



# The Olave Branch

www.stolaves.ca  
Advent 2019



Reaching out to **ST. OLAVE'S** community  
ANGELICAN CHURCH

Twitter @StOlavesTO | Facebook.com/stolavesevents

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PHOTO BY SARAH DOUCETTE, SNAPD BLOOR WEST

## Teamwork makes Craft Show a success!

From left to right, Dale Allen, Bette Birmingham, Liesl Kuebler, Sharm Powell and Jean Lilley hard at work selling used books and knitwear in the Ethel Brown Room as part of the ACW contribution to the event. For more photos and a wrap up from Annis Tebbutt, see page 3.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**  
**JANUARY 19, 2020, don't miss our annual Combined service with the South Sudanese Community Church and CONFIRMATION with Bishop Jenny Andison.**



# Advent is a season to prepare ourselves

## Rector's Letter

*The Rev'd Robert Mitchell*

There's an old joke that can be seen on t-shirts and coffee mugs, and has made the rounds of the internet: "Jesus is coming — look busy!" Of course, the joke is a play on the even older joke: "The boss is coming — look busy!"

Like most good jokes, the look busy for Jesus gag is funny to many of us because it contains equal measures of irreverence and truth. The idea that Jesus is like our boss at work, and that we need to be ready at all times to (at least) look like we are doing our jobs as Christians, makes us chuckle because of its absurdity. But as much as it's absurd and slightly irreverent, Jesus' arrival is a fundamental cornerstone of Christian belief and the idea that we need to be ready when he comes is absolutely true!

Although Advent is most often seen and experienced by many of us as the lead-up to Christmas, it's important to be reminded each year that Advent is its own season with

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its own themes. It is often remarked upon that the theme of Advent is the coming of Christ, but perhaps we are too quick to focus on only one aspect of his coming over the others. The birth of Christ to Mary in Bethlehem was indeed a very important way he has come to us. But this "coming" of Christ is really only one part of his overall coming and is more like a footnote in the season of Advent, rather than the thesis.

Advent starts by telling us the story of Christ entering Jerusalem on a donkey. And then we hear that when Christ comes again at the end of time there shall be signs in the sun and in the moon and in the stars. And then we hear about John the Baptist, the one

who came to "make straight the way of the Lord" and prepare for his coming. In fact, of the four Sundays in Advent, not one of them touches on the story of Jesus' birth.

While it's tempting to jump straight to Christmas on Advent Sunday, December 1, we do ourselves a spiritual favour by fully embracing the season of Advent for what it is — a season to prepare for the coming of our Lord and Saviour. These four weeks can be a time of spiritual depth and growth, completely apart from the celebration of Christmas. In fact, Advent has more in common with Lent than it does with Christmas. It is a time of prayer and return, a time to look inward and upward.

So, consider making Advent a spiritual time in your life this year, rather than an anxious rush toward Christmas. Become aware of how Christ is coming into your life each day. Prepare your heart to receive him both now and when he comes again. Because indeed, he is coming!

Rob+



# Community Meal invites us to welcome others



## Curate's Corner

*The Rev'd Alexandra Pohlod*

It's been a busy and joyful time at St. Olave's as we head toward the beginning of Advent. One of the things that's been happening is the planning for a Christmas Community Dinner that we'll be hosting on the afternoon of December 7. Janice Douglas, Wendy Board, and I have been busy putting all the pieces in place for what will be the first Christmas Outreach meal of its kind at St. Olave's.

We'll be inviting people from the neighbourhood who otherwise might not be invited to a Christmas meal into our church home and sitting down to a family-style turkey dinner with them, complete with decorations, home-cooked side-dishes, and the experience of being hosted at somebody's table. And it's this, the hosting, that makes this type of meal truly special. There are many places in the city a person can get a turkey dinner around the holidays, but the fact that host families will be bringing elements from their own homes and actually sitting down to dinner with the people who come is a way of feeding more than just their physical hunger. It's our hope that this act of hospitality will be a way for us to honour our guests and to show them the love of Christ that we're called to share with everyone we encounter, friend and stranger alike.

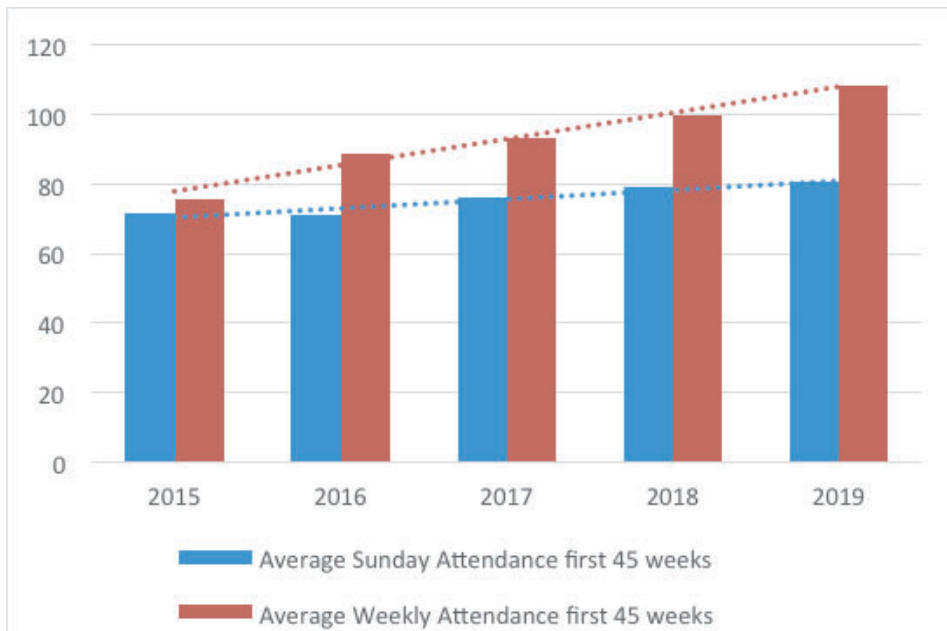
All of this is possible thanks to the Second Century Mission Fund, who have supplied the cost of the turkeys and stuffing, as well as by the generosity of those who have signed up to host tables, to help prepare turkeys, to work in the kitchen during the meal, to supply the desserts, and to clean up afterwards. The response by the community has been truly wonderful to see, and we're looking forward to having table hosts and kitchen helpers with us both from among the St. Olave's worshipping community and from outside the church.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who's signed up to be a part of this exciting event. We still have room for more volunteers, particularly on December 5 and 6, when we'll be preparing the turkeys. And, if you're not able to help out but you'd like to be a part of the festivities, we hope that you'll drop by, even just to say hello. ✍️

## Guest speaker from AURA will talk about refugee settlement

The Second Century Mission Fund (Jean Lilley, Bob Ragsdale, Leslie Stafford, Siobhan Carmichael, John Drake, Rev'd Alexandra and Rev'd Rob), are delighted to welcome Marin Lehmann-Bender, Sponsorship Director of AURA on Sunday, December 1 at both the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) is a Canadian charitable organization assisting in the sponsorship and resettlement of refugees. Their mission is to provide support and expertise to groups involved in refugee sponsorship and resettlement, including many churches in the GTA. Second Century will be presenting a cheque to AURA. Please plan to attend! ✍️



## Looking ahead, and up

### WARDENS' WORDS

*Janice Douglas, Annis Tebbutt,  
Sandra Franke, Paul Scrivener*

The Wardens continue to feel gratitude for the generosity of parishioners in contributing this year towards the St. Olave's boiler fund. This has helped to furnish the church building with a shiny new boiler that provides customized heating to the upper and lower levels. With the onset of unseasonably cold weather, the welcome heat has been felt and appreciated.

Our next challenge will be to repair or more likely replace the chair lift. The current unit no longer works reliably.

The Wardens are beyond grateful to our sexton Dave Webb and to Sheila Tait for their help with the boiler replacement and

chair lift repairs. Dave has also repaired and replastered the walls in the Narthex above the Windermere doors. We are lucky to have him! And thanks to Don Weston who continues to work away at restoring the wood floors and lending a hand to Dave.

The Wardens would also like to welcome new renters, including Strickland Reading Inc. who is now providing their tutoring services to young students at St. Olave's and Ton Beau, another string quartet performing three Saturday evening concerts in the church.

Working with St. Olave's stewardship program, we have put together some statistics on church attendance, with thanks to Rev'd Rob (see above). As you can see, we are on a sustainable upward trajectory. We look forward to continued growth! ✍️



# Junior Church connections

By Martha Riddell  
Child & Youth Minister

It is hard to believe that we will soon be turning our attention to Advent. It feels like only yesterday that I started teaching Junior Church at St Olave's. I have received a very warm welcome from the parish and am greeted each week by a sea of friendly faces. I am also very thankful for the parent volunteers who have helped Sunday mornings and for Armita who has been a regular volunteer at Junior Church and is wonderful with the kids.

The lessons have been based on the lectionary, with particular focus on the day's Gospel. We are also slowly making our way through the Old Testament and have started reading some of the foundational stories from the Book of Genesis. Children are also using their homework books and a few take-home activities to encourage prayer and learning the faith at home.

On Remembrance Sunday the church was full of teens and kids from the local Scouting and Guiding troops, many of whom came downstairs and participated in the Jun-

ior Church lesson.

Soon you will notice our Junior Church students staying upstairs after they receive a blessing on the first Sunday of the month. In preparation we will be learning to sing the Lord's Prayer and the Gloria.

Our focus now will be the Nativity Play. Plan to attend December 15, and watch for a couple of surprise cameos!

Please pray for our Junior Church programme and all its members, that they may grow in knowledge and love of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



## 2019 Christmas Craft Show another success!

Twenty tables in the Parish Hall were filled with a vast variety of hand-crafted items from local artists and artisans. In the Ethel Brown Room, the ACW featured their big book sale, knitwear, fine prints, treasures, home-baked goods and a raffle.

On stage, our Coffee House was filled with delicious goodies baked by parishioners, along with the generously donated Second Cup coffee. And our luncheon menu returned, with yummy sandwiches and a chili that proved to be very, very popular!

Gratitude is expressed to the many volunteers, who contributed and combined their efforts to create another wonderful event, and to the visitors whose toonies helped us raise \$400 for LOFT Community services.

- Annis Tebbutt



Bill Wilson kept the music playing; right, vendors enjoyed themselves; below, Warden and artist Sandra Franke; below right, the Jeens Family.



# Mark your calendar for these events

Email the office at [stolaves@stolaves.ca](mailto:stolaves@stolaves.ca) to receive weekly e-blasts, follow us on Twitter @StOlavesTO and like us on Facebook @stolavesevents

## DECEMBER

- 1 - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.** | Guest Speaker from AURA Refugee services
- 4 p.m.** | Choral Evensong for Advent Sunday with Voices chamber choir and guest preacher the Rev'd PJ Carefoote, followed by Christmas Tea and "Christmas Lights" (see right)
- 4 (Wednesday) - 2 p.m.** | Pilgrim's Bible Study
- 7 (Saturday)**
- 1 p.m.** | Christmas Community Meal (see page 2 for details, hosts please arrive at noon)
- 8 p.m.** | Healey Willan Singers - Follow the Star
- 14 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m.** | Nativity Play cast breakfast and dress rehearsal
- 15 - 10:30 a.m.** | Children's Nativity Play
- 22 - 7:30 p.m.** | Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols by candlelight, featuring St. Olave's Choir and friends.
- 24 - Christmas Eve**
- 4 p.m.** | Children's (Family) service
- 7:30 p.m.** | Holy Communion by Candlelight for Christmas Eve
- 25 - Christmas Day - 10:30 a.m.**  
Holy Communion for Christmas Day

## JANUARY

- 5 - 4 p.m.** | Choral Evensong for Epiphany Eve, followed by Epiphany Tea and "City Flutes in Winter" (see right)
- 8 (Wednesday) - 2 p.m.** | Pilgrim's Bible Study
- 19 - 10:30 a.m.** | Confirmation with Bishop Jenny Andison and Combined Service with Sudanese Community Church, followed by lunch.
- 24 (Friday) 6 p.m.** | Evening Prayer followed by light supper and feature talk by Dr. Carl Benn, "Toronto Church Architecture"

## FEBRUARY

- 5 (Wednesday) - 2 p.m.** | Pilgrim's Bible Study
- 9 - 4 p.m.** | Choral Evensong for the Queen's Accession with Schola Ecclesiam, followed by Royal Festive Tea and illustrated talk by Clem

*Meetings*

**ACW Executive**  
Tuesdays, December 17, January 21  
February 18, March 17, 10:30 a.m.

**Mary & Martha Group**  
Tuesdays, December 17, 1 p.m.  
January 21, February 18,  
March 17, 2 p.m.

**Advisory Board**  
Tuesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.

**Worship Committee**  
Sunday, September 22, following  
10:30 a.m. service.

- Carelse "The Viennese School"
- 23 - 10:30 a.m.** | Thinking Day with Scouts and Guides and Annual Pancake Luncheon
- 21 (Friday) 7 p.m.** | ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING following Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. and light supper at 6:30.
- 26 (Wednesday) 7 p.m.** | Ash Wednesday Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
- 29 (Saturday) 8 p.m.** | Ton Beau String Quartet

## MARCH

- 1 - 4 p.m.** | Choral Evensong for First Sunday in Lent with the Healey Willan Singers, followed by light refreshments and talk by Dr. Jesse Billett "From Plainsong to Anglican Chant"
- 4 (Wednesday) - 2 p.m.** | Pilgrim's Bible Study
- Wednesdays, March 4 to April 1, 6 p.m.**  
**LENTEN SERIES: "The Beauty of Holiness"**  
Evening Prayer followed by light supper and at 7, talks by Rev'd Robert Mitchell and Rev'd Alexandra Pohlod
- 7 (Saturday) 10 a.m.**  
World Day of Prayer service for West Toronto churches, hosted by St. Olave's
- 28 (Saturday) - time TBD**  
Lenten Quiet Day with Bishop Andrew Asbil

## Special events offer more worship and entertainment

In addition to St. Olave's regular Christmas services, we are presenting a wide range of special events for the festive season and beyond.

We begin the lead-up to Christmas on **December 1** at 4 p.m. with our Choral Evensong for Advent Sunday, featuring Voices chamber choir. The service will be followed by our annual Christmas Tea. Then shortly after 5 p.m., we invite you to stay for Christmas Lights, a joyful sequence of light music and light entertainment presented by St. Olave's Arts Guild. The entertainment includes some rare Christmas pieces by Charles Dickens: *Nobody's Story* and *A Christmas Tree*. Plus *What was Wrong with Tiny Tim?* compiled by Annis Tebbutt, as well as a poem by Wendy MacLean entitled "The Stars Point the Way." The Christmas music includes several familiar sing-along carols with Brittany Hudson playing the ukulele.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, Sunday, **January 5**, the Choral Evensong service for Epiphany Eve with St. Olave's Choir is followed by our annual Epiphany Tea. Then at 5 p.m. we welcome back Toronto's City Flutes ensemble to perform another sequence of glorious classical, contemporary and popular music for flute, this time focusing on winter. Their leader Lana Chou Hoyt founded the group in 2007 to perform a variety of classical, baroque, romantic, jazz and contemporary pieces scored for three to eight flutes.

On **Friday, January 24**, we invite you to an illustrated feature talk on Toronto Church Architecture. The event begins with an Evening Prayer service at 6 p.m. (marking the Conversion of St. Paul), which is followed by a light supper at 6:30. Then from 7 to 8 p.m., Dr. Carl Benn of Ryerson University's Department of History discusses the diversities of Toronto church architecture, from the Neoclassical visions of the Georgians to the Gothic Revival and the eclectic tastes of the Victorians.

Please take as many colourful flyers as you need for your family, friends and neighbours. All of our events are open to everyone, so we always appreciate your help in spreading the word!



### Prayer Book services in the heart of Bloor West Village

#### SUNDAYS

**Every Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

**2nd & 4th Sunday**  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

**1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion (with anointing on the first Sunday of the month)

#### WEEKDAYS

**Tuesdays-Fridays**  
8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
4:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

**Wednesdays**  
11:15 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel (following 10 a.m. Bible Study with the Rector)

**Fridays**  
noon - 1 p.m. ORA - Quiet prayer in the Chapel

The weekday service schedule is published in the bulletin, e-blast or online at [stolaves.ca/weekly-announcements](http://stolaves.ca/weekly-announcements).