

## Stay Connected – Sunday 16th November

Second Sunday before Advent

### This Week's Reading

**Bible Reading: Luke 21. 5-19**

### Peter's Blurb

Well, it was a different type of service today. Firstly Rev. Terry Hassell was taking both our services. That in itself was not unusual as he has assisted us many times during the *interregnum*.

What was different today was that Rev. Terry is now an applicant for the vacancy and these two services were undertaken, perhaps unbeknownst to some of us, as a part of the interview process which is an on-going matter for St. Mark's. As Archdeacon John, in his update last week advised us:

*"...As all except those who have most recently joined St Mark's will know, Terry served for many years as Pastor in the AME Church. Some five years ago he was drawn to join the Anglican Church, and with his wife Nicole he became a member at Holy Trinity.*

*Terry then undertook a process of discernment and training with the Anglican Theological Institute of Bermuda, which led to his entering Anglican Holy Orders as Deacon in 2023 and Priest in 2024.... "*

So, before even applying for the vacant incumbency at St. Mark's Rev. Terry, as priests do, has gone through a process known as discernment – in this case **Spiritual discernment**: This involves a process of prayer and reflection to understand one's "will versus God's will" or to make decisions in a spiritual context. It is a profound time in any priest's life.

Today was our opportunity for discernment as to the qualities, attributes, personality etc. of Rev. Terry, and to consider his suitability as an applicant for the vacancy. This so that we, in turn, may contribute to the recruitment process when it comes to our opportunity, as members of the church and its congregation, to be a part of the decision. We, too, must seek God's guidance and keep Rev. Terry, and his wife Nicole, in our prayers.

Now, looking to the week ahead and beyond. Let's see vot's happnin'.

A reminder from Archdeacon:

#### **Anniversary of Praise: 100 years of Blessing, 50 years of belonging**

**4.00 pm on Advent Sunday 30th November, at the Cathedral**

This year the Anglican Church of Bermuda is officially 50 years old, following the inauguration of our Synod in 1975, plus it's 100 years since the Right Reverend Arthur Heber Browne became the first **resident** Bishop of Bermuda.

At a special celebration service at the Cathedral on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, possibly as a first, the Clergy of the Diocese will form a choir and sing - in harmony of course!

Short video clips will also be screened, featuring members from each Anglican congregation saying in their own words what their Church means to them.

Looking forward to a great event with you, to mark this double anniversary for Bermuda's Anglicans and go forward together into God's future for us!

With love and prayers, John

In addition to a Diocesan Choir, we will have the pleasure of a Diocesan **Clergy** Choir to enhance the event. 🙄

### SAVE THE DATE

We all had tremendous fun last year with our “Mulled Wine & Carols” evening. It was a great opportunity for members and children to come together with a glass of spiced cheer and a mince pie or two and just sit in the pews, socialize and sing popular carols.

We plan to repeat this again this Christmas so keep the evening of **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December** clear from (say 6.00 pm) for this joyful lead up to Christmas. Bring your friends too – the more the merrier. More details to follow in coming weeks.



See also **Coming Events** section below.

## St. Mark's Guild

At this time of year, we are especially mindful of our duty of care to those who need our support. To this end Pansy along with Guild members and other volunteers are beginning the process of considering a number of outreach projects which need revisiting.

**Individual Cooked Meals** – seeking ways of reaching those experiencing food insecurity.

**Pantry Programme** – reviving this programme of supplying dry goods food stuffs to the needy. Previously a popular programme to be re-visited.

**Christmas Hampers** Reaching out to those who would welcome a hamper for Christmas and might otherwise be without. Offers of Turkeys for the hampers have already been secured but more is needed for this project.

If you are not already involved in these discussions but feel you would be able to contribute to realizing these goals, either by gifting or by offering time and talents, please make yourself known to Pansy. Many hands make light work! There are few things more rewarding than making Christmas joyful for those less fortunate.

Here's a late item from the committee that met after church yesterday.

### **The Lord's Larder – Christmas Hampers**

Hi everyone! It's that time again!

We are asking for your assistance as we put together this year's list of recipients. Do you know a family in need that would truly appreciate the gift of a Christmas hamper this holiday season?

If so, please contact Jean Flath, 705-2378 or Pansy Nichols 332-2074.

Also, if you would like to donate food items for the hampers, we will be sending out a list of needed items this week, and a sign-up sheet will be up in the church on Sunday.

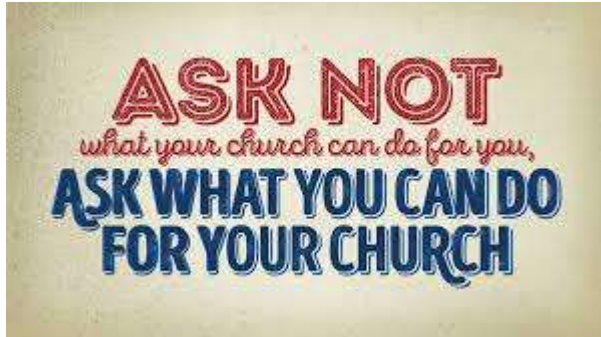
Monetary donations will also be greatly appreciated, and can be made online via the church's bank account – **please be sure** to include Lord's Larder/Christmas Hampers in the Beneficiary space when you make the transfer.

Let's do our best to make Christmas brighter for those less fortunate than ourselves!

## Other Guild events:

**Saturday, 6th December** – Trimming of Christmas Trees in the **Church at 6.00 pm** followed by **Guild's Christmas Party with Carols in the Hall**; An open invitation to our St. Mark's and Holy Trinity Families to come and join us and to help us decorate (or watch us decorate) our Christmas trees at 6 pm in the church - and afterward to join us for our annual Christmas Party in the hall at 7.30 pm for drinks, buffet snacks and our Carol singing evening.

**Saturday, 13th December** – Cottingham Family Gourmet Christmas Bake Sale and Vendors Market. Watch this space.



The Guild would truly welcome some new members to share the load and add their own Gifts and Talents to the life of the Church through service in the Guild. We can never have enough people to organize and manage events such as Bingo Suppers, the occasional Dance or whatever social activity is planned from time-to-time.

So, this is Pansy's, and my own, plea for any of our congregation and/or membership not already committed to supporting the work of the church other than attending on a Sunday. Please

give serious consideration to finding a few hours each week to engage with Guild activities. Pansy, Evette and Barbara would be delighted to hear from you. Please seek them out and have this conversation – “What can I do to help?”

Anyway, that's all I have for this week. I expect I have forgotten something 🤔 Next week we will be led by Rev. Jennie who will also look after the early birds.

Until next week – stay safe and well,  
Peter

## Rev. Terry'sTalk

Luke 21:5–19

*Lord, open our ears and our hearts that we may hear and receive your Word, in Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Picture this:

There is a taxi driving down South Shore Road on one of those amazingly beautiful days. The kind where the sky is a bold, endless blue, and soft white clouds float like brushstrokes across a canvas. Visitors stop at St. Mark's and are in awe with its beauty: The striking Victorian Gothic architecture: The tall steeple reaching toward heaven.; The stained-glass windows glowing in the afternoon sun; The warm blending of traditional mahogany pews and modern lights and screens. Everything looks perfect: timeless, strong, unshakable. Now imagine Jesus standing beside them saying, **“Yes... but all of this will fall.”**

Before we dive into Luke, it's helpful to note that all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) record Jesus' teaching about the “end of times,” including signs like wars, famines, and persecution. Their purpose is the same: to warn us to stay faithful and prepared, rather than obsess over dates or be misled by false prophets. But unlike Mark's urgent and frightening tone or Matthew's stern, judgmental approach, Luke presents a calmer, more pastoral perspective, framing the coming crisis not as the end but as an opportunity for witness, endurance, and clarity.

In Luke, the disciples marvel at the Temple's beauty, but Jesus sees beyond it. He warns them that even this central symbol of their spiritual and cultural life will one day fall. He wasn't just referring to the building, but he was speaking to the deeper danger of placing ultimate trust in anything temporary. He was warning them about the danger of turning physical places or temporary things into objects of worship and idolatry. And with that, He shifted their attention to a truth that reaches straight into our lives as well. Because the question isn't just about their temple. It's about ours. What “temples” have we built our lives around—careers, relationships, financial security,

reputation, health, or even ministries? And as painful as it is, sometimes those temples crumble—when a marriage fails, a job disappears, a diagnosis blindsides you, or a long-held dream suddenly collapses.

Jesus describes wars, division, betrayal—things that feel all too familiar today. Amid it, He says four powerful words: **“Do not be terrified.”** He doesn’t promise a storm-free life, but He promises Himself in the storm. Yet many of us still carry heavy burdens—financial strain, family responsibilities, anxiety, health issues, loneliness, information overload, uncertainty. Jesus doesn’t say, “I’ll take it all away.” He says, “I will stand with you through it all.” He says, “By your endurance you will gain your souls,” Not by panic. Not by retaliation. Not by giving up hope. But by endurance. With a steady strength of a heart that refuses to quit. Endurance is not hardness. It is softness that refuses to die. It is love that chooses to keep loving. It is faith that keeps showing up.

Then Jesus says something startling: *“You will be hated because of Me... but not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life.”* Following Jesus does not guarantee social approval, professional success, comfort, certainty, or ease. You may lose some of those things. But you will never lose Him. And here Jesus shifts the identity of His disciples. He calls them witnesses. A witness doesn’t have to explain everything. A witness simply tells the truth about what they’ve seen God do. So, Jesus says, *“Make up your mind not to worry beforehand... for I will give you words and wisdom.”* This means we have choices. We can choose not to worry. We can choose to stand firm, not with arrogance, but with quiet strength. We can choose to live rooted, intentionally, and anchored in Christ rather than in our circumstances.

Faith is not proven when life is easy. It is revealed when we endure. Jesus doesn’t ask us to predict the world’s end. He doesn’t ask us to panic when life unravels. He doesn’t ask us to fight for control. He just asks us to stand. Stand in faith. Stand in hope. Stand in love. Stand in the presence of God, a presence no crisis, no betrayal, no loss can take from us. Everything else may fall. But Christ will not. And if we stand with Him, we will not fall either. **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, David, and for Sally Brown and Hilda Warner. Prayers also for Elaine Simmons and Val Moffatt. And we pray for Carys & Glenn, the Cottingham family and any others who will be travelling over the coming Holiday Season.

### This Sunday



Previous services and other videos are on our YouTube channel and/or our Facebook page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/StMarksChurchBermuda> and/or  
<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbermuda/>

### Next Sunday

Next Sunday, **23rd November** – We will have our usual services at St. Mark's with Peaceful Worship at 8.00 a.m. followed by our

Contemporary Worship and Junior Church at 9.30 a.m. both led by Archdeacon John.

### Coming Events

- **Life Group Startup** – The popular Life Groups have resumed but it **may not be too late** to get involved. Reach out to Cathy or Stephen West if you would like to know more: [cathjwest@gmail.com](mailto:cathjwest@gmail.com) or [cswestmd@logic.bm](mailto:cswestmd@logic.bm).
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be on **Saturday, 22nd November**.
- **Cathedral Guild BINGO** – The Guild of the Good Shepherd will be hosting BINGO on **Saturday, 22nd November** in the Cathedral Hall from 2.00 p.m. See poster below for details.
- **Bermuda Church Society AGM** – All Church members, who by virtue of that are also members of the Bermuda Church Society (BCS), are welcome to their AGM to be held at the TN Nisbett Hall at Christ Anglican Church, Devonshire, at

6.00 pm on **Wednesday, 26th November**.

- **Smith's Parish Council** – will be hosting their annual “**Seniors' Afternoon Tea**” on **Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> November** in St. Phillp's AME Church Hall from 2 pm. to 5 pm. **RSVP required – see poster below.**
- **Anniversary of Praise Service** -- Join us for this special **Anniversary of Praise** celebration of hymns and songs **Sunday, 30th November at 4.00 pm** - to acknowledge 100 years with a resident Bishop and 50 years as the Anglican Church of Bermuda. **See poster below.**
- St. Paul's Christian Education Centre – will be holding a Community Tree-Lighting Night event on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December from 6.30 pm**. All are welcome. See poster below for details.
- **St. Paul's Guild Mini-Fair and Fundraiser** – the Guild of St. Paul's, Paget, along with their Boys Brigade will be hosting a Mini-Fair on **Saturday, 6th December from 9 a.m.** See poster below for details.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 7th December** in the Parish Hall.
- **Mulled Wine & Carols** – It was so much fun, we plan to repeat this again this Christmas so keep the evening of **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December** clear from (say 6.00 pm) for this joyful lead up to Christmas. Bring your children and friends too – the more the merrier. More details to follow in coming weeks.

**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 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!**

The Guild of The Good Shepherd's  
Pre Thanksgiving & Christmas

# BINGO!

Saturday, November 22, 2025

2:00pm - 5:00pm

Location: The Cathedral Hall

Menu: Soup, Sandwiches & Dessert

Tickets: \$20.00 - includes one Bingo card

Extra Cards: \$2.00

Raffle Tickets: \$2.00

Various great prizes



SMITH'S PARISH COUNCIL  
PRESENTS  
**THE ANNUAL SENIORS  
AFTERNOON TEA**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2025  
2 PM TO 5 PM



ST. PHILIP A.M.E. CHURCH HALL  
102 HARRINGTON SOUND RD. SMITHS



EXCLUSIVELY FOR SMITH'S PARISH SENIORS  
LIMITED SPACES PLEASE RSVP TO NINA JACOBS:  
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SMITHSPARISHCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM

Join with us in  
**ANNIVERSARY PRAISE!**

**100**  
Years of  
Blessings,  
plus...  
**50**

Years as...  The Anglican  
Church of Bermuda

Sunday | November 30, 2025 | 4:00pm  
The Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity | Church St., Hamilton

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.  
- Psalm 136 -

**COMMUNITY  
TREE LIGHTING NIGHT**

Thursday 4th December, 2025

6:30pm - 8:15pm



- ★ Tree decorating
- ★ Caroling
- ★ Hot Chocolate Station
- ★ Yule Quiz & Games



Mulled Wine and Carols – St. Mark's Church  
Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December from 6.00 p.m.