

# ST. THOMAS À BECKET ANGLICAN CHURCH



## St. Thomas à Becket Anglican Church

3535 South Common Court  
Mississauga, ON L5L 2B3

<https://www.stabc.ca/>

PARISH PROFILE | MARCH 2025





## Contents

---

Executive Summary	3
Beginnings and Growth of St. Thomas à Becket	4
Worship and Liturgy	5
Music Ministry	6
Learning, Spiritual Development and Nurture	7
Mutual Support and Fellowship	9
Pastoral Care	12
Physical Resources	13
Human Capital	15
Leadership Style	16
Our Neighbourhood and Mission Field	17
Outreach, Social Justice and Advocacy	18
Present Reality and Future Vision	20
Our New Priest	21
Appendix A: Map of St Thomas à Becket Community Boundaries	22
Appendix B: Demographic and Income Data	23
Appendix C: Financial Resources at a Glance	25

## Executive Summary

---

Erin Mills is a diverse and maturing community in Mississauga. St. Thomas à Becket has established roots and support within this community, and looks to grow and welcome a renewal of ministry. There is a strong desire to continue God's work and fulfill His promise through outreach and faithfulness to Jesus and a message of peace and love.

We are a financially stable parish. We have consistently contributed to a variety of initiatives including diocesan work, outreach within the community and beyond. While the church has developed well established traditions and ministries, the church is also seeking what more it can do for its community. Our fellowship begins with worship on Sundays and drives many of our activities. However, it is not the limit of how our church has come to participate in Jesus' name.

There are several different ministries, groups, and social events that continue to spread the Good News. We are eager to share our music and singing, traditional and contemporary, with the congregation and with the community. Our passion is found in working hard with each other, in service leadership to one another and in building consensus through thoughtful prayer and respectful discussion to move the church forward.

We are a parish in transition and our new Incumbent will continue to lead us through growth and expansion while maintaining the best of our traditions and exploring new ways of challenging us to be better disciples of Jesus. The Incumbent will head up a strong Leadership team, consisting of the Wardens and the Parish Council, and with the parish as a whole, to continue the success of St Thomas à Becket. Our goal is to have a guide who will continue and grow effective ministry, to involve and support current parishioners and, especially, to help us reach and shape the next generation of Christians to follow in Jesus' footsteps. We aspire and pray to continue our good works, to reach our community, those in need and those around the world, as a loving parish.

While we continue to grow and change over time, our constant is a warm and welcoming community that is open to everyone wishing to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ.



## Beginnings and Growth of St. Thomas à Becket

---

Planning for the Anglican parish in Erin Mills began in the late 1960s. The Erin Mills South Church Campus came into being in 1971 with 5 churches including St. Thomas à Becket agreeing to jointly purchase 5.25 acres of land in Erin Mills South to be developed for 'multiple church and related purposes'. Over time congregations moved to other facilities. Our current Campus is the home of two congregations: St. Thomas à Becket Anglican and Glenbrook Presbyterian. Sharing the Campus facility reduces costs to each congregation, while providing more facilities than could be financed by any one congregation. Where possible the two congregations co-operate in programming and other activities. Each congregation has its own worship space. The building is owned and operated by a non-profit corporation.



Anglican ministry was inaugurated with the appointment of the Reverend Tim Foley in 1972 and services began on September 24<sup>th</sup> of that year. St. Thomas à Becket was given official recognition as a parish on January 16, 1973. Services were held in various schools in the area until May 1977 when the Erin Mills Church Campus building was completed, and our worship area was 'hallowed' by Bishop Garnsworthy.

During the ministry of the Reverend Foley, the parish took part in the Diocesan Student Training program with approximately twelve students doing field work in the parish.

The Reverend Tim Foley ministered to the parish until September 1980 at which time a selection committee met to choose a new Incumbent for the parish.

In January 1981, the Reverend Canon Jim Woolley was appointed Incumbent and under his ministry the congregation of St. Thomas à Becket continued to thrive and grow in the community. Rev Jim ministered to the congregation faithfully for 37 years, until he retired in 2018.

In 2019, Rev David Matthews became our Incumbent, leading us spiritually and technologically through Covid, through initiating online services, meetings and bible studies, to maintain connectedness and caring for each other. Rev David left our parish in November 2024, and continues his ministry in Calgary, Alberta, his original home.

The church celebrated its 50th Anniversary in October 2022 with Bishop Asbil and other local dignitaries attending the ceremony. The parish is thankful for over half a century of worship and fellowship and looks forward to continuing its spiritual and pastoral role in the Erin Mills South community.

## Worship and Liturgy

---

“Our parish expresses our Christian discipleship through  
worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, outreach  
and evangelism.”

St. Thomas à Becket – Mission Statement

The parish follows the 3-year Ecumenical Scripture Reading cycle. In so doing we join with millions of other Christians of various denominations around the world. Our worship is enhanced and enriched with music including hymns, anthems and liturgical music. Use of the audio-visual system installed in November 2016 enhances worship and liturgy. Parishioners are able to follow the service and sing hymns which are projected on the screens. St. Thomas à Becket is accustomed to worship in the Anglican Tradition using Liturgical resources including the Book of Alternative Services (BAS).

### Regular Sunday Services

<b>8 AM In Person service</b>	<b>10 AM In Person service</b>	<b>10 AM Online service</b>
<b>Said Eucharist</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist with 5 hymns</b>	<b>Choral Eucharist with 5 hymns</b>
<b>Typical attendance: 15-20</b>	<b>Typical attendance: 80-120</b>	<b>Typical viewers: 8-10 parishioners, &amp; 30-50 unidentified</b>
<b>Every week</b>	<b>Every week</b>	<b>Every week</b>

### Special and Seasonal Services

**Ash Wednesday** - usually 2 services (midday and evening)

**During Lent** - Wednesdays – usually 2 said services (midday and evening). Attendance has been approximately under 20 for each service. In some years, after the midday service, a Lenten bible study has been held

**Maundy Thursday** service with Glenbrook Presbyterian church, following a Seder meal and potluck dinner

**Good Friday** sung service with full choir

**Christmas Eve** – in recent years, there have been 2 services (6 and 10 pm in 2023)

**Christmas morning** - said service

**Communion service** and luncheon are held at Christmas and in the springtime. Eucharist has been offered by past incumbents, to shut-ins and at various retirement homes. Several Senior or Retirement Living Centres in the area have invited the Incumbents from the various churches in the area to hold Eucharist services; the services have been shared according to an agreed upon schedule.

**Black History Month** was celebrated at St Thomas à Becket for the first time in February 2025. Bishop Kevin Robertson joined us on the first Sunday of the month as we celebrated the confirmation of four members. Services throughout the month included various guest preachers, special music (steel pan, saxophone) and liturgical dancing, adding to the joyful upbeat mood. Some local dignitaries, including the mayor, attended the 10:00 am service on the final Sunday. Members of the Presbyterian and BME churches joined us for a Caribbean-inspired luncheon after the service. This celebration aligns with the Diocesan priority to promote diversity, equity, inclusion and anti-racism.

## Music Ministry

---

St. Thomas à Becket is blessed to have traditional, contemporary and some gospel reflected in hymns and anthems, each week. We have also held some musical evenings, such as hymn sings (usually at Christmas), or during the year with a mix of secular and religious music.

Musical instruments – Allen digital organ and upright piano

Other instruments have been used, pursuant to availability, as an accompaniment to enhance an anthem/worship.

Book of Common Praise – hymns from this source or others are projected on screens in the church.

There are meditative piano pieces during services on special occasions.

### Groups

Our choir currently consists of 6-10 members. New members are always welcome. In addition to leading the congregation in liturgical music, the choir has sung an anthem each week between the months of September and June. The choir also performs a special cantata in the Christmas season.

In the recent past, a small ensemble (8 singers and an accompanist) called Good News, occasionally sang during church services, in addition to the regular choir, and also offered a music ministry at several Retirement homes, consisting of religious and secular songs, some performed and several sing-alongs, which were enjoyed by the residents. The group is currently not active but is considering reviving their ministry.

We have a full-time Musical Director/organist, plus a volunteer who looks after the music.

“It’s a familiar liturgy and music that drew us to and made us stay at St Thomas à Becket.”



*Choir*



*Director of Music Ministry*

## Learning, Spiritual Development and Nurture

---

Our church has several programs, ministries and activities that are available for all ages. We make a conscious effort as a congregation to welcome youth and promote opportunities to grow in Christ. This is in alignment with the Diocesan call to reinvigorate and recommit to children's, youth, family and intergenerational ministries.

### **Children's Programs and Worship:**

**Nursery:** The Nursery has recently been renovated with brightly painted walls and new flooring. In the past, we had a campus-paid attendant, plus volunteers alternating monthly between St Thomas à Becket and Glenbrook, during the Sunday 10 AM service for infants up to 4 years of age. This is a ministry we are planning to revive as the need arises.

**Sunday School/Children's Ministry:** Sunday School continues to be the heart of our Children's Ministry, operating with a dedicated team of two adults and volunteers, during the 10 AM service. The teachers engage the children (up to Grade 8), sharing Bible stories and bringing the word of God to life through games, crafts, songs and other enjoyable activities. Approximately 6 to 8 children attend each Sunday. We trust that God will continue to bless and grow this vital ministry in the years ahead.

Children are encouraged to join the regular worship or come to church to participate in several special events:

- Advent (Jesse Tree)
- Christmas Pageant
- Lent
- Easter Egg hunt
- Christmas Party
- Vacation Bible School/Church camp

### **Adolescent and Young Adult's Programs and Worship:**

In past years, we have had a very active youth group as they participated in weekly Bible/Book study Group and Discussions. In addition, under the guidance of a Youth pastor, Retreats (30 hr famine), Outings (camping, canoeing) and Intergenerational Games, including bowling nights, were organized and enjoyed by the youth and the general congregation. Several youth events were shared with other congregations in the area, including St. Peters, Erindale.

However, with changing area demographics, we have had a downturn in the number of youth attending church and have not had a Youth Worker for a few years. We realize the importance of engaging young people in church activities, to maintain their interest and attendance.

A new campus-wide Youth and Children's Ministry led by St Thomas à Becket is in the planning stages and expected to be announced soon. The initiative, potentially involving youth from the two churches on campus, should be exciting and attract a number of young people.

A Young Adult's Ministry was very active a few years ago. More recently (2024), as our numbers decreased, the smaller group of young parents and single young adults met with the Incumbent, while their children (where applicable) enjoyed bible study, activities, and crafts on Tuesday evenings, under the guidance of a few senior volunteers.

## Ministries, Groups and Social Events

Adults at St. Thomas à Becket are invited to take part in the following groups or ministries, organized per Parish Council Structure (2024)

People's Warden		Rector/Incumbent	Rector's Warden	
Deputy People's Warden		<i>The Treasurer</i>	Deputy Rector's Warden	
<b>Outreach &amp; Ministries Leader</b>	<b>Property &amp; Admin Leader</b>		<b>Young Families /Athletics Leader</b>	<b>Sunday services (Sacristan)Leader</b>
<b>Outreach &amp; Ministries Deputy</b>	<b>Property &amp; Admin Deputy</b>		<b>Young Families &amp; Athletics Deputy</b>	<b>Sunday services (Sacristan)Deputy</b>
ACW	Archivist		Christmas Pageant (Sunday school)	Altar Flower Guild
Baby Bottle Campaign	Counters		Cricket (annual tournament)	AV Volunteers
Bible Study	EMCC Reps		Nursery	Chancel guild
Caribbean Night	Envelope Secretary		Road Tennis	Choir
CCMT (see Greeters, Sidespeople)	Fire Marshall		Sunday School	Coffee Fellowship
Christmas Dinner	Newsletter Editor		Young Families	Good News
Ham & Corn Roast	Security			Greeters
Hugs Ministry	Synod Delegates (#1, #2)			Lectors
KIT				Musicians
Men's Group				Prayers of the People
Newcomers Luncheon				Sacristan
Open Door gift cards (Christmas project)				Servers
Soup at Noon				Sidespeople
Stewardship				Sunday School



*Caribbean Night*



*Caribbean Night attendees enjoying the feast*



## Mutual Support and Fellowship

---

All are welcome at St. Thomas à Becket as they walk in the door. We have sidespeople and greeters on duty each Sunday. Parishioners and visitors exchange the peace during the service. Everyone is welcomed for tea, coffee and baked goodies following both Sunday services.

Announcements about upcoming Activities and Events are posted in the weekly online e-news as well as provided on the church screens prior to the 10 AM service and verbally by the Wardens or members of the congregation at both 8 and 10 AM services. Posters and relevant sign-up sheets are kept updated on the Events Bulletin board in the church. An up-to-date monthly calendar, displaying the above Activities/Events, is available in the church foyer, to assist parishioners with Event timelines. Updates to our Facebook feed directly into our website.

Baptismal class and confirmation preparation are offered by the Incumbent, for young adults and adults as the need is identified.



*2025 Confirmands*

### We Welcome Newcomers and Guests

- Sunday greeters at the door
- Sidespeople – help parishioners and guests to find a seat if needed
- Visitors are made aware of the locations of the nursery, Sunday school, and washrooms.
- Guests are given a copy of the latest newsletter and weekly bulletin.
- Guests invited for refreshments and to meet other parishioners, after services



*2023 Newcomers Luncheon*

*"It was a warm genuine  
welcome we received at St.  
Thomas à Becket"*

## Opportunities in structured and unstructured ways to get to know one another

- Parish social activities include dinners, luncheons, a picnic, cricket festival, Road tennis.
- Soup at noon - once a month September to April
- Small Group Ministry – include Bible studies
- Canterbury Guild/ACW
- Becket's Men's Group
- Tuesday afternoon Hug Ministry – activities include knit/stitch projects (prayer shawls, lap robes, caps for cancer/dialysis patients, etc). Participants can simply come for tea and conversation.
- Road Tennis
- Caring for rain garden & flowers in front of church



*STAB cricket practice*



*Annual Cricket Festival in Brampton*



*Soup at Noon*

## Caring for Each Other

During the Covid-19 pandemic, when churches were forced to close or reduce attendance, St. Thomas à Becket learned how to adapt in this new environment, to be more effective in our ministry. Church activities such as bible studies, Morning Prayer, and other small group ministries were moved online, and the 10 AM service livestreamed on You Tube each Sunday. The online technology allowed us to extend our reach, bringing the gospel message to a broader community and ministering to people who may or may not be Christians. As such, we were being evangelists, by spreading the gospel to the broader church community.

The Community Connect Ministry Team (CCMT) was organized and implemented. It was a new ministry in which a team of dedicated volunteers called parishioners regularly to offer support and to keep in touch with each other. The CCMT was critical in reaching out during the pandemic and in helping the priest become more aware of specific pastoral needs in the church community that were not being met. In that way, CCMT was that link helping parishioners during this time of COVID feel supported and connected to our church family. Our church community remained strong during and after the pandemic. This shows the tremendous commitment, faithfulness and generosity of our parishioners. This Ministry has recently been changed to meet current needs such as more intentional welcoming of parishioners and newcomers by our Greeters, and keeping in touch with identified individuals through our KIT ministry.

**Parish Demographics**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total identifiable givers</u>	<u>Average Weekly Attendance</u>
<b>2024</b>	213	121
<b>2023</b>	220	Not available
<b>2022</b>	236	161
<b>2021</b>	250	Not available (Covid)
<b>2020</b>	249	Not available (Covid)
<b>2019</b>	197	173
<b>2018</b>	218	178

\*Identifiable givers include: Envelope holders (weekly, monthly, direct [PAR]) & Non-envelope holders & E-Transfer, PayPal, & Canada Helps donations (the latter 3 not available in 2018, 2019)

“To be in a place of faith where you are actually recognized by name, where you feel safe to have your children roam free, knowing that they will be protected. The children really enjoy their learning at Sunday school and feel proud when they are able to contribute to the lesson.”



*Rain Garden front of church*



*STAB Intergenerational Bowling Night*

## Pastoral Care

---

Pastoral Care has always been a key ministry at St. Thomas à Becket. The Incumbent has traditionally been very active in the community and in serving current and previous members of the church.

### **Priest:**

- Visits hospitalized parishioners
- Ensures parishioners are remembered during Intercessory Prayers
- Takes Communion to shut-ins at Christmas, Easter and as requested
- Visits and supports bereaved families or persons in crisis as needed
- Maintains contact with the Keeping In Touch (KIT) Ministry Coordinator
- Follow-up with new parishioners/visitors
- Conducts worship/Eucharistic services at seniors' homes (shared with other clergy)
- Supported Young Families group when it was viable
- Visits the Deacon's Cupboard, per planning with the "Cupboard" coordinator
- Regular and Scheduled participation on Diocesan Committees
- Works with Office Administrator to generate updated Announcements for weekly e-News blast and for showing on church screens prior to Sunday services

### **Keeping In Touch Ministry Team (KIT):**

- KIT Coordinator and a small group of committed lay members **Keep In Touch** with some of the lonely and/or shut-in parishioners
- Meet with the Rector & KIT Coordinator approximately twice a year

<b>Year</b>	<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>Confirmations</b>	<b>Weddings</b>	<b>Funerals</b>
<b>2024</b>	2	0	1	1
<b>2023</b>	5	0	1	3
<b>2022</b>	1	6	0	14
<b>2021</b>	0	0	2	8
<b>2020</b>	0	0	1	12
<b>2019</b>	3	3	3	8
<b>2018</b>	10	7	5	8

"I wanted to find a church with a quiet, traditional style of worship, where familiar hymns are sung accompanied by a church organ."

## Physical Resources

---

The Erin Mills Church Campus opened in 1977. St. Thomas à Becket owns 63.6% of the church building and 50% of the property. Glenbrook Presbyterian Church owns the remainder of the building and property. The entire church campus is 18,000 square feet and is **air conditioned**. General expenses, particularly heat and hydro, proportionately shared, based on square footage.

### **Our Worship Space**

In 1996 St. Thomas à Becket built a new (peaked roof) worship space/sanctuary which seats 290 people.

### **Anglican Hall**

The old worship space is now our Anglican Hall. It has a capacity of 150 sitting down without any tables. When tables are being used it has a seating capacity of approximately 120 to 125.

### **Common Areas**

Anglican Lounge (owned by St. Thomas à Becket)  
Hearth Room (Campus owned)  
Board Room (Campus owned)  
Studio (Campus owned)

Some community groups that utilize rooms in the building for their meetings include Alcoholics Anonymous, Mississauga Amateur Radio Club, Condominium Councils, ESL classes and Emotions Anonymous. Mar Elias Eastern Orthodox Church of Ontario rents the Anglican workshop space, Anglican Hall and kitchen from 2-6 pm on Sundays for their church services. They also rent storage space in the Anglican Hall. We receive a donation for the use of our facilities. The BME rents space from the Presbyterian church.

### **Utilities**

St. Thomas à Becket owns a kitchen which is off the Anglican Hall  
1 Kitchenette (Campus owned)  
Male and Female washrooms  
1 accessible washroom  
1 child's washroom  
1 Staff washroom

### **Nursery**

Nursery (Campus owned) – refer to earlier sections re the current status of the Nursery program.

### **Offices**

There are 4 offices: 2 for each congregation.  
1 campus administration office

### **Rectory**

We do not own a Rectory. A housing allowance is provided to the Incumbent.

## **Outdoor space**

The entire campus property is 5.25 acres. St. Thomas à Becket owns 50% of the property. There are parking spaces for approximately 110 vehicles shared between the 2 congregations. There are 7 accessible parking spaces.

A rain garden was designed and made at the front of the church a few years ago. While grass cutting on the property is done by a professional company, watering and maintenance of the flowers and shrubs has been managed by volunteer parishioners. As well, several trees have been planted on the church property between the church and Burnhamthorpe Rd, in keeping with the Mississauga goal of planting a million trees by 2025.

To increase the church's visibility and highlight some of its activities in the community, a digital road sign has been purchased to replace the current static sign on Burnhamthorpe Rd, by spring 2025. It will be much easier and provide more flexibility for the EMCC office administrator to update information, for the public and parishioners. The new sign will serve both churches in the Campus.

## **State of the facilities**

We continue to enhance and update the Anglican portion of the building. In 1996, the Anglican space was expanded and worship was moved into the current worship space; what had been the original worship space is now the Anglican Hall. Screens, blinds and projectors were added to the worship space in 2017/2018 to help the congregation follow along with the service, including hymns, prayers and readings. The Anglican Hall has been brightened with new paint and lighting.

In October 2017 the Anglican worship space was reroofed. The Anglican Worship space was repainted and carpeted in 2014 and carpet tiles replaced in 2019. The Campus flat roof was done in 2007.

In 2024, the flat roof over the Nursery, Anglican Lounge and Anglican kitchen were replaced. The nursery has recently been updated to include new flooring, walls and is brightly painted to create a fun atmosphere for children and their parents.

Both male and female washrooms have been renovated. The Campus Board is currently overseeing and ensuring that several projects in the campus building are completed according to updated building codes which meet the Ontario Disability Act standards.

A new security system is now in place where cameras are set up to monitor inside the building and at all exit points. The parking lot lighting has recently been fixed, improving nighttime safety.

In 2024, the required 10-year Property Condition inspection was completed by a consulting engineering firm. The Report results concluded that the campus buildings were well maintained and are in good condition with no major deficiencies. However, some major systems (e.g. roof, HVAC, windows, parking lot) are aging, they are approaching the end of their service life and will need to be repaired or replaced within the next 10 years at a substantial cost.

*Financial Resources at a Glance* - see Appendix C

## Human Capital

---

### **Paid positions**

Incumbent/Priest – Full time

Organist/Music Director – Contract position

Office administrator- part time position – 15-20 hours per week

Youth Leader- part time position (currently not active; was 12-16 hours per week)

Erin Mills Church Campus Administrator – part time for the Church Campus – 16 hours per week

### **Volunteer positions**

Wardens and deputy wardens -two elected wardens and two Rector appointed wardens

Treasurer

Envelope Secretary

Members of Parish Council

Lay members of Synod and alternate lay members

### **Other volunteers**

AV volunteers

Altar Flowers Roster - chair

Canterbury Guild chair/President

Caribbean Night committee chair

Chalice Bearers

Chancel Guild Roster - chair

Choir members

Christmas Families coordinator-gift cards

Christmas Marketplace chair

Coffee Hostess chair

Erin Mills Church Campus Board - 4 representatives from each congregation

Good News Music Ministry (currently not active)

Hug Ministry Outreach chair

KIT Coordinator

Newsletter editor

Outreach - Christmas shoe box, Deacon's Cupboard liaison

Readers, Greeters, Counters, Sidespeople, Chalice bearers – rosters coordinated by Office Admin

Security team

Stewardship chair, Men's Group chair

Sunday school chair/Sunday school teachers

Vacation Bible School (VBS) chair and volunteers



*2024 Ham and Corn Roast Dinner*



*Men's Valentine Day volunteers  
for breakfast for the ladies*

## Leadership Style

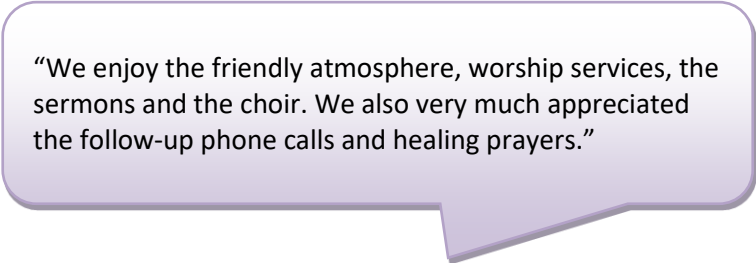
---

The leadership team, which includes the Incumbent, the Wardens and Parish Council, is service-oriented and leads by example, with respect, humility and collaboration. Some of the most valued attributes of the leadership of St. Thomas à Becket are:

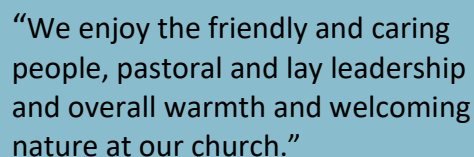
Engaged and Personable – The leadership team demonstrates sincerity and humbleness. They connect with the church members through sincere and patient caring. The Incumbent always reaches out to the members of the church to ask how they were doing and would continue ministering after hours to connect with parishioners.

Collaboration and Consultation – The leadership team is generally straightforward and transparent, freely expressing its opinions with a goal to improve the congregation in Jesus' name working together towards that goal. The team actively listens and, without forcing a solution, often comes to consensus by committee.

Encouraging and Spiritual – Everyone is encouraged to participate in all ministries, groups, events and activities put on by the congregation, but only to one's interest and abilities. The leadership team encourages a greater and deeper understanding of Jesus' teachings, ultimately fostering renewed belief in God's word.



“We enjoy the friendly atmosphere, worship services, the sermons and the choir. We also very much appreciated the follow-up phone calls and healing prayers.”



“We enjoy the friendly and caring people, pastoral and lay leadership and overall warmth and welcoming nature at our church.”



# ERIN MILLS

## Our Neighbourhood and Mission Field

Erin Mills is approximately 32 km west of downtown Toronto. Erin Mills is a planned community, developed on 8,000 acres of farmland in Mississauga. It is a community with a myriad of parks, wonderful green spaces and nature trails, a feature made possible by the ongoing protection of land during development of the area. Erin Mills offers one of the finest suburban lifestyles in the Greater Toronto Area – quiet, safe, family-friendly living in a beautiful natural setting with world-class amenities. It's a great family community, known for its excellent schools, access to recreational facilities, parks, green space, arts and culture, festival and events, excellent shopping and dining, and easy commuting via GO Transit, Mississauga Transit and highway access. See Appendix A for a map outlining St. Thomas à Becket's area, within Erin Mills.

A majority of the housing in Erin Mills is single detached (42.1 %) and most family units are married (60 %). Christians make up a large majority of the neighborhood (57.6%) with Anglicans making up about 3.3 % of the overall total

About 80% of St. Thomas à Becket parishioners live in Erin Mills, most within 10 to 15 minutes travelling time to the church. Several parishioners have moved to Erin Mills from all over the world and make this neighbourhood their home. The parish demographic mirrors that of the neighbourhood with an aging congregation and members from several ethnicities and cultural backgrounds.

Erin Mills is a mature community, population growth has stabilized. According to the most recent census data (2021 census) the population of Erin Mills is approximately 123,300 people, an increase of less than 1% from 2016 (122,560). Geographically, Erin Mills is the largest area of Mississauga, occupying most of the western section of the city . For more detailed information, see Appendix B.



## Outreach, Social Justice and Advocacy

---

In alignment with the Diocesan call for parishes to make explicit connections between following Jesus and working for justice and peace, the congregation at St. Thomas à Becket is doing its part to address the issues of poverty, hunger and homelessness. For over 25 years the Christmas Hamper project has addressed some of these community needs in a tangible way by supporting at least 20 families, identified through the Open Door Centre at Square One (a front-line ministry outreach of the churches of Mississauga), during the Christmas season. In each of the past several years, we have donated over \$5,000 in gift cards and money donations. At Christmas 2024, we donated about \$6800 in gift cards and money to the Open Door to help meet the needs of as many families as possible during the season as well as some of their ongoing needs throughout the year. Accompanying the gift cards were written notes expressing our pleasure in demonstrating, in a small and tangible way, God's love and kindness by providing them with the assistance.

As well as the above, the Canterbury Guild (ACW) holds a Gently Used Clothing Sale twice annually in order to help meet the needs of the community. The clothing for these sales is donated by members of the congregation and it goes a long way in helping those less fortunate meet the clothing needs of their families. Leftover clothing is donated to three community organizations that help children, refugees and others, as well as to the Kidney Foundation.



*Clothing sale volunteers*

Each year at Vestry, St Thomas à Becket has agreed to support a Special Motion (Social Justice and Advocacy) that has been proposed by the Diocese. The Motion for 2025, on Protecting and Expanding Harm Reduction in Ontario, urges the Province of Ontario to reverse the planned closure of safe consumption sites in Ontario, and to lift the ban on the creation of new sites, in order to expand life-saving harm reduction services in Ontario. At Vestry in March 2025, parishioners voted to support this motion.

### **Parish Outreach:**

- Parishioners provide food items or donate money for the Deacon's Cupboard Food Bank. Other parishioners volunteer their time on a weekly basis to serve at the Cupboard.
- At Christmas, for several years, parishioners have supported several families through the Open Door, with money and gift card donations, including Tim Horton's, Subway and certain grocery stores and donations via their church envelopes which allows the Open Door to serve transients.



- The annual Christmas shoebox campaign has provided, on average, 75 to 100 shoeboxes, per year. The shoeboxes, filled by parishioners with various toiletry and gift items, are provided to a designated shelter.
- The annual baby bottle campaign (which runs from Mother's Day to Father's Day) provides financial assistance each year to help young mothers at the JFJ Hope Centre.
- Helping to support a refugee family from Iran over the past year in resettling, finding a home, jobs, and schools for the children and tutoring as required
- Provide food produced in the Church's Community garden to local food banks
- Canterbury guild donates to various charities on a monthly basis.
- Parish Outreach supports the Canadian Bible Society and several other charities.



*Anglican/United Church volunteer parishioners with Refugee family*

### **Education:**

- Bible studies
- Vacation Bible School/Summer Camp – in the past, this activity has been planned by the Incumbent and a volunteer team, including LITs (Leaders in Training) who may use their hours towards high school community hours. In August 2024 (5 day camp), 12 children (campers), under supervision of five LITs (Leaders in Training), Rev David (Incumbent at the time) and many adult volunteers, enjoyed pastoral time, games, crafts, snacks and lunches.



*2024 Summer Camp*

### **Social Justice and Advocacy:**

- Support the Diocese' Call for justice and compassion for the marginalized, as requested in their Social Justice and Advocacy Vestry Motions.
- Many parishioners support Faithworks , including some of their designated ministries such as Toronto Urban Native ministry, the Dam, LOFT, the Bridge Prison ministry, and others, through their donations.
- St Thomas à Becket, along with four other area churches, support the Deacon's Cupboard (which operates at St Peter's Anglican church), through parishioners' food and financial donations; as well, some parishioners provide volunteer time.

## Present Reality and Future Vision

---

St. Thomas à Becket is a strong, vibrant Christian community where people feel at home and are strengthened and encouraged in their faith journey. We genuinely care about one another and are ready to lend a hand, a listening ear, and show support for each other. We welcome new parishioners and guests warmly by making them feel comfortable and inviting them to stay for coffee hour and other opportunities offered by our church.

We support the less fortunate in the community, in other parts of Canada and around the world through our extensive and generous outreach programs. Parishioners respond generously to a number of world and local needs through parish outreach, FaithWorks and the Primates' World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). We were one of the leading parishes in the diocese in contributions to the Our Faith, Our Hope campaign a few years ago. We would like to continue and grow our strong outreach ministries such as our Anglican Church Cricket Festival in July of each year which now involves 10 parish church teams signed up to play in 2025.

St. Thomas à Becket has an aging congregation. This is reflected in the census data for Erin Mills and is echoed in our parish statistics. The challenge we face is to develop and implement practical strategies to attract new people to church, especially youth and young families and make them feel welcome when they come.

Our strength is in spirituality, our diverse multicultural congregation, and our leadership, both clergy and laity. There could be additional small group studies. We could develop relationships with other churches in the area, have services on different days, be more visible in the community, and not be afraid to express our spirituality in different ways. We are open to exploring the possibility of having a team that is trained to do lay visitation in support of the priest and looking into balancing traditional and alternative worship styles. The parish has a strong music program with a variety of styles and music. We are open to exploring Fresh Expressions opportunities that will attract people seeking spiritual growth and guidance. We want to be known throughout the community as a place where people searching to know Jesus are welcomed and taught Biblical principles to meet their needs in changing times.



## Our New Priest

---

We are looking for a priest with a gift of spirituality, a commitment to Christ and a strong theological background; someone who can demonstrate a sense of God's calling to be a shepherd. Our new priest will have a vision in seeking to strengthen believers and reaching out to others in Christ's name. We have been blessed at St. Thomas à Becket in the rich diversity of our congregation, in the physical resources we have built up over the years and the deep spiritual faith within this Christian community. Our new priest will actively promote the diocesan priority of diversity, equity and inclusion in the church.

### **The Most Important Gifts and Skills of our Parish Are:**

- We are a caring and welcoming parish with a traditional form of worship, and traditional and contemporary music.
- Lay people actively contribute to worship and parish life.
- The parish is built on a strong foundation of collaboration and service leadership.
- There is an established tradition of outreach and ministry to be built upon.
- There is a solid musical repertoire with strong congregational, choral and musical group participation.

### **We are looking for our new priest to demonstrate the following gifts:**

- Strong pastoral focus
- Missional vision of serving Jesus
- Deep faith in God
- Steward of Human and Financial resources
- Openness and collaborative leadership style
- Encouragement of lay ministry
- A sincere approach to building relationships

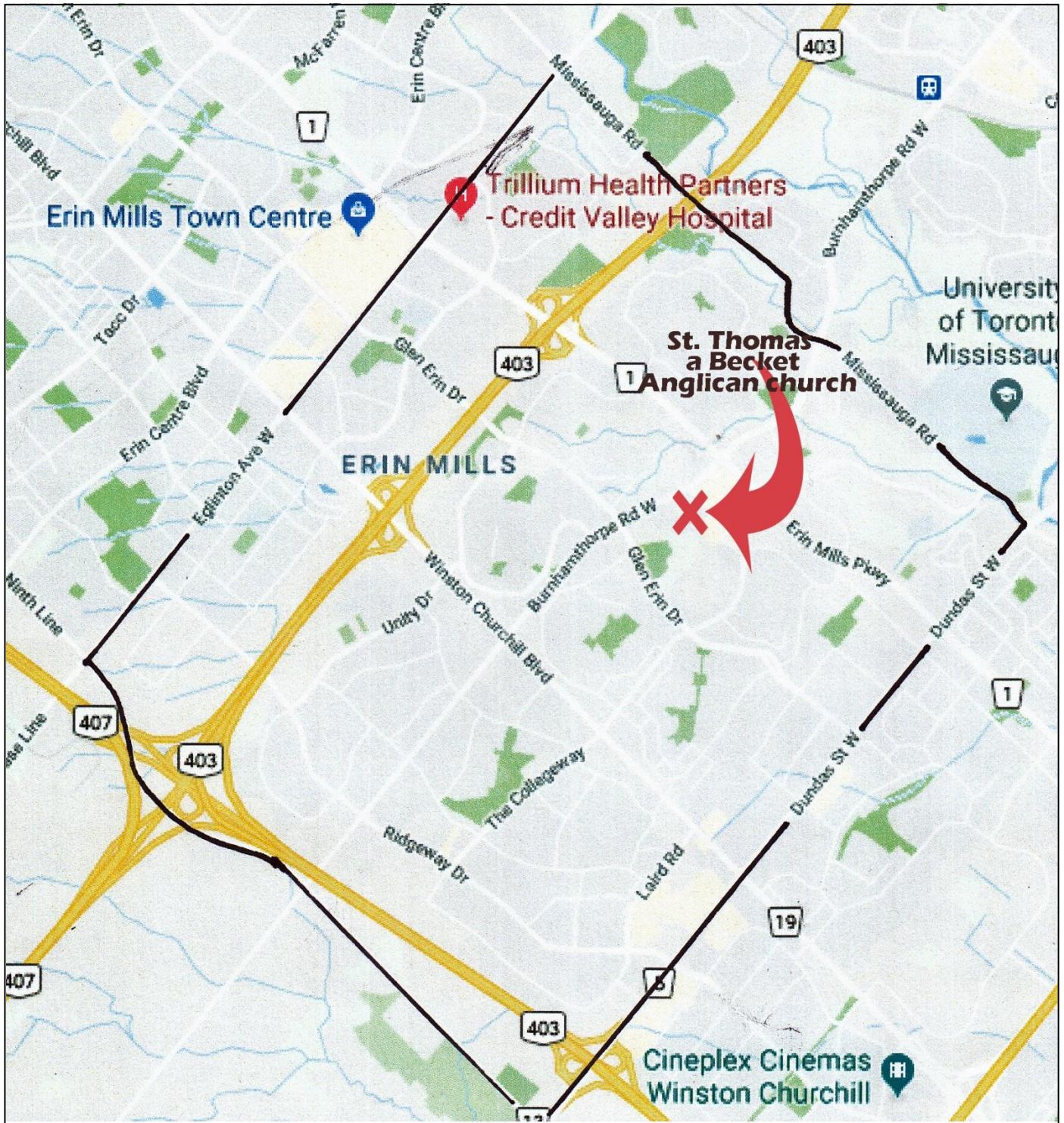
### **And the following skills:**

- Understands and has experience working with individuals and groups such as youth, young families and seniors.
- Encourages an open and democratic approach to decision making.
- Inspires a committed congregation to follow in Jesus' footsteps.
- Recognizes and appreciates our traditions and practices.

### **Our New Priest will:**

- **Generate enthusiasm and inspire others in their faith journey by making the word of God relevant to our everyday lives.**
- **Build effective ministry to help us reach and shape the next generation of Christians.**
- **Foster relationships through a generous and approachable ministry.**
- **Help build and support our online and social media presence to reach new parishioners and shut-ins.**
- **Have a deep commitment to the parish and outreach initiatives.**
- **Bring energy and fresh ideas to help grow our church and build on our rich heritage for years to come.**

## Appendix A: Map of St. Thomas à Becket Community Boundaries



## Appendix B: Demographic and Income Data

### Languages

*Primary Languages spoken:* 52.8% English, 7.6% Chinese, 7.3% Urdu, 4.4% Arabic, 3.3% Polish, 2.6% Tagalog, 2.0% Spanish, 1.9% Punjabi, 1.7% Portuguese, 1.6% French, 1.3% Italian, 1.2% Korean, 1.1% Hindi.

#### Erin Mills Housing Characteristics

Category	Proportion of Total Private Dwellings
Single detached housing	42.1 %
Semi-detached housing	15.2 %
Row house	23.5 %
Apartments (high rise)	13.4 %
Apartments (low rise)	5.8%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population. Mississauga-Erin Mills.

#### Erin Mills Family Characteristics

Household Types	Proportion of families in private households
Couples with children	41.8 %
Couples without children	18.2 %
One-parent families	10.1 %
Multigenerational households	7.4 %
One person households	15.1 %
Other types of household	7.4 %

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population. Mississauga-Erin Mills.

#### Breakdown of Erin Mills Population by Age Groups and Gender

	Total	Male	Female
<b>Population age groups</b>	123,370	59,980	63,390
0 – 14 years	16.3 %	17.2 %	15.5 %
15-64 years	68.4 %	68.3 %	68.5 %
65 years and over	15.3 %	14.5 %	16 %
85 years and over	1.9 %	1.4 %	2.4 %
Average age	40.2 %	39.2 %	41.1 %
Medium age	40 %	38 %	41.6 %

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population. Mississauga-Erin Mills.

#### Income Distribution in Erin Mills

Income Category	Proportion of Private Households
Under \$10,000	12.8 %
\$10,000 - \$29,999	27.6 %
\$30,000 - \$49,999	19.9 %
\$50,000 - \$69,999	13.7 %
\$70,000 - \$89,999	9.4 %
\$90,000 - \$149,999	12.8 %
\$150,000 and over	4.3 %

Median income: \$39,600      Average income: \$54,550

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population. Mississauga-Erin Mills.

### **Transportation**

Erin Mills is serviced by Mississauga Transit, Oakville Transit and the Erindale, Streetsville and Clarkson GO Stations for easy commuting east into Toronto and west into Oakville, Burlington and Hamilton. Easy and immediate access to Highway 403 connects Erin Mills' residents to Hwy 401, 410, 407 and Hwy. 427 south to the QEW, providing easy access to the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

### **Erin Mills Catholic and Public Schools**

Public schools in Erin Mills are administered by the Peel District School Board. Catholic schools are administered by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. Some of these schools are:

**Elementary Schools:** Castlebridge Public School, Credit Valley Public School, Middlebury Public School, Thomas Street Middle School, Erin Mills Middle School, Divine Mercy Elementary School, Our Lady of Mercy Elementary, St Sebastian Catholic Elementary School

**Secondary Schools:** John Fraser Secondary School, Clarkson Secondary School, Erindale Secondary School, St. Aloysius Gonzaga Secondary School, St. Rose of Lima Separate School, Loyola Catholic Secondary School, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School.

Erin Mills is also home to The University of Toronto Mississauga campus.

### **Activities in Erin Mills**

There is a wide array of activities for families in Erin Mills, including:

*Erindale Park* - Mississauga's largest park - for walking, cycling, hiking, cross country skiing and fishing. Picnic under the mature trees, family barbeques while the children have fun on the playgrounds.

*South Common Community Centre (currently being rebuilt)* offers a library, pool, fitness centre, aerobics studio and gym.

*Erin Mills Soccer Club* offers indoor and outdoor soccer programs for all ages.

*Erin Mills Tennis Club (in partnership with South Common Community Centre; currently being rebuilt)* offers a family style tennis program for all ages and levels of play, including women's day time league tennis and a senior's tennis program.

*Erin Mills Twin Arena* (Erin Mills Twin Rinks), hosts a variety of programs including learn to skate, ice-hockey and public skating rinks.

*Several Facilities* (public and private) offer fitness training, aerobics classes and cardio.

### **Other places of worship in Erin Mills**

There are a number of other places of worship in Erin Mills and the surrounding areas including denominations from United Church, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptists, Catholics, Reformed Churches, Methodists, Pentecostals and several ethnic churches (e.g. Koreans, Indonesians, Chinese).



## Appendix C: Financial Resources at a Glance

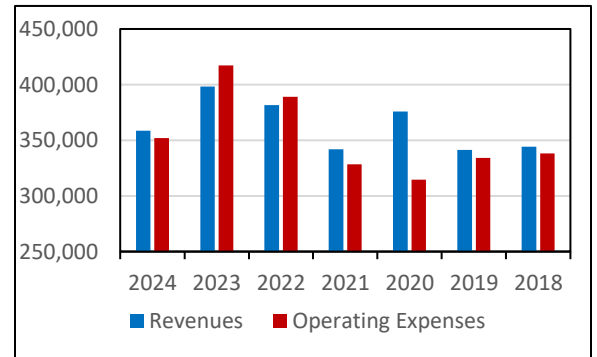
The following charts show, at a high-level, our financial standing at the end of each year.

ASSETS				
Year	Cash	Investments	Other	Total Assets
2024	139,060	182,271	16,415	337,746
2023	167,182	182,271	13,338	362,791
2022	195,583	182,271	10,434	388,288
2021	214,222	182,271	8,055	404,548
2020	128,948	182,271	7,595	318,814
2019	71,969	182,271	3,372	257,612
2018	98,639	207,271	13,019	318,929

LIABILITIES			
	Current Liabilities	Funds	Total Liabilities
2024	8,227	329,519	337,746
2023	10,205	352,586	362,791
2022	16,003	372,285	388,288
2021	26,545	378,003	404,548
2020	9,811	309,003	318,814
2019	3,124	254,488	257,612
2018	15,034	303,895	318,929

### REVENUES & OPERATING EXPENSES

Year	Revenues	Operating Expenses
2024	358,679	351,862
2023	398,212	417,276
2022	381,651	388,964
2021	341,999	328,282
2020	375,747	314,596
2019	341,318	334,149
2018	344,108	338,299





*8 AM Parishioners*



*Hugs Ministry Christmas Luncheon*



*2024 Garden Cleanup Crew*



*50th Anniversary Celebration*



*A few of the Church picnic volunteers*

