited into a quiet but powerful moment—Jesus teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath. At first glance, it may seem like a simple story. But look closer, and you'll find a message packed with deep truth for the times we're living in. It's a story of a woman who had been bent over for 18 years—physically twisted, spiritually weighed down. It's a story of a Savior who doesn't wait for permission to set her free. It's a story of freedom, disruption, and the clash between human rules and divine grace.

Scripture doesn't even give this woman a name. She'd been crippled for nearly two decades, burdened by

something beyond her control. Eighteen years of pain. Eighteen years of shame. Eighteen years of being passed by and possibly judged. And still—she came. Not to be healed. Not expecting a miracle. But simply to be faithful.

Then Jesus sees her. He stops, calls her forward, and says: “Woman, you are set free from your sickness.” And just like that—she straightens up. Body, spirit, and soul. And the first face she sees is the face of Jesus. That’s who our God is: A God who sees us when no one else does. Who interrupts everything to restore what’s broken. Who doesn’t wait for the “right moment” to love.

But, instead of celebration, the synagogue leader criticizes. Not because the healing happened—but because it happened on the Sabbath. Legalism had blinded him. He valued order over people, tradition over transformation. And if we’re honest, we can do the same. When grace disrupts our schedule...When inclusion challenges our comfort...When God moves outside our expectations... Do we sometimes protect our systems more than we care for people? Jesus doesn’t stand for that. He calls them out: “You untie your animals on the Sabbath. Shouldn’t this woman, a daughter of Abraham, be set free too?”

What Can We Learn?

1. God Sees the Bent-Over Ones

In our churches, homes, workplaces—those burdened by shame, grief, trauma, addiction, burnout. Jesus sees them. And so must we.

2. Freedom Doesn’t Wait

Jesus doesn’t wait for the “right time.” Love acts now. If someone is hurting, don’t delay. Call. Visit. Pray. Show up—today.

3. Confront Systems that Prioritize Rules Over Restoration

Jesus didn’t just heal the woman—He challenged the system that kept her bound. Let’s do the same. Speak up. Stand with the hurting. Choose compassion over comfort.

She came in bent over. She left standing tall. She came in invisible. She left rejoicing. Because she met a Saviour who saw her, healed her, and gave her dignity back. And He’s still doing that today. If you feel bent low by life, forgotten, or weighed down—hear this: You are not disqualified. You are not invisible. You are not forgotten. You are a child of God. And Jesus wants you to walk in freedom.

This week, look for the “bent-over” people around you. Encourage them. Listen to them. Extend grace to them. Let’s be a church that doesn’t just help people rest—but helps them rise.

Amen

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 and/or our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

Next Sunday

Next Sunday, **31st August** – There will be **NO SERVICES** at St. Mark’s. You will find us at Blue Hole Hill Park (opp. Rubis station at W. end of the Causeway) at 10.00 a.m. where will worship with the East End Anglican Churches. Bring a blanket or a chair and,

optionally, a swimsuit. All are welcome.

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. **Last date: 28th August.**
- **Car Boot Sale – St. Anne's Church** and the Southampton Rangers Club are hosting a Car Boot Sale at the Southampton Rangers Club field on **Saturday, 30th August.** Set-up time is 8:45am and the event runs through to 1pm. \$20 per car.
- **East End Churches** – will be holding their quarterly joint service on **Sunday, 31st August at Blue Hole Hill Park at 10.00 a.m.** Bring blanket or chair. Swimsuits optional.
- **Installation Service of Archdeacon John Stow & Calvert Prentis** – We are all invited to this significant event on **Wednesday, 3rd of September at 7.00 p.m.** at the Cathedral. See details inside newsletter.
- **Back to School Breakfast** – Pansy will be hosting this annual event on **Sunday, 7th September** in place of the post-service refreshments. All children welcome and bring your parents too.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 7th September** in the Parish Hall.
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be held on **Saturday, 20th September;**
- **Take-Out Bar-b-que** – St. James' Church will be hosting a Take-Out Bar-b-que on **Saturday, 20th September 2025,** The in the Church Hall. **Save the date** - details to follow.

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!