



A Parish of the  
Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church  
of Canada



# Parish e-News

## St Thomas' Anglican Church

16 Centre Street

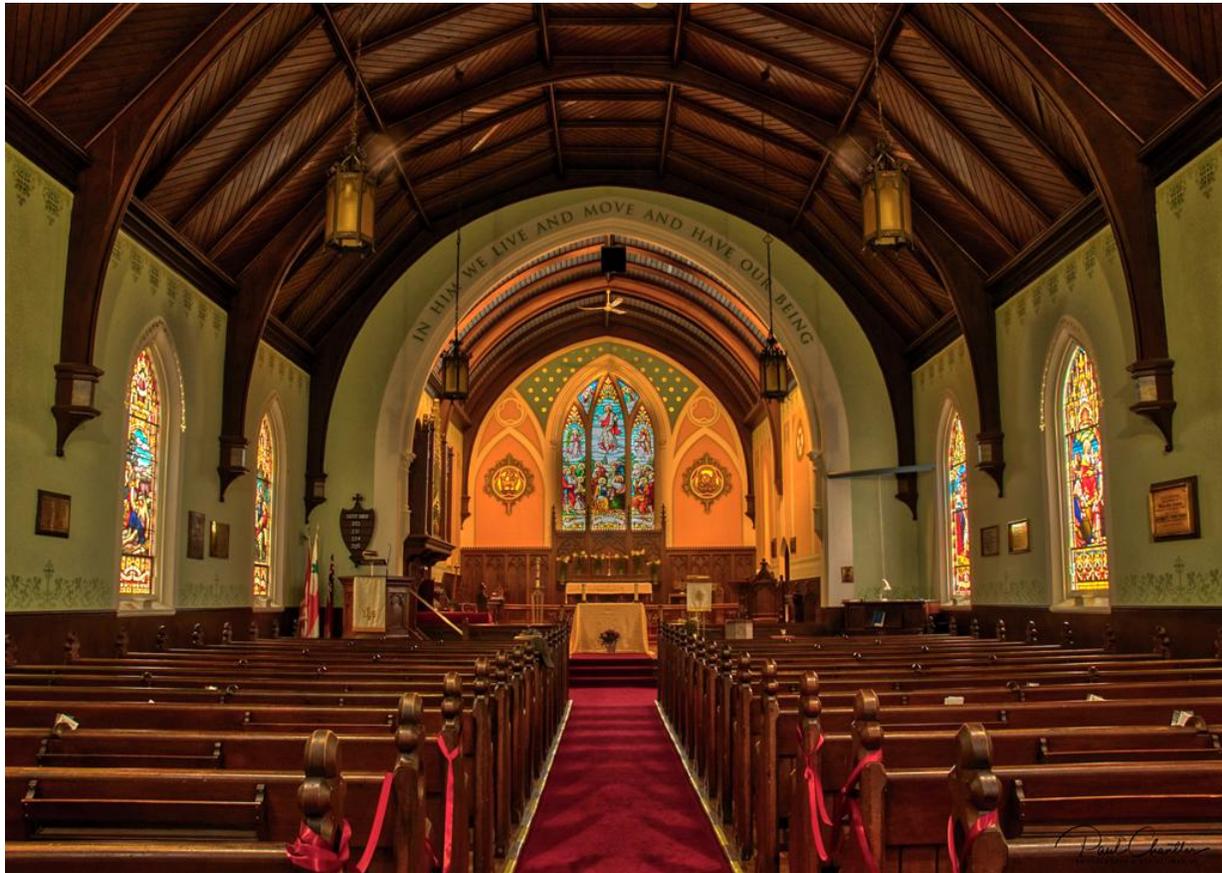
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**Public worship at St Thomas' Millbrook has resumed!**  
**Service this Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday**  
**The Holy Eucharist**  
**at 10.30 am**

**Many thanks to Clarke Mayhew and all who helped out with the County Road 21 'adopt-a-road' clean-up last week.** The new 'system' seemed to work very well, with volunteers cleaning a portion of the road on a day and at a time that suited them over the three day period. Since we have not been able to do much in the way of parish outreach work during the pandemic, the road clean-up was particularly important this year.

***A Note from the Priest-in-Charge:***

"I normally would be sending by regular post a 'Happy Thanksgiving' letter at this time of year, but more and more people seem to be reading this electronic newsletter so I hope it will suffice. So 'Happy Thanksgiving from St Thomas' Church'! I will try to make an effort to telephone the few people in the parish that I know of who do not have email or internet access and offer Thanksgiving greetings to them as well.

For some of us, it will be a rather strange Thanksgiving weekend this year. We have been asked by our provincial government and its public health advisors to keep our gatherings small--and rightly so. It would appear that we are now in a 'second wave' of Covid-19 infections in our province, although in this region the numbers still seem (thankfully) to be low. However, we need continually to remind ourselves that this pandemic is not yet over and, for the good of everyone, we must keep wearing our masks, washing our hands, and keeping physically distant from each other. As we give thanks this weekend for all the blessings of God's creation, let us continue to pray for our leaders, for those who work in medical research and health care, for all front line workers, and for all people throughout the world who suffer in any way.

I have mentioned in previous newsletters that I have worried about having more people arrive for church than we have places to seat them. Thus, in order to open up more seating in the church and still keeping well below the legal occupancy limit for our building, we will try a new seating arrangement. The side aisles will be closed (except for emergency purposes) which will allow one extra person to sit right next to the side aisle, in addition to another person in the middle of the pew (with a six foot gap between them)--both well away from the centre aisle. If no 'singles' are present in the pew, 'family circles' of up to 5 people may sit in the space from the middle of the pew to the side aisle. This new arrangement doubles the number seats available for single attendees. Not being able to use the side aisles will mean some necessary changes to the 'footwork' of how people receive Holy Communion in a way that maintains safe physical distancing--and this process may take a bit longer than usual and require us to be more attentive to others--but it is not overly complicated and will be thoroughly explained on Sunday. With this new seating arrangement, and with everyone using common sense and trying to maintain physical distance from each other at all times, I am confident that we will be able to maintain a very safe environment for those attending our Sunday worship." 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 Churchwardens continue to be very thankful to parishioners and friends of our parish who are making a concerted effort to keep up their regular offerings. Your generosity is very much appreciated. If it is your custom to make a special Thanksgiving offering at this time of year, please include it in your regular envelope or by another method. 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](mailto: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/>