

Wardens' Report

The key duties of a Warden are to support the ministries of the parish and oversee the financial operations of the church. Our core ministry is to offer quality worship experiences that will inspire and restore all who come here; to help us know and love Jesus, wherever we may be on our faith journey. We are truly blessed to have Canon Rob who leads our services and preaches with creativity, care and competence.

There are many people involved in making St. Olave's spiritual life memorable and meaningful. They include but are not limited to:

- Jeremy Tingle for leading our choir (Thera Barclay, Jose Maldonado, Nadia Nikolov, Scott Gabriel, Dale Allen, Susan Henry, Janice Douglas, Aden Shapland and Agatha Sissons) and providing beautiful music week after week
- Jim Leatch and PJ Carefoote for providing clergy support
- Siobhan Carmichael for creating a rich and engaging faith program for our children
- Carol Ambler for leading our Youth and Young Adult group
- Jon Ingall for leading the Servers Guild (and the servers William Cowling, Andrewes Sissons, Henry Jeens, Dale Allen, Eric Hewitt)
- Dale Allen for leading Altar Guild (and altar guild members - see report)
- William Cowling, for organizing eight enlightening and entertaining education events plus the Lenten series
- Judy Beal for preparing bulletins, announcements and readings for services (and more!)
- Annis Tebbutt for leading the Arts Guild post-Evensong presentations, and now Donna Morrison-Reed for taking the reins
- The many congregational readers for bringing scripture to life
- The many greeters for welcoming people each week, led by Carol Ambler and now Anesu Machoko
- Our team of live streamers for broadcasting the services to people unable to be with us in person (Carol Drummond, Allison Inouye, Carol Ambler, Craig Douglas, Bill Wilson, Aden Shapland and Janice Douglas)
- Lisa Jeens and Alicia Christopher for co-convening our Hospitality Committee, and to all the people who donate their time and treats for our Sunday Coffee Hour fellowship, which I think we all agree is a huge attraction week after week
- And the people who come to pray, sing, listen and learn.

Our growing church

We have welcomed many new families to St. Olave's this past year and each week continue to draw visitors. A high point in our attendance was Easter Day (115). The last time we had that many people at Easter was 2018 with 125 in attendance. We are also seeing long time parishioners coming to church more often. Christmas Eve also surpassed 2023 numbers at 111. Our stewardship committee set an attendance goal for 2024, and you can read more about that in Martha Drake's report.

Online Attendance

In 2023, the Diocese of Toronto began recording online attendance and found, when including those numbers, a significant uptick in attendance. On its own, that might not be remarkable, but donations have increased as well. The slide below shows the 13 parishes with the highest percentage of online worship. St. Olave's online attendance accounted for 55.25% of its total Average Sunday Attendance, the 8th highest. Together these 13 parishes account for 50% of online worship in the diocese.

Parish	On line	In Person	ASA	Variance
Grace Church on-the-Hill	178	97	275	64.73
Redeemer	233	156	389	59.90
St. John, Port Hope	112	78	190	58.95
St. Jude, Brampton	51	36	87	58.62
St. Peter & St. Simon	117	84	201	58.21
Christ Church, Woodbridge	56	44	100	56.00
St. Clement, Eglinton	231	183	414	55.80
St. Olave, Swansea	84	68	152	55.26
Trinity, Barrie	50	44	94	53.19
St. Christopher	127	112	239	53.14
St. Paul, Lindsay	55	50	105	52.38
Trinity, Aurora	104	104	208	50.00
St. Paul, Bloor Street	674	704	1375	49.02

Community Events

A big part of a healthy parish is having a strong community, but also being part of the community. The Wardens were involved in supporting or organizing several community events. These provide opportunities for people to learn more about St. Olave's and possibly come back on a Sunday. These include:

- Community Open House
- West Toronto Art Tour
- Christmas Market
- Community Christmas Meal
- Christmas concert benefitting Bloor West Food Bank

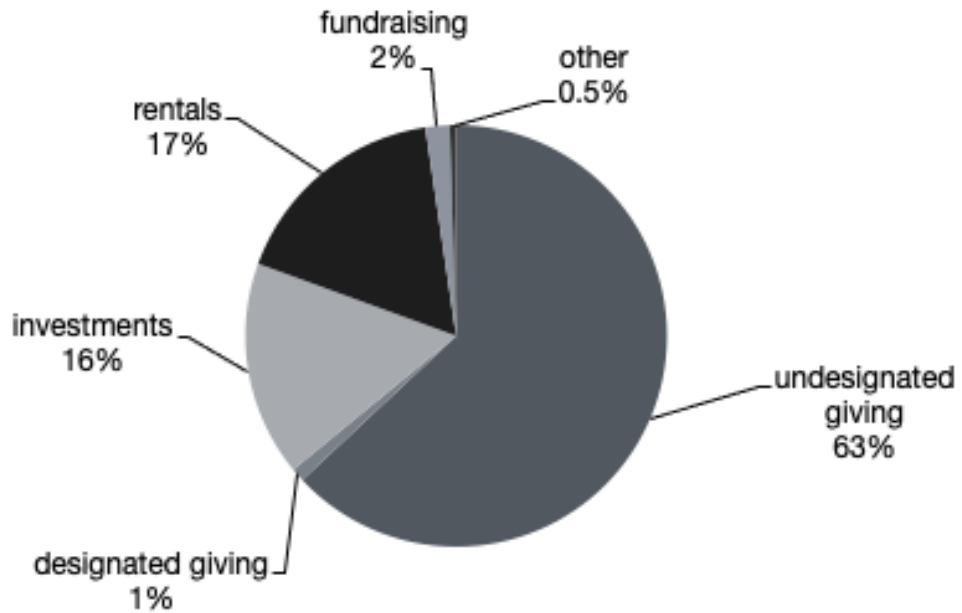
Canon Rob, as Regional Dean, also spearheaded the first ever Deanery Evensong, and many parishioners attended the service at St. Thomas's, Huron Street.

Our financial health

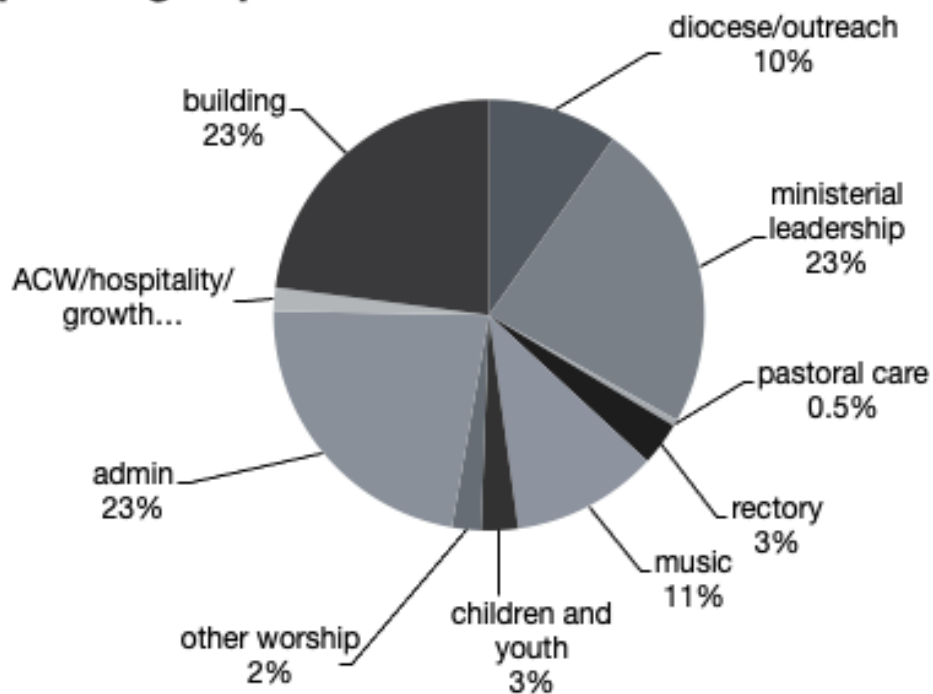
Now, the other part of warden duties: business. We are indebted to our treasurer Annis Tebbutt, who continues to do the weekly collection count and track offerings (among other things), and Judy for doing the banking and maintaining the ledger.

The pie charts below break down our income and expenses. Please note, the pie chart does not include the \$20,962 received in 2024 to replace windows in the parish hall. We finished the year with an operational deficit of approximately -\$11,000 and a drawdown of the capital fund that was \$23,000 higher than forecast.

Operating Income



Operating Expenses



There are a few reasons for this deficit:

- On the income side, the givings target was under by \$11,000 and our rental income was under by \$10,000 (tenants and parking).
- On the expense side, we ran about \$10,000 over budget, due to unexpected legal fees for conclusion of the Romanian mission contract and HST on the Rectory bathroom (for which the 70% rebate will come in 2025). Carpet cleaning and a new refrigerator led to a slight increase over budget in building expenses.

Other income

Our rentals (including parking tenants) accounted for 17% of our income in 2024 and the wardens spend a lot of time and energy on supporting and strengthening these partnerships. Appropriate permissions and insurance are required, usage must be coordinated. The building must be kept clean and safe for everyone's enjoyment. Most of these rentals are to tenants with lease agreements, but some are also one-off usage.

There are currently 12 parking tenants from local businesses. We enjoy strong partnerships with several groups:

- Addus
- Power4Teens
- Sudanese Community Church of Toronto
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church
- Toronto Dance Spot
- Suitcase Theatre
- Lavinia Ensemble (3 concerts)
- 101st Scouts (non-paying)
- Hunger Patrol (non-paying)
- Parkdale Golden Age Foundation (non-paying)

This year we lost the 155th Guiding Unit, due to irreconcilable differences between the Diocese of Toronto and Girl Guides of Canada.

More about our finances can be found in the Treasurer's Report and the Wardens' Proposed Budget for 2025.

Property projects

We managed to move several projects forward in 2024:

- The chairlift was repaired, thanks to the dogged determination of our property chair Sheila Tait, ODT, and a donation from our ACW to support the repair costs.
- Our electronic sign was installed on the front lawn, within the existing sign. This is a key way to invite the community in.
- In-ground sprinklers were installed with a designated donation made in 2023.
- Our accessibility proposal was approved by the Diocese of Toronto after a successful presentation.

- We hired Romario Maharaj as our new sexton!

Our gratitude to Sheila for her leadership on the property file. See her report for more details of building projects.

Saying goodbye

In June, we concluded our relationship with Kathy Langston and the Mission to Romania. There is no doubt that Kathy's support of orphans after the fall of that country in the '90s was incredibly impactful. She worked tirelessly and built a life-changing program. However, after discussions at Advisory Board, the wardens felt it was time to move on. We worked with a leading charity law firm to ensure the relationship finished on a positive note. Kathy was able to find another reputable Christian charity to receive donations and issue tax receipts. The remaining donations in the Romanian account were transferred at Kathy's request.

We thank God for the service of Sue Harris and Bob Ragsdale, ODT, both former Wardens who died in the past 12 months. May their legacy as role models for lay leadership continue for years to come.

And the final goodbye is to Carol Ambler, our Deputy People's Warden since 2021. Carol has led the Youth Group for almost 20 years with kindness and patience (on Zoom with the kids **every Friday night** during the pandemic), led countless outings to escape rooms, treetop trekking, D&D sessions, Casa Loma, movie and craft nights and probably has gone through dozens of Pizza Pizza reward cards over the years. As a Warden, Carol stepped up to organize our greeter team and learned how to operate the live stream. She was a valuable member of the Stewardship Committee and the Accessibility Committee. And her participation in organizing the Christmas Craft Show for the last several years has been ever stalwart. On our team, Carol's calm energy made her an ideal Advisory Board chair and a wise contributor. Carol has moved to London to be able to support her parents. She will be so missed, and hopefully an occasional visitor. We know she'll be watching online!

We are grateful for Henry Jeens' willingness to let his name stand for Deputy People's Warden. As the co-chair of the Accessibility Committee, a member of the Servers' Guild and a parent in the Junior Church, he will bring a valuable voice and perspective to the team.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sharm Powell, People's Warden

Carol Ambler, Deputy People's Warden

Janice Douglas, ODT, Rector's Warden

Allan Taylor, Deputy Rector's Warden