

Stay Connected – 18th January 2026

Second Sunday of Epiphany

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: John 1: 29-42

Peter's Blurb

Well, here we are again – another week older and deeper in debt – to horribly misquote the lyrics of “Sixteen Tons” as sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford back in the ‘50’s!! Oh boy! Where did that come from – I’m really dating myself



Today was a day of confusion, to some extent, being the Triangle Race weekend’s marathon race day and all that that entails. Stories of members adventures getting to St. Mark’s by way of various diversions all over the country were devious to say the least. We never did see Steve & Cathy coming from Southampton who, at last report, were stuck in traffic on Harbour Road!! Even our visiting preacher, Canon Calvert, trying to get to St. Mark’s by SatNav (really?!) got here, fairly late, by meandering, circuitous roadways – but, gladly, he did duly arrive. I know Archdeacon was relieved as he was fearful that he might have to speak off-the-cuff – extemporaneously – if the good Canon ended up lost. (We were relieved too 😊) But the majority of our congregation did make it, in spite of, we had 67 communicants and a good crop of youngsters for Junior Church.

There was a certain irony to Canon Calvert’s talk (notes on which below) as he had chosen the imagery of the Bermuda Triangle to introduce his theme, with Jesus at the pinnacle. I’m not sure he had caught on to the Triangle Challenge of Race weekend until he found out the hard way 😬. He spoke very well, and the congregation listened very carefully, dwelling on his every word. I hope that we may hear more from Canon Calvert in the few weeks of *interregnum* that are left between now and the installation of Rev. Terry at the end of February.

With illness (2) and wayward, lost souls (2) our choir was reduced in number again – and, following the departure of the HTC contingent (3) we were down to just four of us. But we, nonetheless, managed to belt out the last two hymns and give a reasonable account of ourselves.

As I mentioned last week it is now all hands-on deck to prepare the Rectory for our new “first family”. If you have not already offered yourself to assist in some way, please do contact Nicky and/or Lisa-Dawn and offer to man work parties on one or both of Saturday 24th or Saturday 31st January. The more the merrier and the easier the task will become. It is a huge job and we need many hands to lighten the load.

Please reach out to Nicki, or Lisa-Dawn (or a Vestry member) and let them know of your willingness to participate. If not in painting *per se* there will be many other chores to be handled, linens to be laundered etc. As Nicki says “Many hands make light work”, or in other words, “a job shared is a job halved” (or quartered” or...you get the idea...)

We now know that the **Licensing & Installation Service** for Rev. Terry Hassell will take place on **Saturday, 28th February at 4 pm**. Rev. Terry’s first service as our new Priest-in-charge will be the next day – Sunday, 1st March. His last service as curate at Holy Trinity was this morning and Rev. Terry now has a few short weeks to plan and prepare for his assumption of the position at St. Mark's which will be the culmination, for Terry, of several long years of discernment and prayer to finally be able to fulfil God’s plan. And we are all excited by it. We keep Terry and Nicole in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

Exciting times lay ahead 😊

Guild News

St. Mark's Guild are anxious to re-vitalise the Lord's Larder programme and were meeting today to move that project ahead. If you were not part of that meeting/discussion this morning but are willing and able to assist please have that conversation with Pansy ASAP. There is important work to be done.

The Guild are also planning for their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which will be held on 17th February in the Parish Hall. See details opposite and get your tickets (available from Barbara) now!

This event will be preceded a few days earlier by the Guild's Valentine Bingo Evening and Spaghetti Supper. So, **SAVE THE DATE** – Saturday, 14th February at 6 pm. Tickets also available from Barbara NOW!



Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
Tuesday February 17th 2026
6.00pm
St. Mark's Parish Hall
Please come join us and enjoy
Pancakes, Sausages, Bacon, etc.
Games and Fun
Tickets: \$15.00
Available from guild members in advance

Hosted by St. Mark's Guild

.....For More info call: Pansy 332-2074 or Barbara 747-8893.....



St. Mark's Church Guild
Bingo Supper
Saturday, 14th February

Tickets: \$20 (includes one Bingo card)
Extra cards \$5.00

And that's it for this week. Stay safe.
Peter

Canon Calvert's Notes

St Marks Sermon: The Welcome, Witness, and Worship.

Scripture: John 1:29–42

Introduction

I have been in Bermuda for 4.5 months now and learning lots about the island and its people. It's interesting that when we told people in the UK that we would be relocating to Bermuda, every other person would comment on the same thing, the Bermuda Triangle. People said be careful, don't go near..., stay away. I hope you don't get lost....

Images of the triangle are everywhere - in Bermuda. Well today I want to share with you a triangle that as followers of Jesus we should all connect with.

Our Modern Life

We live in an age of endless searching. We scroll through feeds looking for inspiration; we browse reviews looking for the "perfect" product; we look at influencers to tell us how to live. We are a "seeking" people.

But in the middle of our frantic search, we encounter a man standing by a river—John the Baptist—who stops the world's noise with a single, pointed finger. He doesn't say "Look at me" or "Look at your potential." or even "look at them".

He says, "Behold." -

John's Witness is jarring because it is so specific. He calls Jesus the "**Lamb of God.**"

In a contemporary sense, we often prefer a "vague" Jesus—a "good vibe" Jesus or a "life coach" Jesus.

1. John witnesses to a Saviour Jesus.

The Lamb is about sacrifice; it's about dealing with the "sin of the world"—that deep, structural, and personal brokenness we all feel but try to hide.

Our Witness to our neighbors shouldn't be that "church makes life easy." It should be that "Jesus makes life real." We point to the one who actually handles the heavy stuff: our guilt, our mortality, and our purpose.

2. The Worship: The Courage to Be Honest (v. 35–38)

Two disciples start following Jesus. Jesus turns around and asks them a piercing question: "What are you seeking?"

Imagine Jesus asking you that right now:

- Are you seeking a social club?
- Are you seeking a bit of moral "top-up" to get you through the week?
- Or are you seeking a home for your soul?

Worship begins the moment we answer that question honestly. The disciples answer with a question of their own:

"Where are you staying?" They didn't want a download of information; they wanted a relationship.

They wanted to see where He lived. To worship is to move from being a spectator of Jesus to being a guest in His house...

3. The Welcome: The "Come and See" Culture (v. 39–42)

Jesus' response is the ultimate guideline - for we should do Welcome: **"Come and see."**

- Low Pressure, High Impact: Jesus doesn't hand them a 10-point doctrinal statement. He invites them into His space.
- **The Andrew Strategy:**
- What does Andrew do? He doesn't go to a seminar. He goes to his brother, Simon. He uses the most powerful tool in the world: **a personal invitation.**

Today people are hungry for "belonging." A Welcome that says "Come and see" is an invitation to experience the community before you have to explain the theology. It's the open door that leads to the transformed life (where Simon becomes Peter). Where things happen and changes begins.

Conclusion:

So, Leaving the shore is an adventure. Lent can be a season where we stop being "observers" on the riverbank. Ideally everyday is an adventure with Jesus who draws us into this triangular relationship with him of Witness, Worship and Welcome.

John has pointed the way. So, we must point the way. Jesus has issued the invitation. Now, it's our turn. The search ends not when we find the right answers, but when we follow the right Person.

When we Welcome the stranger with "Come and see," when we Worship by "staying" with Him, and when we Witness by pointing to the Lamb, we aren't just doing "church"—we are participating in the movement of God that changes the world, one "Simon" at a time.

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 Valerie Johnstone and Hilda Warner. We pray for Carys and Glenn and family sojourning in the UK and for Dudley & Debbie travelling to UK this week for Debbie's Mum Tina's funeral. Also, for all and any others known to us.



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, **25th January** – services will be as usual – Peaceful Worship at 8 am led by Archdeacon John and Contemporary Worship at 9.30 am 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 **Saturday, 24th January 2026**.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 1st February 2026** in the Parish Hall. Date Correction
- **Supper and Bingo** – St. Mark's Guild will be holding a **Valentine's Supper and Bingo** evening on **Saturday, 14th February** at 6 pm in the Parish Hall.
- **Pancake Supper** – St. Mark's Guild will be holding their Annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on **Tuesday, 17th February** at 6.00 p.m.
- **Installation of Priest-in-charge** – St. Mark's Church will hold a special service of **Licensing & Installation of Rev. Terry Hassell as Priest-in-charge** on **Saturday, 28th February** at 4.00 p.m.

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!