



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

16 Centre Street

P. O. Box 187

Millbrook, ON, L0A 1G0

705-932-2233

email: cavmanparish@nexicom.net

www.stthomasanglicanchurchmillbrook.ca



Photo credit : Dianne Carnaghan

Newly-painted doors at St Mary's Chapel, Lifford!

***Public worship at St Thomas' Millbrook has resumed!
Service this Sunday, September 20th: Morning Prayer at
10.30 am***

A Note from the Priest-in-Charge:

Our first "in person" Sunday liturgy (after 26 weeks of 'exile') was a real joy to me! Despite the ban on congregational singing of any kind, we were able to 'lift up our hearts' with the help of our musicians. If you would like a particular hymn played or sung by a soloist, please contact Ruth Roberts or any of the music team. Here are a few of my observations on how things went on Sunday:

- We were all very good about keeping appropriate physical distance. However, we need to keep reminding ourselves to do this, since it is such an un-natural thing for (most) human beings. It is especially important to distance after the service when we are visiting with each other as we leave the church building.
- The "safe" method for reception of Holy Communion is slow and bit awkward but absolutely necessary. I will purchase more hand-sanitizer to place in the pews so people may, if they wish, cleanse their hands well in advance of receiving the Bread so that the 'taste' of the sanitizer is not quite so fresh! Sanitizer will, of course, still be available at the spot where people receive Communion and should be used immediately following receiving the Bread.
- The allowed seating (one person per pew OR up to three people in the same family or 'circle' per pew) should not create problems for our small congregation. I have devised a way to free up both front pews (by creating a 6 foot 'barrier' in front of them) which will help make space for 2 to 6 more people. We can also seat a few more individuals in the narthex and chancel if necessary.
- We are asking people to use, if possible, the main door of the church, only to avoid crowding in the parish hall corridor leading to the church. The stair-lift and the inside stairs up to the church are still available for those who need them.

I hope to continue creating a video of the liturgy on my (rather old) laptop computer and posting it on YouTube each Sunday afternoon. I do not have professional quality video or sound equipment so please forgive the distorted sound. I am looking in to the cost of getting better equipment and, perhaps, getting some grant money from the diocese to help pay for it. There will, quite appropriately, be members of our congregation who do not feel safe returning to church at this time and I will do my best to continue to provide some way of connecting them with the liturgy. If anyone is interested in joining some kind of Zoom group (Bible Study, Prayer Group, etc) please let me know." RR

The parish secretary is now back in the office, Tuesday-Thursday, from 9.30 am -11.30 am. Our buildings are still closed to the public. However, if you wish to drop by the parish office, please telephone 705-932-2233 to let Gail know you will be coming (or have arrived and are waiting at the door). Only one person at a time will be permitted to enter the office area.

For any urgent matter, please call the Priest-in-Charge at home at 705-932-1231. If the voice mail is turned off, please call his cell phone at 705-313-9002 and leave a message. Calls will be returned as soon as possible.

The Churchwardens continue to be very grateful to parishioners and friends of our parish who are making a concerted effort to keep up their regular offerings. Your generosity is outstanding. Even though public worship has now resumed, we encourage you to continue to use alternate methods of giving (such as e-transfer from your bank account, our website secure Canada Helps donations link, or PAR).

Weekly or monthly offerings (for those who are not on PAR) can be made in the following ways:

- ***By regular mail*** - to **St Thomas' Anglican Church, P. O. Box 187, Millbrook, Ontario, L0A 1G0.** Cheques only please--made out to St Thomas' Church. *Post-dated cheques, for future contribution periods, would be welcome and very much appreciated.*
- ***By e-transfer from your bank account.*** Please call Gail at the parish office at 705-932-2233 (leave message) or email her at cavmanparish@nexicom.net to arrange.
- ***By pre-arranged 'drop off' at the home of the Priest-in-Charge.*** Please call 705-932-1231 to arrange a mutually convenient time.
- ***By pick-up from your home if you can't get out*** - please call 705-932-1231 to arrange a mutually convenient time. All public health protocols ('physical distancing,' etc) will be strictly followed.
- ***By Pre-Authorized Remittance:*** If you wish to enroll in PAR, please call the parish office during office hours. An authorization form will be mailed (or emailed) to you.
- ***By using the secure online donations link on our parish website.*** Here is the link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119202950RR0001-st-thomas-church/>