

Stay Connected – Sunday 2nd November

All Saint's Sunday

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Matthew 5. 1-12

Peter's Blurb

Firstly, let me say a big thank you to those who took time to compliment me on last week's marathon newsletter. Your remarks were greatly appreciated. It was a big week with lots to report on. This week – not so busy – so I won't go on so much 😊

1. **St. Mark's Today**
2. **Diocesan Anniversaries**
3. **Sandys Community Local Market**
4. **Smith's Parish Council Tea**
5. **St. Mark's Guild**

1. St. Mark's Today

It seems that everyone managed the time change okay – at least, when we arrived at 9 am there was no crowd of “early birds” waiting to get in 😊 Well done everyone.

All was ready and set to go when, literally, as Fr. Terry opened his mouth the electricity went off! Well! That was a bit of a disaster, relying as we do on the slides for our order of service and the keyboards for our music! A quick re-adjustment was required. There were just a few paper copies of the choir's OOS we could share – certainly not enough to go around. Then those with appropriately configured cell phones were able to pick up the service on a WhatsApp chat. I need to figure out how that's done 🤔 - could be useful to know. I'll have to chat with Lisa-Dawn -she's good with the tech stuff (and we are thankful for that 😊)

Fr. Terry was able to lead the service from his iPad and, with both the pipe organ and the keyboard out of action Angie was able to direct the singing from the piano and we were – what's the word? – Copacetic! Great word!

By the time we got our ducks in a row the later-comers had arrived and we had a well-filled church with a good showing of youngsters. We persevered and were able to enjoy a full service. The lights never did come back on. Fortunately, there was power in the Hall so we were able to restore ourselves with hot coffee and goodies provided by Carys & Andrea – a good team that!

The Hall power feed is from the Spittal Pond side while the power feed to the Church and the Rectory (probably the cottages too) comes “shrew de trees” from the Sears Hill side. When I was leaving after coffee there was a huddle of men at the corner of St. Mark's Road. They were wearing hard hats so hopefully they were Belco on the case!

By the time you read this it will all be over but Sunday evening there was to be an All Souls Service at HTC with a joint choir under Angie's direction – let's hope they have power eh? The tradition at such services is to do a roll-call of the names of our dear departed and to light candles in their memory. It is always a poignant occasion and we have collected some 90 names from St. Mark's folk to be called. That's so wonderful! In past years, and the plan for this year at least, HTC have put T- lights on each of the graves (a big task that!) so that when we all come

out of the church its like a winter wonderland with the white graves resembling the snow. Then they will administer Soup N' Rolls and we will all go home and, once more, to bed!

2. Diocesan Anniversaries

Last week, I missed on important item – the Anniversary of Praise event. I did send an addendum about it as I was advised there is a deadline on the survey bit – I still don't know what the drop-dead date for that is but give it a try if you wish. Here's the announcement that came from Archdeacon John originally.

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 Bermuda.

At a special celebration service at the Cathedral on the 30th 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.

A Diocesan choir will lead hymns and songs in God's praise. These will be specially chosen - by **YOU!** Click here to select your top three favourites:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqbwlP660ZzHuzNx7p6x6oYRx34JA1QOB46X5QUy5t96H_VQ/viwwform?fbzx=6510118364447156501

And if you'd like to contribute a short video clip, maximum duration each of 30 seconds, share your thoughts on one or more of these questions:

- What brought you to the Anglican Church of Bermuda?
- What do you see God doing through the ministry of the Anglican church?
- What are your hopes/prayers for the church for the next 50 years?
- What's your favourite hymn/spiritual song and why is it meaningful to you?

Use your phone or tablet to take your recording, in 'sideways' landscape format, and send please to diocese@anglican.bm. Maybe those unused to the tech could be recorded by friends after church next Sunday?

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

Sorry i am so late getting this info to you as there may now be insufficient time to participate in some of the ideas. But let's all turn up for the event – myself, I'm interested in the idea of a choir comprised of our Diocesan Clergy. And, No! I am not being scornful. I haven't heard all of our clergy but Archdeacon John sang tenor for a number of years in the Bermuda Chamber Choir and so did Rev. Ant Petit who also has a good singing voice. The ability to sing reasonably well must surely be a required attribute for a clergy person. So that will be interesting. The occasion is an important one too – these are historical anniversaries after all. We are still a work in progress.

Another big event in the Diocese bears mention here. The following from St. Anne's and St. James:

3. Sandys Community Local Market

At St. James' Church Hall, Somerset.

A flyer and price list is attached for your information. (The pricelist is unreadable – Ed.)

Available for sale:

Meats/breads/cheese

Fresh produce

Jewelry

Hand crafts
Soups/Chilli
Chocolates
Hot peppers

Tea corner
Cakes
Fudge
Natural products

Coffee corner
Pies
Bermuda jams
Slightly used items

Should you be interested in renting a 'Village Table' to sell your items, please contact Sarah Burrows at 537-2724. Tables are \$25 each.

Keep the proceeds for yourself or share them with your church as a fundraising project.

Market dates are Saturday 1, 15 and 29 November from 9am to 1pm. at St. James' Hall, Somerset.

Book soon! The first trial run held last Saturday was a complete sell out! Have a blessed day!

4. Smith's Parish Council Tea

From Kalreeta Steede comes news of this upcoming event:

Smith's Parish Council will be hosting their annual "Seniors' Afternoon Tea" on Saturday, 29th November in St. Phillip's AME Church Hall from 2 pm. to 5 pm. This exclusive event is for Smith's Parish Seniors only. Space is limited so we are asked to RSVP to secure a place. See poster at the end of this newsletter for full details.

5. St. Mark's Guild

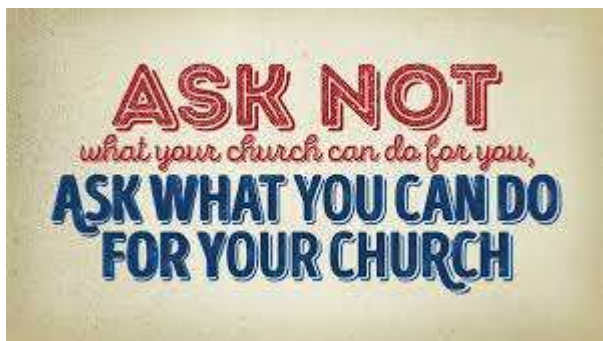
Here are some events from the St. Mark's Guild calendar:

Saturday, 8th November – Diocesan Guild Social Afternoon at the Cathedral Hall from 2.00 – 4.00 pm;

Sunday, 16th November– Diocesan Guilds Thanksgiving Service at the Cathedral at 3.00 pm followed by a Reception Tea;

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 on to help us decorate (or watch us decorate) our Christmas trees at 6 pm in the church - and 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 – Gourmet Christmas Bake Sale and Vendors Market



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, enough of all that! I'm sure I've overlooked something 🤔 Next week we will be led by Rev Jennie whilst Archdeacon John looks after the early birds.

Until then – stay safe and well,
Peter

Rev. Terry's Talk

Matthew 5: 1-12

Sermon Topic: You are Blessed

When Jesus stood on that hillside and began teaching the Beatitudes, life around Him was anything but easy. God's people lived under Roman rule—tired, oppressed, and longing for freedom. The world ran on power, status, and reputation. Everyone knew their place in a strict system of honour and shame. It was a world hungry for hope. And honestly, not much has changed.

Today, we live in a culture that tells us, *"You're blessed when you've got money in the bank, a comfortable life, influence, and everyone thinks you're doing great."* Yet beneath the surface, we too are searching for hope. Then Jesus speaks. And what He says turns the world upside down. He describes a kingdom where the poor, the meek, and the merciful are called blessed — a kingdom defined not by power or prestige, but by the heart of God.

Through the Beatitudes, He gives us a new way to see life—a glimpse of God's kingdom breaking in, right in the middle of our world. And just as He did then, Jesus is still speaking today. God's Kingdom is still breaking in—right here, right now.

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you, there is more of God and His rule." (v.3)

That's not what we expect, is it? We like being in control—having plans, backup plans, and maybe even a few extras, just in case. But Jesus says, *"You're blessed when you come to the end of yourself."* Because that's exactly where God's grace begins. When we reach our limit, God begins His work. It's like trying to hold too many things at once—you can't take hold of what God wants to give you if your hands are already full. But when you finally let go, your hands—and your heart—are open for Him to fill.

"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you." (v.4)

Grief has a way of hollowing us out. Loss leaves spaces we can't fill, questions we can't answer, and a quiet ache that lingers longer than we'd like to admit. But blessing is found even there—in the midst of heartbreak and emptiness. When what we hold most dear slips away, our hearts find comfort in the One who never leaves our side. He doesn't rush us through our grief. He sits with us in it, comforting and restoring, reminding us that even in our deepest sorrow, we are not alone.

"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought." (v.5)

Contentment doesn't come easily. We live in a world that tells us to be more—do more, have more, prove more. We scroll, we compare, we measure our worth by the highlight reels of others. But Jesus speaks a quieter truth. Blessing isn't found in striving—it's found in resting. It's knowing you don't have to be anyone else to be loved by God. When we stop chasing what the world calls success, we begin to see the riches that can't be measured: peace, joy, belonging, purpose. In that still place of contentment, we discover the deep, unshakable truth: God is enough. And in Him, so are we.

"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat." (v.6)

Hunger can be a holy thing. Not the kind that leaves our bodies empty, but the kind that stirs deep in the soul—a longing for something real, something lasting, something that satisfies more than success or comfort ever could. We try to fill that hunger in so many ways—busyness, achievement, distraction—but it never lasts. It's like eating fast food when what our hearts crave is a home-cooked meal. Jesus reminds us that true satisfaction comes from seeking God Himself. When we hunger for His presence, when we crave His ways, He meets us there—not with scraps, but with abundance. And when we taste that goodness, we realize this is what we were hungry for all along.

"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for." (v.7)

Compassion is the language of God's kingdom. It's not flashy or loud. It simply notices—and responds. When we choose to care, to step into someone's hurt, to offer kindness instead of judgment, something holy happens. Our hearts begin to beat in rhythm with God's own. Mercy flows both ways—the more we give, the more we receive. In lifting others, we find ourselves lifted too. In every act of care, every quiet moment of mercy, we are reminded of the One who cared enough to come close, to see us, and to love us still.

“You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.” (v.8)

Purity of heart isn't about perfection. It's about clarity, honesty, and intention. It's about sorting through the clutter of our thoughts—the fears, grudges, and distractions that keep us from seeing what truly matters. When our hearts are open, when our motives are gentle and sincere, we begin to notice God's presence everywhere—in the sunrise, the laughter of a child, the quiet generosity of a friend, even in moments we might have overlooked. Seeing God with clarity doesn't always change the world around us, but it transforms the world within us. Pure hearts don't just see—they reflect. And in reflecting God's love, we become part of the blessing we've received.

“You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.” (v.9)

Peace is more than the absence of conflict. It's the presence of understanding, patience, and humility. It's the willingness to step beside someone instead of against them, to listen before insisting, to seek unity rather than victory. When we become peacemakers, we reflect the heart of God. In showing others how to live together, we begin to see our own place in the family of God. Peace doesn't come from forcing it or avoiding hard things. It comes from walking with courage, forgiving, and opening our hearts to reconciliation, even when it's difficult. In every act of peacemaking, we discover blessing—and we discover ourselves as beloved children of a God who longs for harmony.

“You're blessed when life knocks you flat on your face for being faithful to God. The reward is getting your life back.” (v.10)

Faithfulness isn't always easy. It can be messy, costly, even painful. Standing up for what is right, living with integrity, loving when it's hard—sometimes it feels like the world pushes back with everything it has. But Jesus says blessing comes in those moments. When life knocks us down, when we are misunderstood or rejected for doing good, God is still at work. Being faithful doesn't always mean comfort or applause. It means staying rooted in God's love, trusting that even in the struggle, our lives are held and redeemed. What is lost in the struggle, what is bruised or broken, is restored in God's timing. Even in falling, we are never forsaken.

“You're blessed when people mock you and fight you and lie about you and try to kick you out because you follow me. Be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even! Because your reward in heaven is very great. This is how my faithful people have been treated throughout history.” (v.11–12)

Following Jesus isn't always easy. Sometimes it draws criticism, misunderstanding, even hostility. The world can be harsh toward those who live differently, toward those who love deeply, toward those who speak truth with grace. But Jesus invites us to see it differently. We are blessed even in opposition, because our faithfulness is never in vain. Each act of love, each choice to do what is right, even when it costs us, echoes through eternity. Blessing isn't always comfort or applause. Sometimes it's the quiet strength to keep going, the courage to stand firm, and the joy of knowing we are part of something far greater than ourselves. Throughout history, God's people have faced the same trials. And yet, in every faithful heart, God's Kingdom shines through. Even in struggle, even in persecution, blessing abounds—because God is with us, and nothing can separate us from His love.

As we sit with these words of Jesus, let us take them quietly into our hearts. The Beatitudes are not just a list of ideals—they are an invitation. An invitation to live differently, to see differently, to love differently. As we sit with Jesus' words, let them quietly settle in our hearts.

The Beatitudes are not just ideals—they are an invitation: to live differently, see differently, love differently. Ask yourself:

- Where am I holding on too tightly, and how can I open my hands to God?
- Where am I seeking approval instead of resting in His love?
- Where is my heart hungry, and how might God satisfy that longing?
- Who needs my mercy, care, or peacemaking?
- Where is God calling me to faithfulness, even when it costs?

These questions guide us, not burden us. Step by step, moment by moment, God’s kingdom can break in. Blessing is often quiet, patient, unseen—but real. Go gently into the world. Open your hands. Rest in God’s love. Feed your hunger on His presence. Offer mercy. Seek purity. Make peace. Be faithful. And when the world pushes back, rejoice in the One who never leaves our side. Let the Beatitudes shape more than our thinking—let them transform our living. And in that, may we discover the blessing Jesus promises: **God’s kingdom breaking in, here and now, through us.**

Closing Prayer

Father God, Thank You for showing us that blessing isn’t about what we have, but about who we belong to. When we feel empty—fill us with Your presence. When we face loss—hold us in Your comfort. When we hunger—satisfy us with Your goodness. Teach us to care like You care, to live with pure hearts, to bring peace where there’s conflict, and to stay faithful even when it’s hard. Help us remember, Lord—we are blessed because You are near. May our lives reflect Your upside-down Kingdom everywhere we go. In Jesus’ name, 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.

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, **9th November – Remembrance Sunday** – We will have our usual services at St. Mark’s with Peaceful Worship at 8.00

a.m. led by Archdeacon John followed by our Contemporary Worship and Junior Church at 9.30 a.m. led by Rev. Jennie.

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 or cswestmd@logic.bm.
- **Vendor’s Market** – The next Vendor’s Market will be on a Saturday late in November. **Date: TBD;**
- **Senior’s Paint Par-Tea** – Join Suzie Carvalho for this activity **Wednesdays and/or Fridays** beginning **5th November**. See poster below for details.
- **St. James Bingo** – St. James Guild will host Bingo on **Thursday, 13th November** from 12.30 – 4.00 pm. See Poster below for details;
- **Smith’s Parish Council** – a will be hosting their annual “**Seniors’ Afternoon Tea**” on **Saturday, 29th**

November in St. Phillip's AME Church Hall from 2 pm. to 5 pm.

- **SAVE THE DATE – Sunday, 30th November - Anniversary of Praise Service** - Help us prepare for this special Anniversary of Praise celebration of hymns and songs to acknowledge 100 years with a resident Bishop and 50 years as the Anglican Church of Bermuda. **Watch this space.**
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 7th December** in the Parish Hall.

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!



Join us **BINGO!**
Hosted by St. James Church Guild

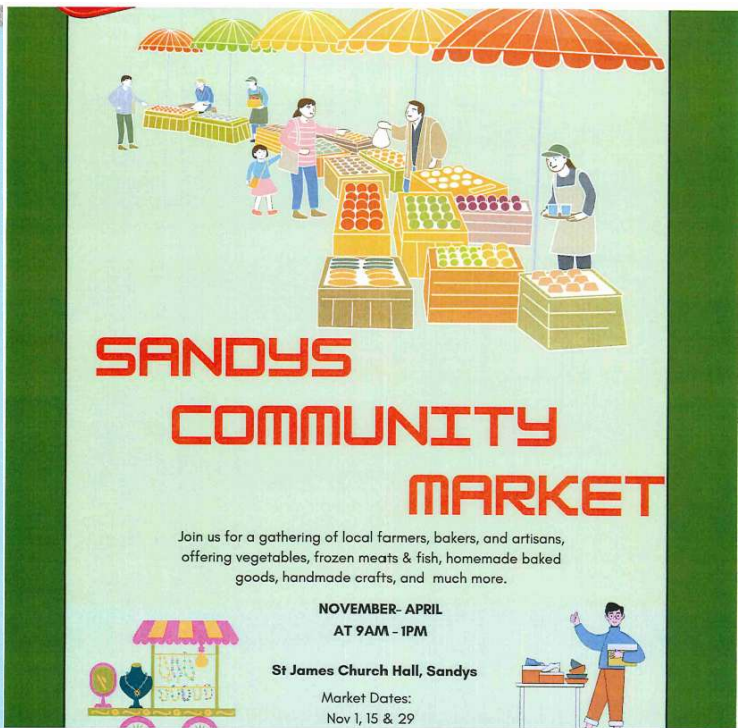


Date: November 13th, 12:30 - 4 PM
Place: St. James Church Hall
Tickets: \$25.00 (one free card)

Extra Cards: \$3.00 each
Raffles for Sale: \$2.00 each

For Tickets contact: Cheryllyn 238-3919
or Eulene 234-0595

Light Refreshments will be served



**SANDYS
COMMUNITY
MARKET**

Join us for a gathering of local farmers, bakers, and artisans, offering vegetables, frozen meats & fish, homemade baked goods, handmade crafts, and much more.

**NOVEMBER- APRIL
AT 9AM - 1PM**

St James Church Hall, Sandys

Market Dates:
Nov 1, 15 & 29




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

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

ST. PHILIP AME CHURCH HALL
102 HARRINGTON SOUND RD. SMITHS

EXCLUSIVELY FOR SMITH'S PARISH SENIORS
LIMITED SPACES PLEASE RSVP TO NINA JACOBS:
441-536-9168
SMITHSPARISHCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM