

Stay Connected – 19th July 2026

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Peter's Blurb

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

Well, St. Mark's held the third of its four Family Barbecue evenings this week which I was unable to attend due to a conflicting engagement. I could post a photo of the event but it would be so similar to the previous week's photo that it actually makes more sense to tell you what we have planned for the last in the series coming up this week Friday (the fifth Friday in the month will be Cup Match! Go St. George's

FREE COMMUNITY BBQ & MOVIE NIGHT

IN THE GROUNDS OF ST MARK'S CHURCH, SMITHS

FRIDAY JULY 24TH

6PM – 8:30PM

MOVIE STARTS AT **7PM** INSIDE THE PARISH HALL

MIGRATION

Good Food! Great Movie! Even Better Company!

Everyone is Welcome!

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS & BLANKETS AND ENJOY A NIGHT OF FUN!

St. Marks
Not just a church, but a family.

SNOWBALLS & POPCORN by Jazzy Treats

BOUNCY CASTLES

HOT DOGS

HAMBURGERS



The SMC team will be pulling out all the stops and it will be all hands-on deck. Check the Poster – A FREE Community BBQ and Movie Night. You can read all about it but let me tell you about the movie.

"**Migration**" is widely considered an excellent, family-friendly movie for kids. The animated film, which is rated PG for mild rude humor and action/peril, features beautiful animation and positive messages about family togetherness and stepping out of your comfort

"A family of ducks decides to leave the safety of a New England pond for an adventurous trip to Jamaica. However, their well-laid plans quickly go awry when they get lost and wind up in New York City. The experience soon inspires them to expand their horizons, open themselves up to new friends, and accomplish more than they ever thought possible."

So, there's a teaser for you! Promises to be a fun evening and, hopefully, will introduce St. Mark's to a wider community. Running time: 1hr 22 mins.

We had another lively service today, with Fr. Terry receiving help from Junior Church members with reading the text for today – the Parable of the Wheat and Weeds – ably read for us by Lily. The youngsters also assisted Fr. Terry with the Consecration – a great way of teaching the children about Communion. Well done, Junior Church.

I was off-island briefly again last week – I went up to Lahey for a PET scan the results of which will inform the rest of my summer in various ways. But, I was back just in time for Thursday's choir rehearsal so didn't miss a thing really.

All things considered, however, it really is time for me to hand over this weekly communication to another pair of hands. So, if anyone is willing to give it a go, please reach out and touch me 🤗 and I will be happy to relinquish the newsletter to a fresh mind and pair of hands. 😊

Guild News

The Guild will not be having meetings during the summer months. They will resume with their AGM on Sunday, 4th October. Any church members interested in coming along to help in their activities will be most welcome. Please discuss your interest with Pansy or Barbara who will be delighted to talk to you about the importance of the Guild and the nature of its work for the church. 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. 😊

Fr. Terry's Talk

July 19th, 2026

Seventh Sunday after Trinity (8.00 a.m.)

St. Mark's Anglican Church

Matthew 13. 24 – 30, 36-43

Wheat Among the Weeds

One of Jesus' more challenging parables is the story of the wheat and the weeds (Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43). At first glance, it seems straightforward. A farmer sows good seed, but during the night an enemy scatters weeds throughout the field. When the servants discover what has happened, they are ready to act immediately: “Shall we go and pull up the weeds?” The farmer's response is surprising. He tells them to leave both wheat and weeds to grow together until the harvest, lest they damage the wheat by removing the weeds too soon. It is not the answer we might expect. Most of us prefer quick solutions. We like problems that can be identified, fixed, and put behind us. Whether in public life, on social media, or even within our own communities, we are often tempted to sort people into neat categories: right and wrong, good and bad, friend and foe. Jesus invites us to be much more cautious. He is not suggesting that evil should be ignored or that injustice should be tolerated. Throughout His ministry, Jesus confronted evil wherever He found it. What He challenges is our confidence that we always know who the “weeds” are. God's Kingdom does not move at the speed of social media or according to the outrage of the twenty-four-hour news cycle. God is never hurried into judgment. He is patient, and His patience is not weakness but mercy.

Throughout Scripture we meet people whose lives were transformed by that mercy. Abraham lied. Moses lost his temper. David fell into serious sin. Peter denied Jesus. Saul persecuted the Church before becoming Paul, the great apostle to the nations. Had someone judged them only by their worst moments, their stories would have ended very differently. Perhaps that is why this parable should make us not only humble but grateful. The line between wheat and weeds does not simply run between “us” and “them.” It runs through every human heart. Each of us knows both faithfulness and failure, generosity and selfishness. None of us is the finished product God intends us to become. The Christian life is not about pretending to be perfect. It is about allowing God, with remarkable patience, to continue His work within us. That does not mean Christians become passive in the face of evil. We are called to seek justice, protect the vulnerable, speak the truth with courage, and work for reconciliation wherever we can. But there is an important difference between resisting evil and appointing ourselves as the final judge of

other people. That responsibility belongs to God alone. Our calling is simpler, and perhaps more demanding: to keep sowing good seed. Wherever there is hatred, we sow forgiveness. Where there is loneliness, we offer friendship. Where there is division, we become peacemakers. Where there is despair, we bear hope. It is easy to become preoccupied with the weeds. We can spend so much energy dwelling on what is wrong that we neglect the quiet work God has entrusted to us. Yet the farmer's attention remains fixed on the wheat and the life that is growing.

Perhaps the question this parable asks each of us is not, *'Who are the weeds?'* but rather, *"What kind of fruit is God growing in me?"* The Kingdom often grows quietly, in faithful acts of kindness, in prayers offered day after day, in meals shared, in neighbours cared for, in forgiveness extended, and in worship offered week by week. These things rarely make headlines, but they are the work through which God continues to transform His world. The harvest, Jesus reminds us, belongs to the Lord. He sees what we cannot see, knows what we cannot know, and will judge with perfect justice and perfect mercy. Until then, may we trust His patience, extend that same patience to others, and continue faithfully sowing the seeds of His Kingdom. Amen!

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, Audrey, Robert & Kalreeta, and for Diana, Tina Welch, Valerie (June) Johnstone and Hilda Warner. We pray for Joan Hollis, Stephen & Gill Bailey. Please keep David Bedard in your prayers. Also, prayers 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 July** –Join us for our **Peaceful Worship** service at 8 am followed by our **Contemporary Worship** service at 9.30 am both led by Rev. Terry. There will be refreshments to follow.

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.
- **A FREE Community BBQ and Movie Night.** – St. Mark's Church will be hosting this event on **Friday, 24th July at 6 pm** at the Parish Hall. For details see story above.
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will probably be **on Saturday, 25th July**.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3 p.m. on Sunday, 2nd August** in the Parish Hall.

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 happenin' 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. Please consider the opportunity to pledge 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.
- **Set up a Standing Order instruction** so that you don't have to remember each week.

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!



Friday Night Community BBQ at St. Mark's!

6pm on the church grounds,

July 10th, 17th & 24th!

**Hotdogs, hamburgers and a
whole lot of fun!**

Activities for the kids!

Bring a folding chair and a friend!

Please RSVP to 504-4150



St. Mark's Church, Bermuda

Summer is here and there is lots going
on at St. Mark's!! Every Friday in July

www.facebook.com

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p/1Cd5Vr2BFA/?mibextid=wwXlfr](https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Cd5Vr2BFA/?mibextid=wwXlfr)