

Stay Connected – 19th April 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Luke 24: 13-35

Peter's Blurb

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

What a pleasant change! No road races or other intrusions on Sunday morning. It was a kind day weather-wise, despite predicted rain, and we had the usual good congregation in church and on-time. We were also thankful to have Angie and Kaia back with us following the funeral in the US of their father/grandfather. Loss of a parent is always a sad, if not unexpected, occasion but it is often harder to lose a grandparent as it is often the first introduction to that facet of life for a young person who often enjoys a special relationship with a grand. We keep them, in our prayers.

We were thankful to Mark Pettingill, who stepped up to read the Gospel as Colin, who had been scheduled, was still in London and not returning until Sunday night. My suggestion to Colin that he take an earlier flight obviously was not practicable 😞. Not quite a baptism by fire but Mark had literally, just the day before, expressed an interest in being included in the next schedule as a Reader or Intercessor and – Wham! – Problem solved! Thanks Mark! We are so happy that you and Erin have started worshipping with us and look forward to getting to know you better. 🙏

Talking of the schedule, some gaps have opened up this quarter for Welcomers. It is a simple task, arrive a bit early and be at the door of the church to greet people. Especially important for newcomers or visitors that we present a welcoming greeting. Also good to greet old friends too. Looking for volunteer Welcomers for May 3rd & 10th and also for the month of June. Just let me know and I will be happy to have your help.

And while on the subject, may I also invite anyone who would like to assist as either a Reader or as an Intercessor (Pray-er) it would be lovely to have some new voices. For a Reader the text would be provided in advance to give you time to practice and get your tongue around unfamiliar words, names etc. For an Intercessor you can decide whether to write your own prayers or have some sent to you. The proposed schedule for the next quarter is circulated in advance to allow the opportunity to resolve date conflicts. And it's typically once/quarter. Just let Fr. Terry or myself know of your possible interest. The more the merrier! 🙏

Guild News

All systems go for the Guild's 82nd Anniversary Evensong Service. The anniversary is observed on the Sunday nearest our Patronal Festival, i.e. St. Mark's Day, which falls on 25th April each year. So, this year's service will be held on **Sunday, 26th April at 3.00 p.m.** (I hope you have that date in your calendar 😊) and will be followed by a sit-down tea. It is a festive occasion at which members of the Guilds of other churches in the Diocese participate and bring appropriate greetings from their own mother churches. A great tradition in Guild service.

The guest speaker for the occasion will be **The Very Revd Calvert Prentis, Sub Dean and Canon Residentiary, The Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity.**

Annual General Meeting

It is coming up to the time of year when the parishes of the Diocese are required to hold their Annual General Meetings. For those unfamiliar, reports are submitted from the various activities (“departments”) in the church including Financial Reports, Properties etc. These are presented for information and discussion. A new Vestry is elected by the members to manage the affairs of the church for the next year. The deadline for the submission of reports is 3rd May to give time for the Annual Report to be consolidated, printed and distributed in advance of the meeting. The Vestry, under the chairmanship of Rev. Terry, consists of two Churchwardens who serve a four-year term plus a number of regular members who each serve a term of three years. Rotation is staggered so that continuity is maintained. There are likely some vacancies opening up this year and anyone who is interested in helping the church in this capacity should speak to Dudley Cottingham, choir member, who has been designated, by the Vestry, as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. He will be happy to explain how it all works, what vacancies exist and you may then consider “putting your name in the hat” for possible selection.

The Annual General Meeting will be held following our 9.30 service on **Sunday, 17th May** immediately following refreshments.

Fr. Terry’s Talk

April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

Sermon – Luke 24:13–35 (NRSV)

Topic: “Stay with Us”

A man was driving with his wife using the car’s GPS. The voice calmly said, “Turn left in 300 metres.” He drove straight on. Again, it said, “Turn left in 300 metres.” He ignored it. Then, after several wrong turns, a dead-end road, and an embarrassing encounter with three goats and a tractor, the GPS quietly said: **“Recalculating.”**

How many of us can relate to this situation? We were certain we knew the route. We were sure of the destination. We thought we knew better than the directions. Then suddenly we are lost, delayed, frustrated, and wondering how on earth we got here.

That is exactly where we meet two disciples in today’s Gospel. They are on the road to Emmaus, walking away from Jerusalem, because their whole lives are now being **“recalculated.”** Luke names one of them Cleopas. The other remains unnamed—perhaps so that we may place ourselves beside him. Cleopas... and me. Cleopas... and you. They are not walking with Easter joy. They look like people who have not slept in days. Shoulders bent by grief. Feet heavy with disappointment. They had hoped Jesus would change everything. Instead, there had been betrayal, crucifixion, silence, tears, and now confusing reports of an empty tomb. So, they leave town and start walking home. And if we are honest, we know that road. Not the road to Emmaus itself—But the road of uncertainty. The road of disappointment. The road of carrying more than we wanted to carry. Different stories. Same Road.

And it is there that Jesus comes near them. Not with thunder. Not with spectacle. Not with criticism. He simply walks beside them. This is one of the tenderest truths in Scripture: Christ joins people on sorrowful roads. Look closely. They did not find Him. He found them. This is Grace at work... Sometimes we think God comes close only when our faith is strong, our prayers are polished, and our lives are tidy. But the Gospel says otherwise. Jesus meets us in the mess. In confusion. Even when we are walking the wrong way.

Then Jesus asks them, *“What are you discussing together as you walk along?”* Notice this: The risen Lord begins not with a lecture, but with a question. Because love listens first. Cleopas answers with weary disbelief: *“Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know what has happened?”* Then comes some of the saddest words in Scripture: *“We had hoped...”* We had hoped he was the one. We had hoped life would be different. We had hoped things would turn out another way. Many people live there. We had hoped the relationship would heal. We had hoped the treatment would work. We had hoped faith would be easier. But while they speak of dead hopes—Hope Himself is walking beside them.

Jesus opens the Scriptures and shows them that God was still at work in what looked like failure. That is the truth of resurrection. The cross looked like defeat. The tomb looked like the end. Their broken hopes looked final. But Easter says appearances can deceive us. Some of you may feel today that something in your life is over. A dream. A season. A certainty. But do not mistake the unfinished chapter for the final page. God is still writing.

Then they reach Emmaus. Jesus acts as though He will continue on, but they say: "Stay with us." What a beautiful prayer. Short. Honest. Human. Stay with us when evening falls. Stay with us when strength is low. Stay with us when grief returns. Stay with us when the future feels uncertain. And Jesus does. He enters the house. He sits at the table. He takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it. And suddenly they know Him. Their eyes are opened in the breaking of the bread.

Family, this is no accident. Luke is showing us where the risen Christ is still known: In Word and Sacrament. In Scripture and Table. In gathered community. This is why the Eucharist matters. Not because it is routine. But because Christ meets us there. At this table the lonely are remembered. The weary are fed. The broken are gathered. The doubtful are invited. The grieving are not alone. At this table, Jesus is host.

Then the disciples say: "*Were not our hearts burning within us?*" Not burning with anger. Not burning with fear. But burning with holy recognition. Despair had been interrupted by presence. So, what do they do? They return to Jerusalem. The same road that felt heavy now feels urgent. That is what Jesus does. He turns weary feet into joyful feet. He sends people back into the world with good news.

Then later, Jesus appears again and says: "Peace be with you." Not shame be with you. Not disappointment be with you. Not "I told you so." But peace. Some still imagine God with folded arms, waiting to condemn. But the risen Christ stands among frightened people and offers peace. That is the heart of God. He knows us fully and loves us still.

So, what shall we do this week? Take a walk. Put the phone away for a while. Walk slowly. Tell Jesus the truth about your life. Your fears. Your hopes. Your gratitude. Your questions. And listen. You may not recognise Him at first. But the good news of Emmaus is not that we are experts at finding Jesus. The good news is that Jesus is very good at finding us. And if you cannot pray much this week, borrow the prayer of Emmaus: Stay with us. Stay with me.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In our prayers

We ask for your prayers for Margaret Blanchette, Gill Rossiter, Sam & Marjorie, Gwyneth & Ralph, Jill, Barbara (Dyer), Vinette, Nancy, Gail, Janet & Gary, Tina, Val & Mark, Tim, Audrey, Robert & Kalreeta, David, Rachel and for Angela, Kaia, Valerie (June) Johnstone and Hilda Warner. 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

Sunday, **26th April** – Fourth Sunday of Easter. We will hold our **Peaceful Worship** at **8 am.** followed by our usual **Contemporary Worship** at **9.30 am** both led by Fr. Terry. There will be Junior Church

as usual. Refreshments and Fellowship follow the service. And at **3.00 pm** **St. Mark's Guild** will be holding their **82nd Anniversary Evensong and Tea.**

Coming Events

- **Life Group Startup** – The popular Life Groups have resumed but it **may not be too late** to get involved. Reach out to Steve or Cathy West if you would like to know more: cswestmd@logic.bm or cathjwest@gmail.com.

- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be on **Saturday, 25th April**.
- **St. Mark's Guild Evensong** – St. Mark's Guild will celebrate their **82nd Anniversary** with an **Evensong Service at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 26th April**. The service will be followed by a sit-down **Afternoon Tea**. The guest speaker for the occasion will be **The Very Revd Calvert Prentis, Sub Dean and Canon Residentiary, The Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity**.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 3rd May** in the Parish Hall.
- **Annual General Meeting** – St. Mark's Annual General Meeting will take place following our 9.30 service on **Sunday, 17th May**. (See discussion above.)

Those of you who generously donate to the church by way of Standing Order may wish to double-check that your orders have not passed their end-by date and expired. Of course, if they have, we would love you to re-instate them. 🙏

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.

Posters follow:

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