

THE ANGLICAN



*O Come
All ye
Faithful*

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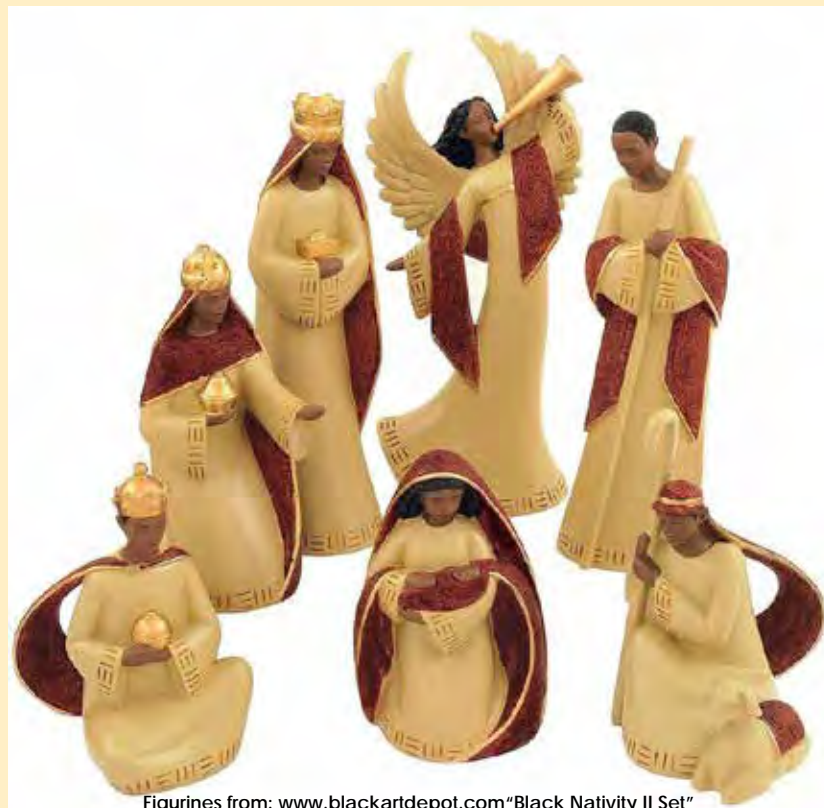
DECEMBER 2020

Archbishop's Christmas Message *Be God's Agents of Transformation for the Vulnerable*

This Christmas will be unlike any of recent memory and will find many in a state of nostalgia and grief because of the loss of what they have known and to which they have grown accustomed. It may be, however, that this Christmas will bring back a sense of reality to what Christmas is all about and our departure from its central focus. So what is our current reality? It is that of living in the context of the coronavirus pandemic.

This pandemic has brought about a level of global dislocation never before experienced in terms of infection, death, economic dislocation, job loss, disruption in global travel; lockdowns, curfews, and restrictive protocols; and even as it has exposed the social inequities which prevail in our world.

A closer examination which takes us beyond the statistics reveals its impact on the life of individuals, families and communities. It has led to confinement to home for those determined most vulnerable and afflicted by comorbidities; restrictions on public gatherings including worship and social events; and increasing loneliness and emotional distress, especially for those who live alone. There is increasing domestic violence and abuse of children; closure of schools and the transfer to online teaching which has placed many children at a disadvantage; and also prevented them from interacting with their peers at a time when the fostering of social relations is a vital part of their development.



Figurines from: www.blackartdepot.com "Black Nativity II Set"

The pandemic has also exposed the underlying value system of our society as those responsible for governance weigh the value of business versus human life in determining the opening of national boundaries and business enterprises.

A serious examination of the Christmas story reveals that, like all accounts of human experience in history, it has a striking similarity to the experience of people in today's world.

- i. It was first a setting in which power and control over the lives of people did not reside in the hands of citizens but, was exercised by a privileged few, as Roman imperialism was the order of the day.
- ii. There was human dislocation, displacement and homelessness brought about by a Census decreed by the Roman authorities.
- iii. Mary and Joseph, the parents in the drama, experienced rejection and exclusion from

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community support. They were without the usual family presence and assistance to the new mother and baby.

iv. The dehumanization and degradation of persons was obvious. Just imagine the indignity of having to give birth to one's baby in a stable amongst animals.

v. Other actors in the drama of the birth are simple people, shepherds, whose life was rough and who occupied the bottom rung of the social ladder, and yet, were among the first to learn of the birth of Jesus.

vi. The later tradition celebrated at the Epiphany captures the visit of gentile strangers (outsiders) coming to acknowledge the divine action that was at work in the birth of the Christ child.

God Lifts up the Downtrodden

It is no accident that it is in the midst of such circumstances and among people that are not the epitome of status and success that God chose to become incarnate. In so doing, God the Father lifts up before us the plight of the powerless within human community; the displaced and the homeless; and the inhumanity that allows for a child to be born in conditions suitable only for animals.

In addition, our God reveals how faith finds expression and becomes the vehicle for revelation in the humble and trusting people who are involved in this drama. It was to these people that the angel, the messenger of God appeared, with good news. So, the poor, symbolized by the shepherds, now hear the message of the fulfillment of centuries of human longing and hope for a new and transforming experience of life in the birth of Jesus.

In the birth of the baby, our God reveals Himself to be always active in the created world as we know it; reveals his nature; gives concrete expression to his never failing love and outreach toward and on behalf of humanity; and affirmed and restored the dignity of human nature.

We may be prone to feel pity for the shepherds whose place of nightly rest was in the cold fields with their animals and for Mary and Joseph in their experience of exclusion and the dehumanizing context in which the baby Jesus

was born. And yet, if we pay attention to the text, we see that their response was not one of self-pity, but of joy and enthusiasm. It is all captured for us in their responses in Luke 2:15-20. Pay attention once more to the responses of the shepherds and of Mary:

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

It is in the experience of the primary actors in the narrative of the birth of the Christ child that we see how God exposes the social realities and inequities with which people live on a daily basis, as well as empowers them to be the bearers and vehicles through which the good news of God's transforming presence in our world is communicated to humanity.

Likewise, it has taken a pandemic to lift up before us the inequities with which many of our people live. In today's pandemic we often speak of the vulnerable in terms of the elderly and those afflicted by co-morbidities. But, there are also socially vulnerable citizens who face the greatest risk of impact by the virus. We are forced to recognize that it is impossible for some people to practice social distancing as they live in cramped and crowded accommodation; existing on the edge and

standing in need of care packages if their life is disrupted for even a day. We have been caught scrambling to find tablets and other devices to assist disadvantaged children in our society to continue their education in a context in which online classes are the option.

Becoming Agents of God's Light

The challenge of Christmas then is for us to look first of all at ourselves and whether in the midst of our current experience of life we can enter into the joy, enthusiasm and contemplation which the actors in the first Christmas demonstrated. Then we should look around and see in our world those whose circumstance in life is one of vulnerability, whether this is due to the virus and its impact; the inequities of life in our society; loneliness; the growing crime rate or the loss of loved ones. In the face of these realities **it is for us to become agents of relief and messengers of the good news of the hope which God brings to our world in the birth of his son, Jesus Christ.**

It could be that in reaching out to the vulnerable in our midst, we may hear God speaking to us as we attempt to share a word of comfort with them, even when we have no answer for their questions and their situation. Our role as agents of relief may also involve engagement in advocacy or charity to make their circumstances in life more affirming of their humanity, in the name of Jesus Christ, who came to transform our experience of life in this world and the life to come.

So, as we celebrate Christmas this year we must move beyond nostalgia and sentimentality for a world and time that is past, and look for the threads that connect the Christmas narrative with our lived experience in this world of the coronavirus pandemic and a year which we long to see behind us, as if it were a bad dream. In so doing, we



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Disestablishment

An Experience of Liberation

Two major Diocesan events – the Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the Disestablishment of the Diocese and the annual observation of Cathedral Sunday were merged at a Service of the Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega, Spanish Town, on November 22, The Feast of Christ the King. In light of COVID-19 protocols regarding public gatherings, the Service was live streamed. Following are excerpts from the Sermon delivered by Archbishop Howard Gregory under the Theme: “Assessing the Past, Contemplating the Present, Strategizing for the Future.”

Disestablishment – An Experience of Liberation

The year 1870 was only one major point of transition for the Anglican Church in this nation. Indeed, there is evidence that there were individual leaders of the Church of England who owned or had investment in various slave plantations in Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean.

In this historical moment with the reverberations from the Black Lives Matter Movement and the Reparations lobby occupying the spotlight, this must also introduce a sobering tone in our observance of Disestablishment, an issue which we need to re-visit as a Diocese. Against the background of our text (Ezra 1:1-4), we should note that Cyrus (King of Persia) was not releasing the Israelites before Babylon had been enriched and augmented by their labour and their presence, even as some Israelites had experienced similar fortunes by their participation in the economy and culture of Babylon.

Disestablishment marked a similar transition from a state of being in which both the liberator and the liberated were beneficiaries of an unhealthy alliance.

One of the realities about liberation is that it is never a destination to which a people arrive. It is always an ongoing process with its challenges which must be confronted in every age. To that extent, **if we define disestablishment as an experience of liberation, then we must understand that the process is not yet completed**, and the initiatives undertaken by our forbears cannot be the glories on which we hang with nostalgia. We must recognize that our society is at a different place from where it was 150 years ago or even a decade ago. We must bring to bear on the process our distinctive contribution in our time.

Archbishop's Christmas Message...contd

shall see our God as one who is present and active bringing light in the lives of people whose world seems to be one of darkness. We shall see a God who lifts up the poor, the humble and the vulnerable to become the agents of God's revelation and light to the world; a God who challenges us not to sanctify those conditions in which the least of the society live but, to become partners and agents for the transformation of their life-situation as we are ourselves transformed by allowing God to work in similar ways in our lives.

The further challenge is to see how God may be present and working in our world and our lives to bring about transformation in all of the realities which the pandemic has exposed.

May Christmas 2020 be a life-transforming experience for you and those whose life you touch, especially the vulnerable persons in our society.

The Most Rev. Dr. Howard Gregory
Bishop of Jamaica
& The Cayman Islands
Archbishop of The West Indies, Primate and Metropolitan

DISESTABLISHMENT – COMMEMORATIVE HYMN

“ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS”
Words: Bertram Gayle ©2020,
Music: Everton Clarke ©2020

For all these many years
The Church from State breaks free
Her own affairs she steers
Serves God in liberty
O happy years
The chains have past
The Church now hymns
Praise God at last.

In all these many years
Of work and ministry
Showing to all God cares
Minds, bodies, spirits free
Our people served
Our God obeyed
In deed and word
The way Christ paved.

For all these many years
This time we celebrate
Thus far come amidst fears
God's grace, this is our faith
Tread on we must
The work's not o'er
For this we trust
The Spirit's pow'r.

To all these many years
Add more, and then may we
Through God who spares us
Still give thanks for liberty
May we be true
And faithful be
Past sins eschew
And love daily.



Celebrating Christmas in COVID Times

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, as a church, we never stopped worshipping God. This Christmas, Christ Church Cure will continue to celebrate life in Jesus Christ on dual platforms, both face-to-face and online (without breaking the protocols or curfew set by the Government).

The tradition of reaching everyone on Christmas Day has presented many challenges. Nevertheless, plans are in place to ensure that our Services will go on. The usual Midnight Mass at St. Jude's, Bourbon will, instead, take place on Christmas Eve in the late afternoon and will be done face-to-face. On Christmas Day, there will be a face-to-face Service at Christ Church, starting at 6 am, and this will be streamed on the zoom platform. The St. Stephen's, St Margaret's Bay Mission will also join the Christ Church congregation, as usual. This will be followed by a service at St. Paul's, Nonsuch, at 9 am.

The New Year Service, however, will be held at one location – Christ Church – on New Year's Eve starting at 6 pm. We continue to praise God through singing accompanied by the organ, tambourine, djembe, and conga drums. The journey of the faithful continues with Jesus as our central focus deserving of our praise and thanksgiving.

Rev. Rory Honeyghan
Rector, Christ Church, Port Antonio

The priority for the St. John's Cure, Ocho Rios is how to engage and celebrate Christmas and New Year at its three points - St. John's, Ocho Rios, St. Francis', Hiattsfield, and St. Agnes', Salisbury, amid protocols, curfews and restrictions.

Our Church family has to focus on members who will not be able to provide for themselves. As a Church, we have to ensure that they can still experience joy and celebrate this Christmas Season; and we will, therefore, be preparing care packages for these members.

The Cure's Christmas Day roster will not be affected by the curfew hours, as our first Service will be at 6:00 a.m. However, the traditional Watchnight Service on New Year's Eve has been eliminated due to the curfew. It is proposed to conduct Evensong to usher out the old year, and celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name on January 1.

It is my hope that members will adjust to the changes which are due to the current challenge of the Pandemic. There are still opportunities for worship to offer thanksgiving and praise even in these unusual times. While the usual activities of Christmas will be scaled back, there is still much for which we can be thankful, and we must lift our voices in praise to God!

Very Rev. Fr. Richard A. Tucker
Rector, St. John's Cure, Ocho Rios

Christmas celebrations at St. Luke's are eagerly anticipated, not only by our members, but also the wider communities which we serve, and in particular, the needy persons for whom we host a Christmas Luncheon each year.

With the advent of COVID -19, things have changed. For Christmas 2020, the physical distance protocol does not permit the traditional Christmas Luncheon; but since December 7, we have been distributing gift baskets/care packages for the needy. Focus is also being placed on bringing cheer to our own shut in-members at this time.

On December 20, Our Carol Service featured a special presentation, "The Narrated Nativity" and this was streamed live. Instead of the usual two Services on Christmas Day, one Service will be held at 7:30 a.m.

We will celebrate the Eve of The Holy Name on New Year's Eve, beginning at 6:00 p.m. and this will also be streamed live.

Anne Spence Morris
St. Luke's Church, Cross Roads



CATHEDRAL SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Reaching the Unchurched during Christmas

Christmas is a festival that brings joy to the lives of human beings as it celebrates the birth of Jesus, and more importantly, that God, through His Son Jesus, has come to teach and show us how to live our lives abundantly/eternally. The primary lessons that the birth/nativity of Jesus teaches are that:

- The real meaning of life is found in things spiritual not material;
- Life is best experienced communally rather than individually

These two lessons are showcased in the Christmas Story (Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-14).

While this liturgical season is relevant to Christians, all these explanations would be meaningless to persons who have never been exposed to the Reality of God, as revealed in Christ Jesus. So, how do we communicate with persons who don't know the Story or find it irrelevant? Well, the answer is in the two lessons the story brings out – spirituality and community as against materialism and individualism as a way of living. This is even more relevant in this COVID Pandemic which has led to economic scarcity and physical and social isolation.

The Christmas Story provides an opportunity to teach others and show them that what makes life really meaningful cannot be obtained by money or power. It's love, which demands sacrificial giving; peace which requires good relationships with God and others; and joy which stems from gratitude for what you possess. These qualities are available in any circumstance and to all people as a gift of God, by the Holy Spirit, through the birth of Jesus.

*The Rev. Canon Michael Allen
Rector, Church of The Ascension,
Mona Heights*



The Church of the Holy Spirit (1970 – 2020)

“Fulfilling God’s Mission for 50 Years, Toward a future of Hope and Grace”



Today, the work continues, though adversely affected by COVID-19, but with hopes of resuming full activities in 2021.

The St. Andrew Chapel, Caymanas became part of our mission field and was formalised as part of our Cure when Holy Spirit was consecrated, having achieved settled congregation status in 1996.

The Rectory, which provided a permanent home for our Rector, was completed and occupied in 1998.

The assignment of an Assistant Curate for 2016-2019, signalled the recognition by the Diocese that the Church's ministry was strong and could support the continued formation of the then newly-ordained Rev. Marjorie Downer. She continued a line of ministers who served the Cure over these 50 years. They include the late Canon Calvin Golding, the late Rev. Reynold A. Smith, the late Canon Ernle Gordon, the late Cynthia McMillan, The Rev. Sean Major-Campbell, Priest-In-Charge Rev. Lionel Richards, Rev. Soares, Rev. Jean Forbes, and the current Rector, The Rev. Michael Elliott. There is also a long record of ministry opportunities provided from the outset by members of the Church Army – Capt. Joshua Henry, Sisters Norma Thompson, Cynthia Lue-Bernard and Molly Walton. Our Church has also facilitated the training of UTCWI students over the years, the most recent being Bertram Gayle.

The Holy Spirit community may also boast of contributing to the ranks of the ordained within the Diocese as the Rev. Monique Blake Campbell was nurtured through the CHS Sunday School and AYF. The Rev. Canon

The humble beginnings of the Independence City Anglican Group in 1970 could not have anticipated the growth of the seed planted within that community then.

What's in a name?

Naming in the Bible holds great significance. So, it appears, the naming of this group of Anglicans in Independence City had a significant impact on its witness, ministry and growth. The 'Church of the Holy Spirit' (CHS) has often been the point of reference for Bishops and other clergy who presided or preached at events and milestone moments in our Church's journey. Established in a new residential development, a name to encourage witness, mission and ministry was bestowed on the Church. It was an awesome burden to bear at times, but it was also a call to arms, a challenge to stay the course, a powerful testimony!

It is a testimony to the presence and power of God in the lives of all who have been a part of this history. A story of the courage and resilience of those who, from the beginning, gave of themselves, their time, resources, skills, and talents to establish this Church in the

Cumberland/Independence City Community of Portmore. A story that charts a journey from an open lot on Augusta Drive in 1970, to the Bramwell verandah on Surrey Ave, to the Independence City Primary and All-Age school via the Caymans Park grandstand, to the Independence City Community Centre and finally taking up its current residence in Cumberland in 1985. A story that tells of how God's power working through the lives and efforts of the current membership, still enables us to make a difference in the lives of many.

What of the Fruits?

Over the years, the Church has remained true to its call to minister to the people of Portmore and has realised achievements along the way.

We have planted other seed that have grown and are carrying on their own witness. The Anglican witness that evolved in Greater Portmore into the Church of the Conversion of St. Paul was a mission activity of the Church of the Holy Spirit which began in 1994, under then Priest-in-Charge, The Rev. Barrington Soares.

On September 4, 1995 the Church of the Holy Spirit Basic School began with three students.

Michael Allen was also nurtured and confirmed while the church worshipped at the Independence City School.

We express thanks to the various bishops under whose influence CHS has grown – the late Bishops Herbert Edmonson, Neville deSouza, Herman Spence, William Murray, Alfred Reid, and E. Don Taylor, retired Bishop Robert Thompson, and current Archbishop Howard Gregory.

The church community and Rector continue regular ministry (devotions and counselling) to schools in the Portmore Municipality and a monthly grocery bag outreach to the indigent.

We thank members of the Cure, and the numerous church workers (living and departed) who throughout these 50 years have contributed to the journey of the Church of the Holy Spirit.

In His Name
The Covid19 pandemic has muted our celebrations. Nevertheless, the upheavals brought on by the pandemic have enabled us to use available technology to bring our services into the homes of our sick and shut-in members. Through the generosity and sacrifice of members and supporters of the church, our grocery distribution ministry continues.

The Church of the Holy Spirit remains thankful to God and renews its commitment to go forward in His Name, exemplifying the call of our name to witness and minister the love of God, in our corner of the vineyard.

Submitted by Mrs. Sharon Burnett & Rev. Michael Elliott



Midnight Mass on Church Grounds



Pentecost - Feast of Titles



Movement Ministry



Carol Service in the Village



The gate

Christingle – Sharing the Light of Jesus

As the year winds down at St. George's - as we observe the season of Advent and prepare for Christmas and another year of activities, we look back with thanksgiving to God for the many blessings we have received this year, both seen and unseen.

Our annual Christingle Service this year which was led by the youth gave the congregation a renewed appreciation for the ability to gather for worship as they engaged in an upbeat and meaningful Service during which an offering was collected for the children of Honduras who were affected by hurricanes.

In keeping with the COVID-19 restrictions, the gathering of youngsters was much smaller as there was less representation from organized community youth groups. However,

the young ladies and young men of St. George's led the Service with confidence and creativity as they imparted the message of Christingle symbolized by the orange which represents the world, red ribbon which represents the blood and love of Christ, four toothpicks and candy which represent all of God's creation and the candle representing Jesus, the light of the world.

The Liturgist for the evening was AYF President, Davonte Howell and the message or "The Talk" delivered by Jamie-Kay Smith, a member of the AYF, resonated with the youngsters and adults alike. She highlighted the need for adults and children to form meaningful relationships which will enable each of us to shine the light of Christ into each

other's lives. Reminding the congregation that Jesus said let your light shine before others, she suggested that this can be done through engaging in acts of service through programmes offered by the church, watching what we say and minding what we do in our daily lives.

Instead of distributing Christingles that were already made, this year, the children were each given a Christingle kit with instructions as to how to make them when they got home. Photos of the completed Christingles were shared later in the evening on social media. The evening ended with the usual fellowship and refreshments in the garden.

**Contributed by
Andria Dilbert
St. George's Church,
Grand Cayman**



*"Oh, star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light
We three kings, we three kings"*

Remembering Canon Ernle Gordon

**'Fearless',
'Compassionate',
'Approachable' and**

'Generous' are just some of the adjectives used to describe the late Rev. Canon Ernle Gordon, OD, who died on November 12, at the age of 82. Ordained a priest in 1968, he spent most of his ministry as Rector of St. Mary the Virgin Church, Maverley, serving there from 1972 until his retirement in 2012. He was installed a Canon of the Cathedral of St. Jago de la Vega, Spanish Town, in June 2001.

The Most Rev Howard Gregory, Bishop of Jamaica and Archbishop of the West Indies in his tribute, noted that Canon Gordon "became a national figure through his preaching and public engagement of social and political issues during some of the most challenging decades of the post-Independence period."

One of the country's foremost religious thinkers, Canon Gordon was the author of a number of works. One of his latest, published in 2014, was entitled **Liberation Theology – Articles and Essays**. This is a compilation of his writings, and it tackles many controversial issues including homosexuality, partisan politics, and the role of the church. Over the years, his perceived left-wing views on a number of subjects affecting the Jamaican society earned him the title 'the Red Priest' in some sections of the media. An unrelenting advocate for human rights and social justice, Canon Gordon wrote many newspaper articles and was a frequent guest on radio programmes where he was never afraid to express his views and challenge national leaders.

It was at St. Mary the Virgin where he served for some 40 years that his greatest impact as spiritual guide and mentor was felt. His successor as Rector, The Rev. Leslie Mowatt, said that his ministry there "defies easy description. It is no secret that his politics and his theology were symbiotic; they fed each other. He embraced liberation theology



Archbishop Howard Gregory, offers a word of encouragement to The Rev. Canon Ernle's Gordon's widow, Juliet (left) and daughter Sherryl, as they prepare to take the urn bearing his remains from the Church following the Mass of the Resurrection.



Canon Ernle's son, Richard, urges: "Let the work he has done be continued in you and me," as he delivers the Remembrance.



The Urn bearing the remains of The Rev. Canon Ernle Gordon

wholeheartedly and lived that life of opening up space for others to be. It guided many community initiatives – marching bands, scout troops, dance classes, after school classes and a basic school. St Mary's was always doing something new and different."

Archbishop Gregory in his Sermon at the Mass of Resurrection at the St. Andrew Parish Church on December 8, likened the life and witness of the late Canon to that of the Old Testament prophet Amos who called on the "religious community of his day to reject corruption, amend its ways and adopt a moral

lifestyle that leads to right relationships with other human beings, including those who are denied justice". The Archbishop noted that it was within this prophetic tradition of engaging and challenging persons and institutions that Ernle Gordon understood his ministry.

Canon Gordon is survived by his widow, Juliet, children Richard and Cheryl, grandchildren, siblings and other family members. We offer our sincere condolences and pray God's blessing on them as they recall his active life of service to community, family and friends.

FASHION AT CHRISTMAS

Doreen Ennis and her daughter.



Omar Hall & Morgan Davis; St Matthew's Church, Allman Town



Joshua Henry



Ms Vanessa Williams member Saint Elizabeth Mission



Mrs Carlene Henry; Saint Mary Parish Church, Port Maria

Bishop Thompson's Farewell

A Mass in celebration of The Rt. Rev. Robert Thompson's 15 years as Bishop of Kingston (2005-2020) was organized by the Kingston Region on Sunday, November 15 at St. Luke's Church, Cross Roads. Bishop Thompson who retired on September 1, presided at the Service which was live streamed in keeping with COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings.

Homilist was The Rev. Dr. Mark Bozzuti-Jones, Priest and Director of Spiritual Formation at the Trinity Church Retreat Centre in West Cornwall, Connecticut, USA. The Diocesan Festival Choir for which Bishop Thompson has been Chairman for many years, led the singing.



Father Barry Soares – A life of Service

The Rev. Barrington Soares – popularly known as Father Barry - retired earlier this year, after serving the Diocese faithfully for 30 years, and in keeping with a long-time decision to leave active service at age 72.

His contribution has been outstanding, not only in the pastoral ministry, but in the Scouts Association, for which he was once Chief Commissioner. He has been an active Scout since age 11 and has held office at the executive level for approximately 20 years. The Movement, which he sees as an extension of his Christianity, is dear to him as he says “it gave me an opportunity to engage and mentor young men.”

Regarding his early life, he says that he was “born under the clock,” next to the Bellevue Hospital in Kingston. He recalls that he came from a Revival background, but was baptized a Methodist, and only became an Anglican as a student at Kingston College. At age 17, he attended a Roman Catholic Cursillo with a friend. Before going he had felt the urge to become a minister but the spiritual experience at the weekend confirmed this call.

However, after leaving school he worked in the insurance industry, among other jobs, until finally, in 1985 – in spite of the financial attractions of the business world – he heeded the call to ministry and entered The United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI). His story is one of persistence and his mantra has always been Luke 9:62 “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God”.

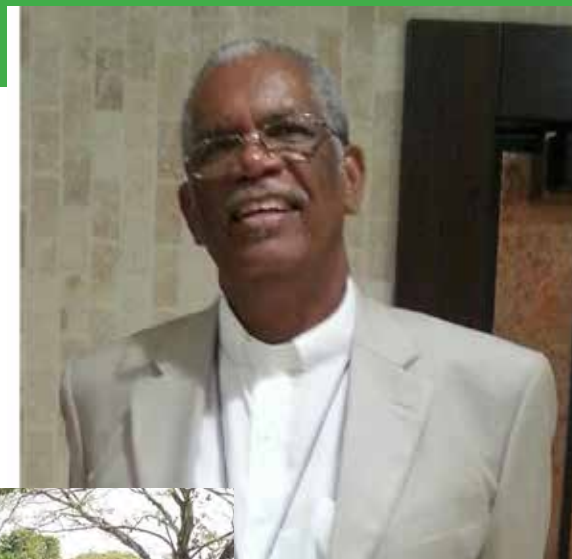
Father Barry speaks warmly of his curacy at St. Andrew Parish Church when both the late Bishop Herman Spence and Bishop Robert Thompson were Rectors. He says “they put me on a solid path for ministry.”

In 1992, he became Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Portmore and he considers his time there to be the highpoint of his ministry. Holy Spirit facilitated innovations such as the use of drums, contemporary music, and mission oriented initiatives. With the help of members of his congregation, he was able to start a new Church in Greater Portmore – The Conversion of St. Paul, and to reopen the St. Andrew’s Mission at Caymans Estate.

In 2008, he became Rector of St Mark’s Church, Mandeville and remained there until his retirement. Life was busy, as the Cure consists of five churches, and Fr. Barry served on the boards, often as Chairman – of the major Anglican educational institutions in Mandeville.

In retirement, he hopes to spend more time with his family – his wife Alvena, their two daughters, son-in-law, grand-daughter and two grandsons.

Looking back on his life, he says he has no regrets, but at times, was



frustrated by what didn't happen. At 70, his health deteriorated causing him to question his spirituality and he also struggled with how authority figures at various levels of the Church operated. Despite these concerns, he says he would do it all over again. “The call was from God and for His glory,” he asserts.

His advice to persons considering fulltime ministry is: “It is God’s ministry not your own. Your job is to deliver the message for the glory of God.”
*‘Trust and obey for there is no other way,
To be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.’*

Based on an Interview by the Rev. Hilda Vaughan

WATC – Engaging Fellow Christians



Top (from left): Rt. Rev. Leon Golding, Bishop of Montego Bay; Dr. Jean Lee, St. Luke's Church, Cross Roads; Fr. Anthony Aarons, Missionary of Mercy, Florida
Below (from left): Miss Monique Castle, Host; Rev. Garfield Campbell, Social Media Coordinator

focuses on topical issues that are discussed by a three-member panel; and it provides opportunities for viewers to field questions;

3. Bible Study, which continues the conversation on a more interactive level. This is conducted on the other Wednesdays of the month at 7 pm and lasts for 90 minutes.

4. Untold Stories is our newest programme. This is a 30 minute interview during which we allow our fellow Christians/Saints of the Church to share their faith journey, which we hope will provide encouragement to the wider membership.

Please join us, not only as supporters, but if you feel that you have something to offer, contact us on Facebook, YouTube,



Twitter, Instagram at WATC.876 or by email to: conversationsATD@gmail.com and we will be happy to engage with you. After all, it is all of us working together to provide a witness to Christ and His Church that gives meaning to the fact that We Are The Church.

Prepared by The WATC Team

*"It came upon a
midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending
near the earth
To touch their harps
of gold"*



Readers' Comments – The Anglican, October 2020

- An excellent production. Congratulations to the team who put it together.
- The publication looks good. There was a time when nobody wanted it; members would not even take it for free. Excellent layout and articles.
- Excellent publication. I was particularly interested in the article on the Priory Church ruin in St. Ann; and I felt compelled to find the site and research its history. It was quite an experience walking through and imagining what it might have been like for members in those days.

We look forward to your feedback. Please send your comments so we can improve our output.

'The Anglican' is all about You

We rely on you to send in your regional stories about events and celebrations - along with your high quality images required for this Publication.

Express your views on developments in the Diocese by sending a short 'Letter to the Editor'.

Email Articles to:

TheAnglican@AnglicanDioceseja.org

NB. Not everything can be published and we reserve the right to omit items deemed inappropriate or to edit submissions.

*Check the Diocesan website
for links to Worship Resources,
Diocesan Resources,
Seasonal Hymn Suggestions,
Clergy Contact and more:
www.anglicandioceseja.org*

Mothers' Union Stands Against Gender-based Violence

The Sixteen Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence observed annually from November 25 to December 10 is an important observance of the Mothers' Union. This year, the traditional marches and public fora were deferred because of the current COVID-19 health protocols. However, the initiatives organized were well-supported by our members and the wider community and provided vital information for participants. The following were highlights of our activities:

There were two Zoom Fora hosted by St. Mark's, Mandeville Mothers' Union branch:

- November 26: **Men and Education**. Presenters were Dr. Herbert Gayle, Lecturer/Anthropologist; Rev. Marlon Simpson, Clinical Psychologist and Mr. Donovan Finnikin, Director, Centre of Occupational Studies, Ministry of Education.
- December 7: **Intimacy, Marriage and Gender-Based Violence: Our Response**. Presenters were Dr. Peta-Ann Baker, Social Worker & Social Development Practitioner; Mrs. Althea Laing, CEO, Corporate Image Consultant/English Educator; Mrs. Joy Crawford, Director of Programmes & Co-Founder, Eve for Life; and Rev. Oliver Daley, United Church, Mandeville. The audience which included representatives from the Province of the West Indies, heard a very powerful personal testimony from a participant who experienced violence in marriage.
- November 29: In recognition of **International Women Human Rights Defenders Day**, a Message from National President, Judith Spencer-Jarrett was read in Churches across the Diocese. Focus was given on this day to women who work to defend Human Rights. Book marks with the slogan "**Stop Gender-based Violence**" and "**No more 1 in 3**" (the latter in reference to the number of victims of abuse) were made and distributed in Churches and the wider community.
- December 1: **World AIDS Day**. The Letter of the Day published in The Gleaner under the headline: **Let's pledge to save our Children from HIV** presented projections from The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and implored parents to help curb the spread of the disease, and to access health services to protect unborn children.

There were two online services held on Sunday, December 6 and Tuesday, December 8.



December 5 focused on the disturbing figure that 1 in 3 women worldwide has experienced domestic or sexual abuse. In groups of 3 persons took selfies in which one person would paint a red cross across her lips while holding a sign which read 'No more 1 in 3'. Selfies were shared internationally.



Women hold NO MORE 1 in 3 signs following panel discussions on December 6

December 6 is the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre/**National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women** in Canada. The Service focused on violence against women and the activities of misogynists (persons who hate women or discriminate against them). Women were urged not to take their freedoms for granted, to ensure that girls were encouraged to pursue their career choices and urge boys to recognise that everyone should compete equally for job opportunities.

The second service was a **Prayer Meeting** that focused on women, children and men who are victims of physical, sexual, verbal and emotional abuse. While noting that men were unlikely to suffer from physical violence, it was acknowledged that they are subject to verbal and emotional abuse.

Submitted by: Judith Spencer-Jarrett National President, Mothers' Union

November 25:
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Members were taught the **Violence at Home Signal for Help** and were encouraged to share it with others in the wider community.



SENSE IN INCENSE

Incense has been used from time immemorial. It is commended for use in the first books of the Old Testament and was used regularly in Jewish worship. Incense was one of the three gifts brought to the infant Jesus by the Magi.

Offering of incense was practiced by both the Jews and the Romans of the time. With the Romans, incense was used to indicate reverence for the emperor, and refusal of any citizen to burn incense in honor of him was regarded as proof of disloyalty - sometimes punishable by death.

In the Jewish-Christian tradition, however, incense is offered only to God, and many of the early Christians suffered martyrdom rather than burn incense to the emperor. They did not make a distinction, as most of us do today, between religious and patriotic observances. Today, we see nothing contrary to religion in such patriotic ceremonies as saluting the flag or standing as the national anthem is played, but early Christians regarded the burning of incense as a recognition of divinity, and thus were ready to die rather than burn incense to the emperor.

Incense was used continuously in the early Church to show reverence to God. The Chris-

tians agreed with the Psalmist, who sang, "Let my prayers be set forth in thy sight as the incense:."

When Protestantism entered the scene in the 16th century, the use of incense was dropped, and it was left to the Roman Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican Churches to preserve the use of incense as a part of Christian worship. Since our human nature is physical as well as spiritual, it is in accordance with our nature to accompany our prayers with some sort of physical action, such as kneeling: making the sign of the Cross, lighting a candle, or burning incense. God, of course, does not need the candle or the incense, but he is pleased that we worship him in accordance with what is natural to us. To limit our worship to thoughts or feelings or words is to offer God only a part of ourselves: to accompany our worship with physical actions is a more complete offering of our nature to him. This is why we use ceremonial in our worship, and it is why we light candles and burn incense. God knows that we are not pure spirits, and he does not expect us to be purely spiritual in our approach to him. A purely spiritual approach would be, to us, artificial and unrealistic, for it is contrary to the nature



Andriy Tod-unsplash

which God has given us; In the Revelation of St. John the Divine, incense is used: "And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer; and he was given much incense to mingle with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar before the throne; and the smoke of the incense rose with the prayers of the saints from the hand of the angel before God:'

The use of incense, and of other outward and visible actions is not only scriptural, but is of true value. To refuse these things is to withhold from God an important part of our nature. To use them, cheerfully and reverently, is to do homage to God, with all we are and all we have.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 6, 2021: Women's Auxiliary celebrates the annual Bishop's Day at St. Luke's Church, Cross Roads. The programme begins with a Service of the Holy Eucharist at 9.00 am**
- **February 28: Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting. Details to be provided**



Around the Diocese

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Two priests have retired effective November 1, 2020. They are:

- The Rev. Paul Bogle, formerly Priest-in-Charge, Barton's Cure, St Catherine,
- The Rev. Dr. Patricia Johnson, formerly Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Manor Park, St. Andrew. Dr. Johnson was among the first group of Deaconesses who were ordained to the Diaconate in 1994 and to the Priesthood in 1996.

On behalf of the Diocese, the Archbishop extended to both priests his gratitude for their ministry in several Cures and wished for them a fulfilling retirement.

CONDOLENCES

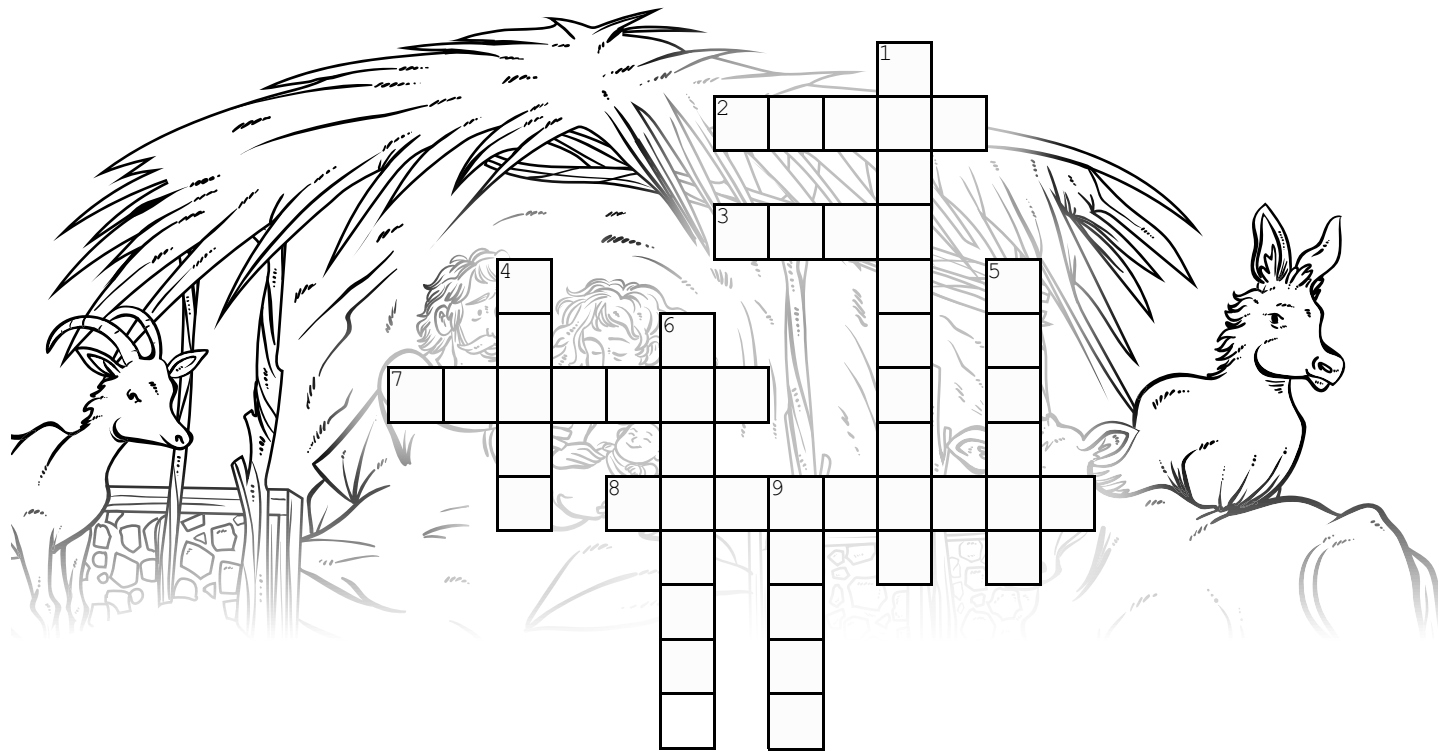
- The Venerable Patrick Cunningham, Archdeacon of the Kingston Region, and his family on the death of his mother, Mrs. Olga Livingstone. She was 86 years old.
- Mrs. Carmen Bromley, former Director of Missions and Ministry on the death of her son-in-law, Mr. Pascal N'Dalla, who was a former teacher at Kingston College
- The family of the late Rev. Canon Ernle Gordon (A tribute appears elsewhere in this issue)
- The family of the late Rev. Vernon Scott, former Rector, Christ Church, Christiana, 1981 – 2004 and Rural Dean of Manchester, 1997 – 2004. Among the other Cures in which he served was Annotto Bay, where he was Rector from 1968 – 1980. A Memorial Mass in celebration of his ministry was held at Christ Church, Christiana on December 10.

Rev Gladstone Fisher - turning a childhood dream into reality
When the late Rev. Gladstone Fisher (who died on October 22) was 7 years old, he wanted to be a priest. He did not pursue this after leaving school, but worked as a teacher and later in the Postal Service. Over thirty years later, he entered the Supplementary Ministry and was attached to the St. James Parish Church.

After graduating from The United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), he entered the full-time ministry and served in the Barton's Cure, St. Catherine, first as Priest-in-Charge and later, as Rector from 1989 until his retirement in 2006. His life provides two valuable lessons: follow your childhood dream and it is never too late for full-time ministry

JOURNEY OF THE WISE MEN A CHRISTMAS STORY

Matthew 2:1-12



Across

2. King _____ was greatly disturbed by the Magi's news of a new King.
3. The Magi went through Jerusalem asking, "Where is he who has been born king of the _____?"
7. The Magi declared, "For we saw his star when it rose and have come to _____ him.
8. What city did the Magi find the new-born King, Jesus?

Down

1. When the Magi at last found the young Messiah, they fell on their faces and _____ Him
4. The Magi were convinced that the bright light in the sky was a sign of the Messiah's _____.
5. Secretly, the wicked King did not want to worship Jesus; he only wanted the wise men to discover where He was so he could have Jesus _____.
6. The Magi are also known as _____.
9. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your _____.



MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

Discover the hidden words.

M	I	R	A	C	L	E	M	S	E	N	S	B	E	J
V	I	L	L	A	G	E	I	T	H	V	C	N	V	O
N	B	P	R	S	K	X	G	T	E	E	I	Z	L	S
Q	Q	X	N	E	H	F	H	C	N	B	L	F	E	E
W	G	Y	F	D	E	E	T	E	Y	T	F	T	W	P
P	Q	N	J	V	H	P	E	F	J	W	K	F	E	H
N	R	Z	N	Q	H	E	S	P	A	T	Q	I	J	R
M	D	W	Z	H	S	R	U	O	F	Z	Z	W	R	C
T	T	J	E	S	U	S	P	M	F	K	J	T	O	A
N	E	V	E	L	E	K	B	A	B	Y	U	S	M	E
Y	S	D	D	I	K	S	W	C	L	S	S	K	A	S
M	Z	F	P	D	J	O	U	R	N	E	Y	U	N	A
E	Q	I	P	S	M	A	R	Y	V	W	U	M	N	R
X	G	J	O	S	I	U	K	W	O	B	H	A	E	X
O	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	N	I	N	E	N

Word Bank

CHRISTMAS
MIRACLE
SHEEP
JOURNEY

MARY
JOSEPH
VILLAGE
SHELTER

CAESAR
ROMAN
JESUS
BABY

MOSES RED SEA CROSSING

ANSWER KEY

Across

- God guided and (Comforted) the Israelites with a pillar of cloud and fire.
- (Pharaoh) led his entire army after the Israelites.
- After Pharaoh's army was washed away, the Israelites sang songs of (Praise) to the Lord.

Down

- Moses told the panicking Israelites to (Fear) not.
- The Lord sent a strong east (Wind) that drove back the waters until the Red Sea parted.
- The Egyptians gave the Israelites (Treasure) as they left.
- Pharaoh's army made it midway through the sea when the walls of (Water) collapsed on them.



LIFELONG STEWARDSHIP

Based on the gift each one has received,
use it to serve others, as good managers
of the varied grace of God.
1 Peter 4:10

While you are contemplating bequeathing your assets, you may wish to consider a charitable bequest to the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and its various ministries. Bequests may be made in your memory, if you so desire. We suggest that you discuss the matter with your attorney-at-law (or financial planner) prior to making any final decision.

For further information please contact
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Mrs Jacqueline Mighty
Tel: 960-0905
email: jmighty@anglicandiocese.com

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Think on these Things

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