



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](mailto:cavmanparish@nexicom.net)

[www.stthomasanglicanchurchmillbrook.ca](http://www.stthomasanglicanchurchmillbrook.ca)



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**Indoor, in-person public worship has resumed at St Thomas'  
Millbrook!**

**This Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Remembrance Sunday**

**Holy Eucharist**

**10.30 am**

## **When attending public worship ...**

- **Please wear a face mask at all times indoors**
- **Sanitize your hands upon entering the building**
- **Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet from individuals not in your cohort**
- **Do not sit in pews or sections of pews that are marked with RED tape on the seat.**
- **Please sit only in areas with GREEN masking tape on the top-rear and front edge of the pew--maintaining physical distancing if necessary**
- **TWO individuals per pew or ONE family/cohort per pew, seated in every second pew**
- **All readers/intercessors/musicians/altar guild, and other parish volunteers must have provided evidence of full vaccination against Covid-19 (see below)**

### ***Diocesan Mandatory Vaccination Policy now in effect in the parish***

The Diocese of Toronto has introduced a policy that requires clergy, parish employees, and all volunteers (e.g., readers/intercessors, committee/group members, cemetery trustees, those attending in-person meetings, etc) to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 (or a valid written exemption) before they may enter any of our parish buildings. The policy also applies to our tenant groups, all outside contractors/trades-persons, or any member of the public entering our buildings. It does not apply to anyone who simply wishes to attend public worship and sit in the congregation. If the policy applies to you, and you have not yet shown your proof of full vaccination to the churchwarden responsible for keeping the records, please contact Sherry-Lynne McMahon or the Priest-in-Charge.

### ***Afghan Refugee Re-settlement Volunteer Opportunities -***

The New Canadian Centre of Peterborough is in the process of assisting recently-arrived refugees from Afghanistan. There are opportunities to assist as a volunteer. In addition, donations of certain household items, as well as financial contributions, are welcome. Please see the link to their website for more information: <https://nccpeterborough.ca/get-involved/refugee-resettlement-support/afghan-resettlement-in-peterborough/>

## ***A Note for the Priest-in-Charge - For Remembrance Day***

The following article is by a retired priest of the Diocese of Kootenay (the area of south-eastern British Columbia where I grew up and where, in 1981, I was ordained). He writes a weekly column in his local newspaper, *The Cranbrook Daily Townsman*:

### **Remembering and Honouring Peace-Makers**

The Rev. Yme Woensdregt

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This is a story which took place during World War 2, between 1940–1944. It happened in Le Chambon, a small Protestant village in a predominantly Roman Catholic area of a mountainous region in southeastern France, near the border with Switzerland. The heroes of the story were the 3000 residents of the village, simple men and women led by the Pastor of the French Reformed Church, André Trocmé. They decided that they could no longer stand by while the Nazis implemented their program of exterminating the Jews.

It began very simply. Magda Trocmé, André's wife, explained it this way: "Those of us who received the first Jews did what we thought had to be done—nothing more complicated. It was not decided from one day to the next what we would have to do. There were many people in the village who needed help. How could we refuse them? A person doesn't sit down and say I'm going to do this and this and that. We had no time to think. When a problem came, we had to solve it immediately. Sometimes people ask me, 'How did you make a decision?' There was no decision to make. The issue was: Do you think we are all brothers or not? Do you think it is unjust to turn in the Jews or not? Then let us try to help!"

These villagers didn't decide to be heroes. They were ordinary people, with ordinary concerns—raising their children, making ends meet, surviving this terrible war—and they decided to do what was right. Like many, they were afraid of what might happen to them if the Germans discovered what they were doing.

Nevertheless, almost every villager took part in the effort, including the children. They provided food and shelter for escaping Jews. They forged fake identity papers and ration cards for the refugees and helped them over the border to safety in Switzerland. When they heard about an upcoming police raid, they hid those they were protecting in the surrounding countryside.

It seems incredible to me that they should dare to do such a dangerous thing. How could a small village hope to withstand the mighty German empire? How would they endure? Yet they did. Goodness happened in Le Chambon. The Chambonais saved human lives at the peril of their own.

They had no power to match the mighty Nazi war machine. The struggle in Le Chambon happened in the privacy of peoples' homes. Husbands and wives and children sat across the kitchen table from each other, trying to figure out what to do. Quietly and faithfully, they made decisions which became turning points in that struggle.

Despite the danger, they agreed to risk their lives. They defied the Führer and refused to comply with the orders of the pro-Nazi Vichy government established in Paris.

Why? Perhaps the best answer is that their lives were shaped by the gospel which Pastor André Trocmé preached and taught day in and day out. He ended his sermons with these

words. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbour as yourself. Go practice it.”

They did. Day by day they practiced their faith.

They were not fighting to liberate their country or their village. On the contrary, their resistance put their little village in grave danger of massacre, especially in the last two years of the war when the Germans became increasingly desperate. Under the guidance of their spiritual leader, they acted in accord with their consciences in the middle of a very bloody, hate-filled war. They acted on their conviction that their duty was to help their neighbours in need.

Years after the war, Magda Trocmé reflected on her choices. “When people read this story, I want them to know that I tried to open my door. I tried to tell people, ‘Come in, come in.’ In the end I would like to say to people, ‘Remember that in your life there will be lots of circumstances where you will need a kind of courage, a kind of decision on your own, not about other people but about yourself.’ I would not say more.”

It’s a tiny story in the middle of a brutal world-sized story. We remember this story and honour these people because it asks a question about identity. What are our values? What do we stand for? What shapes our lives?

The lives of the Chambonais were shaped and formed by the gospel of God’s love for all people. They were Christian people. They belonged to Jesus Christ. Their primary loyalty was to God. They lived by different rules than the society around them.

Philip Hallie tells the story of Le Chambon eloquently in a wonderful book called *Lest Innocent Blood be Shed: The Story of the Village of Le Chambon and How Goodness Happened There*. It is the compelling story of ordinary people who became extraordinary, not by attempting something spectacular, but by being faithful in their ordinary day-to-day lives. It is a story of faith, courage, and ordinary heroism.

Such incredibly simple yet difficult choices have the power to change the world. It certainly did for the refugees who were hidden and protected in Le Chambon.

This story is also important to remember these days as anti-Semitism is once again on the rise all around the world. It is more important than ever to ask ourselves the question which the Chambonais answered for themselves: What are our values? What shapes our lives?

This year, on November 11, when I hear the words “Lest we forget”, I will remember the people of Le Chambon and their pastor, André Trocmé. I will remember what a life shaped by the gospel looks like.

***For the on-going work of Truth & Reconciliation*** - resources from the the Anglican Church of Canada for prayer, study, and action can be found at:

<https://www.anglican.ca/orangeshirtday/>

***Resources for understanding issues of Diversity and Race*** -

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/diversity-resources/?lang=en>

***The parish office hours*** are normally Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9.15 am - 11.15 am. Call 705-932-2233. For any urgent matter, please call the Priest-in-Charge at home at 705-932-1231. If (and only if) his home voicemail is turned off, please call his cell number (705-313-9002) and leave a message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible.

***The Churchwardens continue to be extremely thankful for the generosity and faithfulness of parishioners and friends of our parish who are making a concerted effort to keep up their regular offerings. Thanks to you, we are still “holding our own” financially, despite being a small congregation.***

***In addition to making a weekly offering at church on Sundays, donations (for those who are not already 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. *(Please be sure to use the post office box number - not just the street address - when sending items by mail).* 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 (leave message) or email her at [cavmanparish@nexicom.net](mailto:cavmanparish@nexicom.net) to arrange.
- ***By pre-arranged ‘drop off’ at the parish office (during office hours) or at the parish hall mail box.*** Note: if you wish to leave your envelope in the box at the back door of the parish hall please telephone the Priest-in-Charge to let him know so that he can collect the envelope in a timely manner. Please *never* leave cash in the mailbox!
- ***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/>