

Stay Connected – 26th July 2026

Eighth Sunday after Trinity

This Week's Reading

Bible Reading: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Peter's Blurb

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

Hello everyone. Here we are again. I had hoped to be able to tell you about the BIG BBQ on Saturday evening but – well, I was not there. I reached out earlier hoping I might get some anecdotal input as I was not there but – nada! During the morning Service Fr. Terry gave a report that there were an estimate 250 people participating – WOW! And he thanked the many who volunteered their time and support to make it the huge success it obviously was. Well done, St. Marks!



Well, there we were in St. Mark's on Sunday morning at the beginning of Cup Match week with some folk dressed in a combination of



red & blue representing their misguided allegiance to Somerset. With yet others bedecked in the home team colours of

blue and blue in support of St George's the church began to resemble the club cricket field. Additional coloured "pom-pom" decorations by Annie added to the picture. We even had Luke Horan fielding at Mid-Wicket.



If you could imagine our blue aisle carpet as green it would have made a great wicket with Fr. Terry as the Wicket-Keeper. Knock his bails right off!!

Then, shortly after Leta had finished telling us the story of the mustard seed, out came the shining sun in the form of none other than "Mustard Seed Steve" to illustrate and explain the story to the youngsters -



who lapped it up – the story, not the mustard. It was a brilliant piece of theatre. I have to say the man looks pretty good for having been established in 1869! Well done, once again Steve!

As mentioned last week. all things this weekly communication to give it a go, please reach out and newsletter to a fresh mind and pair of hands. 😊



considered, it really is time for me to hand over another pair of hands. So, if anyone is willing to touch me 🙏 and I will be happy to relinquish the

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 26th, 2026

Faith, Hope, and Courage to Flourish

As we celebrate Emancipation, we remember one of the defining moments in Bermuda's history. On 1 August 1834, slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire. Here in Bermuda, generations of enslaved Africans and their descendants endured hardship, injustice, and the denial of their God-given dignity. Yet they never surrendered the hope that one day freedom would come.

In Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52, Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. It begins small, almost unnoticed, yet grows into something great. That is often how God works in history. The dream of freedom in Bermuda did not begin with Acts of Parliament; it began in the hearts of people who knew they were created in the image of God. It grew through quiet acts of courage, steadfast faith, and the unwavering conviction that no human being should own another.

Jesus also says that the Kingdom is like yeast, quietly working through the dough until everything is transformed. Bermuda's story reminds us that emancipation did not instantly erase inequality. Legal freedom came in 1834, but the pursuit of justice, opportunity, and dignity continued for generations and, in many ways, continues today. The Kingdom of God calls us not simply to celebrate freedom, but to become people through whom justice, mercy, and reconciliation continue to grow.

Jesus then speaks of a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great price. The greatest treasure is not only political freedom, but the freedom Christ offers. He breaks the invisible chains of fear, prejudice, bitterness, and sin. A nation may be legally free and still need healing. A community may carry the wounds of its past and yet discover reconciliation through the transforming grace of Christ.

Finally, Jesus tells of a net gathering fish of every kind. That is the Church at its best. That is St. Mark's at its best. We caught a glimpse of that Kingdom when we hosted our recent Community BBQ and Movie Night. It felt as though God was casting His net across Smith's Parish, drawing together neighbours and visitors from every walk of life. We witnessed something beautiful, a genuine spirit of community, joy, and belonging. Katie, one of our members, captured the moment perfectly when she said, *"Wow, look at all the happy people."* Later, Mr. Butterfield of Jazzy Treats, who generously sponsored the snowballs and popcorn, reflected on the evening by saying, *"This is what we are missing in Bermuda—the coming together of all people."*

That evening offered us a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. While Bermuda's colonial past often divided people by race, privilege, and power, the Kingdom of God calls us to a different way of living. At the Lord's Table, the heart of our life together at St. Mark's, those divisions have no place. Here, we are one family in Christ: equally loved, equally forgiven, and equally called to love and serve one another. As we remember with gratitude those whose faith, courage, and perseverance helped bring freedom to Bermuda, we are also invited to consider the legacy we are leaving for future generations. What seeds of God's Kingdom are we planting today? Are we sowing justice, nurturing reconciliation, and recognising the image of God in every person we meet?

The Kingdom of Heaven is still growing among us, often quietly, yet always powerfully. May St. Mark's continue to be a place where every person is welcomed, every table reflects God's grace, and every life bears witness to the freedom found in Christ. And may God give us the faith to plant, the hope to persevere, and the courage to help His Kingdom flourish, for the glory of God and the good of Bermuda. 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, **2nd August** –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.
- **Bereavement Support Tea** – our next monthly chat will take place at **3 p.m. on Sunday, 2nd August** in the Parish Hall.
- **Vendor's Market** – The next Vendor's Market will probably be **on Saturday, 21st August**.

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. 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.