

Churchwardens' Report

Respectfully submitted by Sharm Powell, Henry Jeens, Allan Taylor, Janice Douglas

It has been another busy year for St. Olave's Wardens. We continue to do our best to oversee the finances and the business of the church, while supporting St. Olave's ministry: to spread the Gospel of Christ and welcome people in to our faith community. We are grateful to have Henry Jeens on board.

We are grateful to our Rector, Canon Rob, and our Honorary Assistant, the Rev'd Dr. PJ Carefoote, for leading inspiring services week after week. To Jeremy Tingle and the choir, the servers' guild and altar guild, all the greeters and readers, live streamers and coffee hour organizers for their continued dedication to weekly worship and parish life.

Finances

INCOME - St. Olave's parishioners are truly generous. Last year we received \$232,000 in givings to help fund our operational costs. Thank you to everyone who gave to St. Olave's to support our many ministries. This makes up approximately 62% of our income. That said, our undesignated givings was \$8,000 under budget.

We also earn revenue from other sources, namely our rentals. Last year a Netflix shoot helped us surpass our rentals budget. Combined with a few other sources of income, we met our budget target. This year these other sources totalled 28% of our income.

To pay bills throughout the year when there is an operating shortfall, we withdraw money from our Investment Fund. This year that drawdown (\$40,000) represented 10% of our total income. In 2025 we made a significant change to how our investments are managed, moving them to the Consolidated Trust Fund of the Diocese of Toronto (see Investment Fund Update).

The overall operating income therefore, including the investment fund drawdown, was \$8,000 under budget.

It should be noted that parishioners also generously gave \$132,000 towards capital projects (\$1,000 for the balance of a parish hall window and \$131,000 to the FAITHLiFT accessibility project – see Accessibility Report for details). We also received a bequest of \$11,500 from the estate of John Arthur Ward. This is someone not known to any present day parishioners, yet still at some point in his life he felt close enough to St. Olave's to remember us in his will. May he rest in peace.

EXPENSES - Our total operating expenses were mostly on budget, but some unanticipated increases put us \$13,000 over budget. Some of these costs are associated with overlapping costs of replacing our parish administrator (see Personnel below) and supporting our caretaker when additional cleaning was required. These are mostly non-recurring expenses.

In summary:

\$8,000 revenue shortfall
+ \$13,000 unbudgeted expenses
\$21,000 deficit
+\$40,000 investment drawdown

For more on finances and 2026, please see the 2026 Budget.

Tenants

We receive requests to rent the church almost weekly. Some are looking for daily or weekly use, some are looking for one-off usage. We have a basic rental rate but this depends on the nature of the renter (for profit or not-for-profit), and whether they are a good potential partner bringing something useful to the community. Our tenants are as follows:

- Addus
- Power4Teens
- Toronto Dance Spot
- Suitcase Theatre
- Sudanese Community Church of Toronto
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church
- 101st Scouts*
- Hunger Patrol*
- Parkdale Golden Age Foundation*
- Eight full-time parking tenants
- Two part-time parking tenants

One-off or occasional users:

- Apocryphonia Music
- Lavinia Ensemble
- Netflix
- Bloor West Village BIA*

*non-paying

Personnel

In late July, Judy Beal announced her retirement after many years as our secretary, with her final day of work being October 2. Through August we advertised the position and identified several promising candidates. We were pleased to hire Lisa Tait, starting October 27. Lisa is also the parish administrator for St. Matthew's, Islington and brings a

wealth of skills and energy to the position. She works in the office Mondays and Thursdays, and remotely Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Building

We continue to be extremely grateful to Sheila Tait ODT for her continued work as Property Chair and supervision of our caretaker, Romario. Please see the Property Chair Report for more details of building issues.

In early 2025, 12 more windows were installed in the Parish Hall, and then dedicated in May. Thanks to the Stewardship Committee for organizing this campaign.

In September, we were able to restore the washroom adjacent to the kitchen. Thanks to Henry Jeens for working with Sheila Tait and Ferreira Plumbing on a more affordable solution. So far it has been working.

Outreach

Besides the business aspects of the church, the Wardens support and/or facilitate outreach and events, which in turn support St. Olave's ministry in the community.

- **Eastertide Raffle** - Thanks to Siobhan Carmichael for leading the new community raffle with support of stewardship committee members. The raffle earned more than \$600. Aden and Nadia did an amazing job selling tickets for six weeks, and Siobhan's social media campaign promoting the community partners was very attractive and engaging.
- **BIA Scavenger Hunt** - On August 16 we participated in a Bloor West Village BIA scavenger hunt. Thanks to Lisa Jeens and Chris Robinson who volunteered their time that day. Our new St. Olave cut-out poster was a highlight.
- **Halloween Fest** - On October 25 the BIA hosted its Halloween Fest on St. Olave's front lawn, welcoming up to 200 families who then went trick or treating along Bloor. There were tents set up where families received maps and loot bags, and a harvest photo area as well.
- **They Walked These Streets/We Will Remember Them** - From November 1-11 St. Olave's was delighted to participate in this local grass roots project to map soldiers who died in WWI and WWII on the streets of Swansea and Bloor West Village. The display was installed on the front lawn with descriptions about the soldiers, including QR codes to more information. We supported the organizer with a \$200 donation towards the cost of the display which will be used again next year. Thanks to Bob Kennedy for coordinating with the group.
- **Christmas Market, November 15** - Siobhan Carmichael led the organizing committee again this year, building on the success of the newly branded

Christmas Market from 2024. More than 400 adults and several children attended. Children enjoyed face painting (Elizabeth Jackson-Hall), visits with Santa (James Hall) in the beautifully decorated Narthex and cookie decorating at back of the nave (Michelle Mayers-Van Herk). There were 30 vendors in total including three teen vendors. Addus and Scouts were given tables free of charge. The ACW set up in the EBR with a Bake Sale, Boutique and Raffle and shoppers enjoyed the Cozy Tea Room where they could eat sandwiches and samosas. More than 35 volunteers from the church worked at the welcome door, in the tea room, in the kitchen and with set up and clean up. Posts on social media promoted the event and supported the artists/vendors. Gross revenue was \$4,588, and expenses were \$635. A portion of the admissions (\$400) was donated to Alongside Hope, with net revenue totalling \$3,552. Our thanks to Siobhan and all of the volunteers for this successful event!

- **Community Christmas Meal** - On December 6 more than 50 volunteers turned out to welcome people in our community in need of a Christmas meal. Volunteers of all ages came from St. Olave's, as well as St. Martin's-in-the-Field and the Bloor West Food Bank. The big news was that this year, due to increased promotions and probably increased food insecurity, we exceeded capacity, running out of seats and food. We were able to serve sandwiches from the Hunger Patrol refrigerator to those who arrived late. A huge thank you to the Second Century Mission Fund for covering the costs, which included all the food and supplies and our entertainment, 5 Neat Guys featuring our very own Andrewes Sissons on bass guitar. We are also grateful to the Parkdale Golden Age Foundation for cooking the turkeys and making the stuffing and gravy. We are looking at ways to improve this event for 2026, in terms of promotions and food supply and rollout.
- **Lavinia Ensemble Concert benefitting Bloor West Food Bank, December 7** - For the second year in a row, the Lavinia Ensemble, led by Mark Whale (who lives on Lavinia) performed a Christmas concert of baroque music, including a sing-a-long of O Come all ye Faithful and The 12 Days of Christmas. St. Olave's hosted this concert for free, ensuring that more money went to the Bloor West Food Bank. Karen Allmen of the Food Bank provided introductory remarks and we were acknowledged to a capacity crowd as event sponsorst. In the end, Mark was able to forward \$2,400 to the Food Bank.

UPCOMING - May 2, 2026 - We are planning a Family Choir Day with the Choir Camp of the Diocese of Toronto on Saturday, May 2. The Choir Camp organizes a Choir Day every summer at Trafalgar Castle in Whitby, led by Mary Ridgely ODT. Lisa Jeens

suggested Mary connect with us to bring the program to the western part of the Diocese. Watch for details in upcoming issues of the weekly Olave Branch.

Communications

Google

Our business profile generates a lot of activity!

- 3,330 people viewed our business profile between september and december 2025, increased by 36% compared to the same period in 2024.
- 1,105 Google searches showed St. Olave's in the search results, an increase of 37% over the same period in 2024
- 446 people clicked on our website from the Google search (same as previous year)

Facebook

September to December 2025

- 44,558 views (up 140% compared to previous four month period)
- 1,264 interactions, up 112% from previous four month period
- 633 total followers, increased 3.3% (net 19 new followers)

YouTube

In 2025:

- 85 new videos added
- 8,522 views (down from 2024 total views of 12,500)

Other marketing

- Ads in Wholenote and Toronto Anglican
- FB ads (boosting posts)
- Neighburr in print and online
- Anglican website
- Our amazing sign
- Articles in *The Anglican* about our calligraphy workshop and They Walked These Streets