

My Dear Friends:

I am writing this newsletter somewhere between Boston and Bermuda on the final leg of our vacation from New England. Due to the tremendous kindness and generosity of friends from St. Mark's, we have enjoyed a superb holiday. It seems only yesterday that the Abernethy family set out to re-conquer the new world! We began our trip by spending a night in New Hampshire at a town called New London where the Inn had been built in 1783, and judging by the quaint atmosphere of the place, little but the sheets had been changed since! We then travelled up to Vermont to stay at Sugarbush condominium through the kindness of the Petty family. We travelled around the whole area walking up mountains; visiting places of interest; up gondolas or chair lifts; down mountain slides - we even had tea with the famous Von Trapp family (of Sound of Music fame). We especially enjoyed meeting the grandson Bernard and his family at the local Episcopal Church. By coincidence the Bishop of Vermont was preaching in the Valley Mission, as it is known, the first Sunday we attended. The Anglicans use the Roman Catholic Church with the delightful name of 'Our Lady of Snows'. The local Anglican Priest was himself going away on holiday the following day, and at a barbeque reception following the service to honour the Bishop's visit, asked me to conduct the Communion Service on the following two Sunday afternoons. Bribery always works, especially with food! During our time at Sugarbush we met one Bermuda family, we were surprised we did not see more as I know a number of Bermudians have property in the area. Both Sue and I felt that the scenery in Vermont reminded us of our childhood home area in North Wales.

As most of you know, we then travelled to New Hampshire to spend some time with Junior and Ann Dunstan. Sue and boys stayed with Junior, Julie and Andrew while Ann and I returned to Bermuda last week to meet with His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury. I am sure Canon Peel has written much about the visit last week in the newsletter, so I will wait until I see what he has written before writing next week. I was very pleased to see some 250 to 300 Anglicans make the effort to be in the Cathedral for the Holy Communion Service at 9:30 am on the Wednesday morning. I was also impressed with the full attendance at Synod to hear the Archbishop's address. He is a very approachable person, as is his advisor on overseas affairs Terry Waite. The Archbishop came to talk and listen to what the Church in Bermuda was saying. He stressed the need for a strong identity in things spiritual as well as temporal. I enjoyed the opportunity to continue our family holiday with the Dunstons at Ringe, New Hampshire, last Thursday. In the meantime Sue and the boys had discovered the delights of the New Hampshire shopping malls!

Last Sunday we attended the Episcopal Church at Peterborough, New Hampshire and enjoyed the service. By coincidence the people leaving Church in front of us said they had spent a holiday in Bermuda when they had the strange experience of the wife giving premature birth to a healthy daughter - so they eventually left Bermuda with more than they had bargained for! Also on Sunday we visited the lovely scenic Cathedral of the Pines, which is

world famous. They have a rock or stone from many Cathedrals of the world, and there is one stone from our own Bermuda Cathedral. Sunday afternoon we left Ann and the family (Junior returned to Bermuda the same day) for Cape Cod, and two nights with Christopher and Hope Thurlby. It was a delightful few days seeing all the Thurlby clan (including Christopher's parents). The weather was marvelous and the Cape Lobster and clams were even better!!! The boys joined a Summer School Tennis and Sailing programme for two days, as the adults devoured Antique shops and Churches. Again by coincidence the Anglican Priest of Falmouth had returned from a tour of the U.K. the previous day, and had spent some time in my old Diocese of St. Asaph. It is an increasingly small world!

We return to make plans for the Autumn and the Winter. I wish to thank Canon Peel, in conjunction with Ernest, Tony and Eliston, for looking after the Parish during our absence. I have said it before and I know that the Parish runs well, if not better, than when the Vicar is present! (I wonder whether that is a good argument for further holidays?)

Today we welcome to St. Marks the Reverend Stuart Lambert together with his wife and family. Stuart was ordained Deacon with Ernest and Andrew Doughty. He has been enjoying some time back in Bermuda before returning to Chichester Theological College early in September. We look forward to his time with us in St. Mark's and wish him well in his future studies and ministry during this next year.

Next week I see from the diary that it is St. Mark's week for Burt Island. Would those going for picnics or overnighing please inform me today. We had originally suggested that we have a picnic there next week, but I understand there was little or no response.

Also next Sunday our Guild members have been invited to St. Augustine's Church, Pembroke, at 3:30 pm to share with them in celebrating their 71st Anniversary service.

Tuesday this week is the Feast of St. Bartholomew, and there will be a celebration of Holy Communion at 7:30 pm.

We congratulate and pray for those married this weekend. We pray for Judith Bullock (whose family has recently moved into Cloverdale North at the foot of Collectors Hill) and John Collis, married yesterday at St. John's, Pembroke. They are both former choir members, servers and readers at St. John's as teenagers, and both have progressed in academic life; John as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and more recently completing his Law exams in London; and Judith with a theological degree and presently studying Law. I hope they will eventually return to Bermuda and continue to offer their special gifts to the Church. We also pray for Peter Longworth and Loudwina (Pinky) Burbulis to be married here in St. Mark's this afternoon.

We pray for Pamela Dawson, Peter Blyth, Hammond Thompson, Louis Mowbray and Janet Hatfield in hospital this week.

Yours sincerely,

TERRY ABERNETHY.