



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

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***Public worship at St Thomas' Millbrook has resumed!
Service this Sunday, September 27th:
Holy Eucharist
at 10.30 am***



Photo credit: Shelley Lambe

Our door are open again!

We are very sad to announce the sudden death of Todd Branscombe, son of Bonna Walton. Please keep the whole family in your prayers at this time. "May he rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory. Amen."

A Note from the Priest-in-Charge:

"I have received a couple of phone calls this week from people asking if the change in provincial regulations concerning the total number of people allowed at both indoor and outdoor gatherings will affect our re-opening for Sunday worship. The short answer (at least, at this time) is 'no.' Places of worship are still permitted to admit up to 30% of the capacity of the building, or up to 50 people (whichever is greater) as long as physical distancing is maintained. At St Thomas' we have estimated that we could legally admit up to about 36 people, but to reach this number many people would have to be in the same family or 'bubble' and would have to sit together (keeping the required 2 meter distance from other 'singles' or 'bubbles'). So far, we have been well below the legal maximum since the number of spaces available (given the 2 meter rule) is very limited. Since we are a small congregation, we have opted not to use a 'pre-reservation' system (like booking a table at a restaurant) or using tickets (no charge!) as some larger churches have done. Nor have we opted to have a second earlier service at, perhaps, 9 am--although I am certainly open to that possibility if there a clear desire or need. I have tried to think of various possible scenarios: For example, what will we do for the larger number of people at Christmas services? Or, in the short term, will we have to turn people away at Thanksgiving? The reality is that we are now in 'uncharted waters' and it is very hard to plan too far in advance. So, for now at least, will muddle along as best we can and adapt where it is necessary and/or possible. Rest assured, however, that the health and safety of each and every person who enters our buildings will continue to be our top priority and will inform all our decisions. If there are any changes to government or diocesan policies concerning the continuation of public services of worship, I will communicate those changes to you immediately." RR

The parish secretary is now back in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9.30 am -11.30 am. Please note that, except for Sunday worship, our buildings are still in the "red" stage and, therefore, not open to the general public. If you wish to drop by the parish office, please telephone 705-932-2233 to let Gail know you will be coming (or, if you do drop by, and are waiting at the door, either phone or knock and you will be admitted to the building). Only one person at a time is permitted to enter the office. Please follow all public health protocols (i.e., sanitize your hands, wear a mask, maintain physical distance, etc).

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 County Rd 21 'adopt a road' clean-up will take place over three days this year: October 1st, 2nd, & 3rd. You can participate on any of the three days you wish but please follow this procedure: 1) The clean-up route will commence near the traffic circle at the intersection of Cty Rds 21 and 28. Cones will be set up first at that location. 2) Volunteers should work west along Cty Rd 21 (towards Millbrook) as far as they wish. 3) Take the cones with you and leave them at the place where you finish. 3) The next volunteers should start at the point where the last ones finished--marked by the cones. 4) This process is repeated by subsequent volunteers up to the entrance to Millbrook village (near the old water tower). There will be garbage bags inside the cones. Just leave the garbage (with the cones) where you finish and it will be removed later. **Be sure to move the cones to where you finish so that the next volunteers know where to continue the clean-up.**

Note: Participation in the road clean-up is entirely at your own risk. Please use common sense and do not go out after dark or in poor weather conditions. Please exercise extreme caution at all times while on or near the highway and wear 'high visibility' clothing. For more information, contact the parish office or Clarke Mayhew.

The Churchwardens continue to be extremely 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/>