



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

16 Centre Street

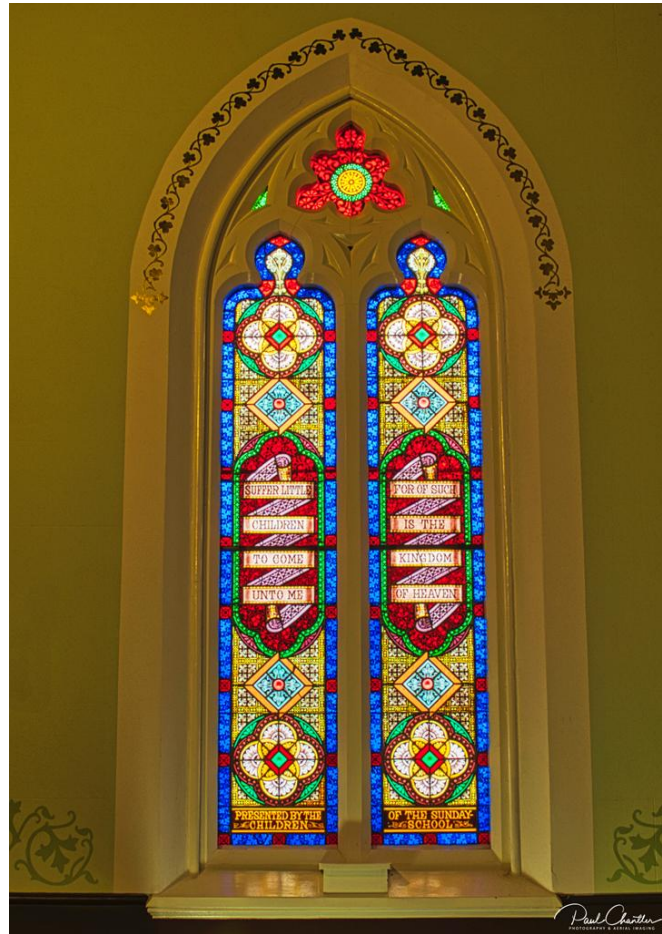
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***Public worship at St Thomas' Millbrook has resumed!
Service this Sunday, October 18th
Morning Prayer
at 10.30 am***



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Dear Friends in Christ,

When I began my episcopal ministry almost exactly two years ago, I imagined that the first few months might be a time of relative stability, an opportunity for me to ease into the work – you know, get my feet wet and find my bearings. And then came the pandemic and with it the swift need to change. As Bob Dylan would say, “For the times, they are a-changin.” And in a time of change, the Church is called to discern, watch, and listen for the leading of the Holy Spirit.

This past Sunday, it was announced that after a long and comprehensive search process, the Right Reverend Jenny Andison has been selected to be the next Rector of St. Paul, Bloor Street, starting February 28, 2021. As you know, Bishop Jenny is a Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto and the Area Bishop of York-Credit Valley. With this new appointment, she lays down episcopal jurisdictional authority in the Diocese of Toronto and commences a new ministry, living out her ordination vows as a bishop in a parish setting.

As you also know, Bishop Peter Fenty, Area Bishop of York-Simcoe, has announced his retirement, effective St. Andrew’s Day, November 30, 2020. He takes a well-earned rest from his episcopal duties after a long, multi-faceted ministry as priest, archdeacon, and bishop.

Anticipating some of this, around the time of Bishop Peter’s retirement announcement last spring, I created an Episcopal Leadership Working Group (ELWG). The College of Bishops system of episcopal leadership in the Diocese of Toronto has been in place for forty years, and I felt it was time to review whether it makes sense to continue to have four Suffragan Bishops, deployed to regions of the Diocese as Area Bishops, in addition to a Diocesan Bishop. Our system is unique in the Anglican Communion. How do other dioceses, of similar size and complexity, organize themselves? What can we learn from them?

The ELWG, under the able leadership of its chairs, Ms. Susan Graham Walker, ODT, and Vice-Chancellor Canon Brian Armstrong, ODT, has been meeting regularly, working hard at researching other models and considering possible adaptations to our own system. I had given the group a deadline of Ash Wednesday 2021 to make their report, and – despite these recent developments – I do not want to curtail or rush their work. I look forward to hearing from them in February 2021 as planned, at which time I will consider their recommendations and share with the Diocese a way forward.

In the meantime, I want to assure the Diocese, and in particular the Areas of York-Simcoe and York-Credit Valley, that the College of Bishops is committed to caring for every parish. Over the coming weeks, we will develop a plan for adequate episcopal coverage in every Area, ready to implement as transitions occur. We are grateful for the wonderful support of our Area Administrative Assistants, Diocesan staff, Regional Deans, and those retired bishops in the Diocese who have expressed a willingness to help. Your prayers for all of us are very welcome and greatly appreciated!

In an already anxious time, when the Church and society at large are already grappling with the uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by so much change and upheaval. But our God is a God of renewal and re-creation, always “doing a new thing” (*Isaiah 43:19*). We can rest secure in God’s enduring love and care for us as we continue to pull together, rowing our boat in faith and hope, into uncharted waters.

Yours in Christ,

+ Andrew Toronto

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil
Bishop of Toronto



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 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/>