

Stay Connected – 24th May 2026

Pentecost Sunday

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Acts 2: 1-21

Peter's Blurb

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

Pentecost Sunday dawned bright and sunny – another beautiful day following a great week weatherwise. which could not have been more perfect for the Bermuda Day celebrations and the associated half-marathon races 😊 (although maybe the runners & cyclists might have wished it were not so 😊). But seriously, it has been a perfect week and would have been a wonderful vacation for those visiting out shores. We are blessed.

Fr. Terry was on his usual great form today – with his signature opening – "This is the day that the Lord has made..." to which we all respond appropriately. Sadly, Nicole was suffering with a cold and was unable to worship with us this morning – we wish her a speedy recovery. It was also good to welcome Rachel Jolliffe back in church today following a five-week "sojourn" in King Edward. We keep her in our prayers for her continued healing and recovery.

It hardly seems possible that we are at the end of May already – it doesn't seem long since Easter – but we are nearly half-way through the year already. Before we know it, children will be finished school for the summer break and families will be vacationing or visiting family and friends. Ah! C'est la vie!

Coming up next Sunday, being one of the four months in a year with five Sundays, we will not be at St. Mark's but will be gathering with our friends from all the East End churches at Holy Trinity, Bailey's Bay. St. Mark's, St. Peter's, and the other parishes having a Saint in their name, celebrate their "patronal festivals" on their respective Saint's Day (as we recently did on the Sunday closest to Saint Mark's Day (25th April). Holy Trinity's "patronal festival" falls on Trinity Sunday. The preacher next Sunday will be Bishop Nick and our choirs will combine on the music selections. **[NOTE: There will be NO services at St. Mark's next Sunday.]**

A good turnout at St. Mark's today with some 65 communicants + children. It is encouraging that our numbers are remaining strong and actually growing gradually. Fr. Terry advised us of an upcoming event – "Formation Training for Eucharistic Ministry" which will take place on Saturday, 13th June which is open to any who may have an interest in "learning the ropes" with a view to maybe assisting Fr. Terry during Communion. As the poster says, the session will be **"Focused on teaching, discussion and spiritual reflection"** and extends the invitation **"You are invited to come grow in Faith, Reverence and Service"**. The session takes place at the chapel at Caroline Bay which I have heard is a particularly beautiful and spiritual place. The poster is at the end of this newsletter for full details.

Watch this space! Coming soon to a beach near you!

We will be holding a Beach Baptism service at John Smith's Bay beach on Sunday, 14th June, for Natalia Duhur and possibly others. As reported last week Natalia, at the AGM, was offered a place on the Vestry which requires that she be a member of St. Mark's for which, in turn, a pre-requisite is to be baptised. She currently is not but shortly will be. Isn't that just wonderful. 😊 More news on this next week. Some will recall that we did exactly this for Gabriel Cabrall two years ago in May 2024 and it was a powerful and poignant little ceremony. And the water temperature was reported this morning as 77°F so no worries about goose-bumps 😊

In a way this discussion reminds me a bit of my own Baptism (if I may be permitted a personal anecdote 😞). I was at boarding school and singing in the chapel choir offered the notion of being confirmed. Sounded like an interesting idea so I signed up. I went through the instruction classes and, as the day drew closer a visiting Bishop appeared for the final instructions the day before the confirmation service. "Any questions?" he posed. In my, what may have become inimitable way, I asked the Bishop "what are we actually confirming?" Duh! I was told that I would be confirming the promises made on my behalf when I was baptised. "Oh! But I was never baptised!" I offered. (Now really, how would I know that? 😞 But it would have been unlikely!) After the gasps had died down, I was immediately whisked into the chapel the day before my confirmation to be Baptised – with the Geography master and the History mistress as my surrogate God-parents. And then, the next day, I duly confirmed what had been said by them on my behalf. Job done! 😊

Be sure to check out the Open House at Heydon Trust this coming Saturday (see posters below). Barbara describes the event thus:

- "Interesting talks, walks around the property, enjoy the Rose Garden and plantings around Quarry Cottage and a talk about sustainable gardening by Greg Wilson of "Food Forrest";
- Drinks and cookies/cakes from 9:00am;
- Self-guided tour and information brochures available.

Approximate times:

- 9:00am - Short Service in the Chapel;
- 10:00am – talk about Bermuda Roses in the Rose Garden;
- 11:15am – talk about sustainable gardening by Greg Wilson in the Chapel;
- 12:00pm – close.

For more information call 747 8893

Which reminds me, back to today's service, another excellent "Talk" from Fr. Terry. (See Fr. Terry's "Talk" below). Also lots of things under Coming Events.

That's it for this week. Stay cool!

Peter 🙄

Guild News

As announced last week, the Guild will be going ahead with their **Table-top sale fundraiser for SMC! – to be held on Saturday, 6th June** – So clear out your high-quality products that you are not using in your home, and kindly donate them to SMC for their table top sale. They will also need volunteers for the day! **If you are donating clothes, please ensure that they have been washed, as some of the organizers are allergic to mold and dust.** Items for the sale can be delivered to the church at service times or contact Lisa-Dawn for alternative arrangements.

Also, the Guild will be hosting their annual **Seniors' Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, 28th June at 11:30.** RSVP to Barbara Willis or Pansy Nichols. Sign-up sheet will be posted at the end of May.

The next monthly meeting of the Guild will take place on **Sunday, 7th June**, following refreshments, and any interested in coming along to help in their activities will be most welcome. It is always the same group who do it all and extra pairs of hands will be greatly appreciated. "Many hands make light work" and "a burden shared is a burden halved" – and all those similar platitudes. 😊

Also in Guild News, the Guild of the Good Shepherd (which is the Cathedral Guild) will be celebrating its 130th Anniversary in a service on Sunday, 31st May (see details below). When I read this, I thought "Wow! 130 years?!" My curiosity got the better of me. According to Michelle Gabesi-Simmons, in her book "The Guild of the Good Shepherd" it was founded in 1898 and was a huge affair. The members, at that time were all members of the black community and Michelle reports that after just two years their membership was 400 and after 3 years it had risen to 600. (Golly, can you imagine holding a Guild Tea for that number?) St. Mark's Guild was founded in 1944 and I do recall that, in earlier times, there were separate Guilds for members of the black community and members of

the white. I am not sure how dates worked out but it was during the tenure of Rev. James Sykes in the 1970's that, according to "St. Mark's Church, Bermuda" by William S. Zuill, Rev. Sykes brought about the *"amalgamation of St. Mark's Altar Guild and the St. Mark's Guild into one flourishing organisation, the Sanctuary Guild, as well as the sale of the Flatts Hill Mission Church"*. With that, the two guilds merged into the one we now have. And we are thankful!

Rev. Terry's Talk

May 24, 2026

Day of Pentecost

St. Mark's Anglican Church

Acts 2:1-21

Topic: "When Your Internal Fire Shows Up Publicly"

There are moments when the world changes quietly. A diagnosis delivered in a whisper. A text message that ends a relationship. A conversation that restores one. A child born at 3:12 in the morning while the rest of the island sleeps. And then there are moments when the world changes loudly. Acts chapter 2 is one of those loud moments. Wind. Fire. Voices. Crowds gathering in confusion. People accusing the disciples of being drunk before breakfast.

Pentecost does not arrive politely or quietly. The Church is born in disruption and out of chaos. And that matters because many of us quietly assume that God works mostly through calm, predictable, manageable situations. We imagine the Holy Spirit as gentle inspiration, a comforting thought, a peaceful feeling during a hymn, a brief moment of reassurance. But in Acts, the Spirit behaves more like weather. *"A sound like the rush of a violent wind."*; *"Divided tongues, as of fire."*; *"They began to speak in other languages."* And it is not a private religious experience. It spills into the streets.

And perhaps that is the first thing Pentecost wants to say to us: The Holy Spirit is not given merely for personal comfort or private reassurance. The Spirit is given so the life of God can become visible in public. The disciples had spent weeks behind locked doors, fearful, uncertain, diminished by grief and failure. Peter especially knew what failure felt like. He was the man who denied Jesus three times beside a charcoal fire. Now another fire appears. Only this fire does not expose his shame. Instead, it transforms his life.

That is what the Spirit does. It takes what has wounded us privately and turns it outward into witness. Not because we become perfect. But because God refuses to waste our pain. Our scars become places where grace can speak. And there is something deeply beautiful in this story: When the Spirit comes, people do not all begin speaking the same language. The miracle is not uniformity. The miracle is understanding. Parthians, Medes, Elamites, visitors from Rome — all hear *"the mighty works of God"* in their own native tongue. God does not erase our differences in order to create unity. God speaks through our differences. And that matters in a world as fragmented as ours. We live in an age of tribalism. Algorithms sort us into camps. Politics trains us to distrust one another. Even churches can become places where people gather only with those who look alike, think alike, or vote alike. But Pentecost reveals another vision of humanity. Not sameness, but communion. The Church at its best is not a collection of identical people repeating identical opinions. It is a Spirit-filled community where barriers are crossed without people losing their humanity. The gospel is heard in every language because every language matters to God. Every culture matters. Every story matters. Every person matters.

And so, the Church must resist every temptation toward exclusion, contempt, or fear. Because Pentecost announces that God is gathering a people wider than our comfort zones. Then Peter stands and quotes the prophet Joel: *"I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh."* **All flesh.** Not the spiritual elite. Not only the educated, the successful, the respectable, or the ordained. But sons and daughters. Young and old. Servants and strangers. The overlooked. The exhausted. The ones who think they have nothing left to offer. The Spirit falls generously on all people. And throughout Scripture, God consistently chooses unlikely people: Fishermen. Widows. Teenagers. Exiles. Failures. Cowards. Even traitors.

The Church was never meant to be a showcase for human competence. It is meant to be evidence of divine mercy. A place where wounded people discover they are still loved by God. And perhaps that is good news for many of us today. Because some of us maybe showed up today functioning well on the outside, while feeling depleted on the inside. Tired from work. Exhausted from caregiving. Shaken by grief. Worn down by disappointment. Trying to hold onto faith in a cynical age. You may feel spiritually underqualified. Disillusioned. Numb. Jaded. But Pentecost reminds us that the Spirit does not wait for impressive people. The Spirit comes to ordinary people gathered in an upper room, praying with more need than certainty.

And notice this: Before Pentecost becomes preaching, it begins with waiting. *“They were all together in one place.”*; They were praying. They were available. They were expectant. The disciples did not manufacture the Spirit. They received the Spirit. And that is an important distinction in a culture obsessed with control and productivity. We are trained to optimize everything — our schedules, our careers, even our spirituality. But the deepest movements of God cannot be engineered. They can only be received. The Church grows weak whenever it becomes merely managerial: Efficient but prayerless. Organized, but spiritually exhausted. We cannot program resurrection life into existence. We can only ask for it. And yet Pentecost also confronts us. Because when the Spirit comes, the disciples are pushed outward. The fire does not remain inside the upper room. It spills into the streets among confused, skeptical, ordinary people. The Spirit always moves the Church toward the world, not away from it. Which means our faith cannot become merely private spirituality. The Spirit calls us into public love, in a cruel culture. Public truthfulness, in a manipulative culture. Public generosity in an anxious culture. Public hope in a despairing culture. Because our world is hungry for signs that another way of being human is possible. People are tired. Tired of outrage. Tired of loneliness. Tired of fear. Tired of pretending everything is fine. Now the Church cannot heal every wound in the world, but filled with the Spirit, the Church can become a place where the future of God is visible. A place where strangers become friends. Where sins are forgiven. Where burdens are shared. Where the lonely are remembered. Where grace interrupts shame. That is Pentecost. Not religious spectacle for its own sake. Not emotional excitement detached from discipleship. Pentecost is the living presence of God forming a new humanity.

The crowd in Acts 2 asks, *“What does this mean?”* And I believe it is still the question today. What does it mean when fearful people become courageous? What does it mean when divided people become one people? What does it mean when ordinary women and men begin speaking with wisdom, courage, and hope? What does it mean when old boundaries of age, status, gender, and nation no longer determine who belongs? Peter answers the question: This is what happens when God pours out the Spirit on all flesh. He reminds us that the risen Christ has not abandoned the world. That the Spirit is still being poured out. And that the fire still burns. And even now — quietly or loudly — God is still creating a people who can speak hope in a language the world can understand. This is what happens “when your internal fire shows up publicly.” **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 , Tina Welch, Valerie (June) Johnstone and Hilda Warner. We pray for Joan Hollis and Jane Dawes. 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, **31st May – Trinity Sunday**. Being a month with five Sundays, St. Mark's Church will be enjoying a Joint Service with our sister East End Churches. We will all meet at Holy Trinity

Church, Bailey's Bay for the observance of their Patronal Feast Day which will be led by Bishop Nick Dill. **There will be no services at St. Mark's next Sunday.**

Coming Events

- **Life Group Startup** – The popular Life Groups continue 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.
- **Heydon Trust Open Day** – Don't miss the opportunity to visit the chapel at Heydon Trust for their Open House on **Saturday, 30th May between 9 am and Noon**. See posters below. A beautiful, peaceful way to spend a Saturday morning.
- **Holy Trinity Feast of Title" Service** – we join Holy Trinity on **Trinity Sunday, 31st May - a joint 'fifth Sunday' service for the East End churches**, with Bishop Nick leading our community celebration and Guild Anniversary at 10.00 am. **There will be no Services at St. Mark's that Sunday.**
- **Guild of the Good Shepherd** (The Guild of the Cathedral) – will be holding its **130th Anniversary Service on Sunday 31st May at 3.00 p.m.** followed by refreshments. See Invitation below.
- **Table-top sale fundraiser for SMC! – to be held on Saturday, 6th June** from 9am to 2 pm. Clear out your high-quality products that you are not using in your home, and kindly donate them to SMC for our table top sale. We will also need volunteers for the day! **If you are donating clothes, please ensure that they have been washed, as some of the organizers are allergic to mold and dust.** Thank you!!!
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3.00 p.m. on Sunday, 7th June** in the Parish Hall.
- **"Formation Training for Eucharistic Ministry"** – see discussion above – will take place on **Saturday, 13th June** at Chapel Hamlet, Caroline Bay, Morgan's Point **from 10 am to 3 pm** (see also poster below)
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will be on **Saturday, 27th June**.
- **Senior's Appreciation Luncheon** – The Guild will be hosting this annual event on **Sunday, 28th June at 11:30 am**. RSVP to Barbara Willis or Pansy Nichols. Sign-up sheet will be posted at the end of May.

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.

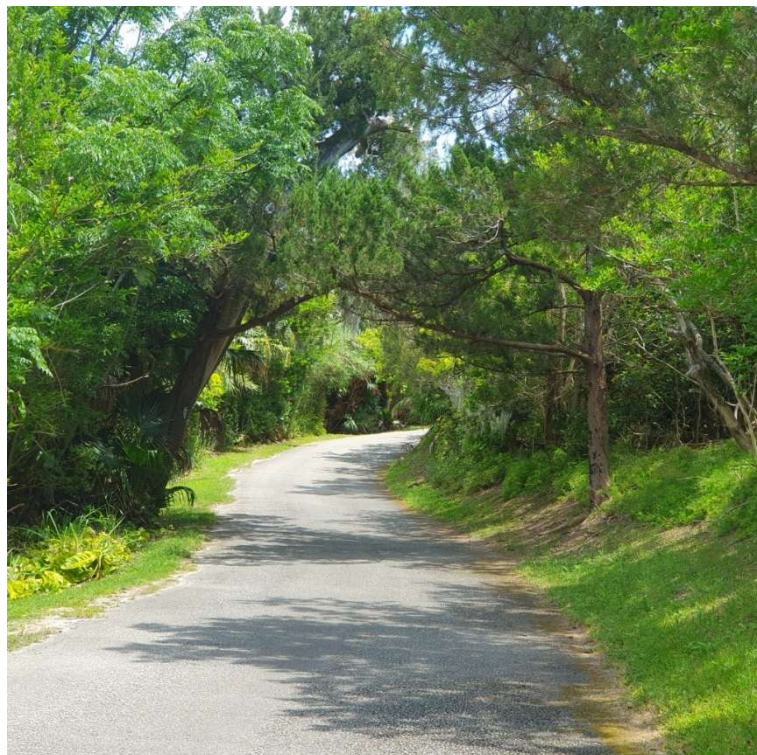
Use of the “Beneficiary” space is IMPORTANT – it is the only way we have to identify who is paying and for what.

Posters follow:

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

The Heydon Trust Open House

Saturday May 30th 9am - noon





*The Officers and Members of
The Guild of the Good Shepherd
Invite you to attend its 130th Anniversary Service at
The Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity
Church Street, Hamilton
Sunday, 31st May, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Preacher The Revd. Dr. Canon Sharon Prentis
Refreshments will be served immediately after the service in the
church hall.*

Formation Training for Eucharist Ministry

Focused on teaching, discussion, and spiritual reflection

You are invited to come grow in
Faith, Reverence, and Service



Date: Saturday, June 13, 2026
Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Venue: Chapel Hamlet, Caroline Bay, Morgan' Point
Contact: Your Priest-in-charge by June 1, 2026