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# All Saints Church-Community Centre

Parish Profile  
July 2025

<https://allsaintstoronto.com>





## All Saints Is Searching For Our New Parish Priest

All Saints Church-Community Centre, a Canon 25 Mission in the Diocese of Toronto, serves the community of Moss Park at Dundas and Sherbourne through worship and community programming in our support hub. We have a rich, 50+ year-history of social innovation with and amidst some of the most disadvantaged Torontonians.

All Saints is a place where people support one another as individuals and neighbours, a corner of belonging and a space of hope.

In this Parish Profile you will learn about:

- Who we are: our history and current programming initiatives
- What the All Saints community is seeking in our new parish priest
- Parish staff and leadership
- Worship at All Saints
- The parish campus: the present and future uses of our buildings
- Historical financial performance

## Who we are: our history and current programming initiatives

All Saints Church-Community Centre is an Anglican parish in downtown Toronto. It is also, and distinctively, a vital, full-time support hub for individuals living with poverty and facing housing and food insecurity, physical and mental health challenges, drug use and other barriers. We are located in Moss Park, a neighbourhood with the lowest life expectancy in Toronto, where 31.9% of persons are “low income” (compared to 20% city-wide) and where 40% of residents cannot afford their housing.

On Sundays, All Saints’ worship community meets for sung eucharist. From Monday to Thursday, All Saints offers a range of inclusive, no barrier services grounded in human rights principles. We are radically inclusive; we meet people where they are; we believe that every person has the right to have the kind of life they have reason to value.

Being a leader in our support hub is a critical role for our parish priest.



## Who we are: our history and current programming initiatives (cont'd)

All Saints was established in 1872. Although based in what was then a wealthy neighbourhood, the parish has always had a focus on all the people of the parish, including as the parish evolved. Today's All Saints began to take shape in 1964 when Rev. Norman Ellis became rector; in 1970, under his leadership, the parish hall became the Friendship Centre; and in 1972, one hundred years after being established, All Saints became a Church-Community Centre, a "People's Place".

Over the last 50+ years, All Saints has initiated programming, collaborated with other groups and incubated what are now stand-alone agencies, all with a view to serving with the people of the parish, our community. All Saints embraces social innovation as our contextual theology.

- All Saints has hosted legal clinics, counselling for psychiatric survivors, health clinics, harm reduction services and support for First Nations people.
- Several non-profit groups were originally based at All Saints, including Council Fire, Operation Springboard, Street Health and Homes First. All Saints is dedicated to grassroots anti-poverty work and community organizing.



## Who we are: our history and current programming initiatives (cont'd)

Currently, All Saints:

- ❖ Operates drop-in programming four days a week in the nave of the church building, overseen by an executive director who reports to the parish priest and the board of management and who works with dedicated drop-in staff. We provide access to safe space, wi-fi, clothing and harm reduction supplies. Our staff includes a social worker and, starting in autumn 2025, a part-time parish nurse. We currently run several harm-reduction initiatives, including through a harm-reduction case worker and harm reduction peer volunteers. Through volunteers, we offer music and art programming. Volunteers, guests and staff nurture a community garden.
- ❖ Provides approximately 800 takeaway meals weekly.
- ❖ Collaborates with other agencies including All Saints Church Homes for Tomorrow Society (“Homes for Tomorrow”), a stand-alone agency operating supportive housing in a contemporary building on the parish campus. The 61 units of supportive housing were built as a parish initiative in the 1980s and by convention, the parish priest of All Saints has sat on the board of directors of Homes for Tomorrow. There is a strong desire for our new priest to continue that tradition.





## What the All Saints community is seeking in our new parish priest

The parish priest at All Saints is a full-time role serving in a unique parish environment, leading the worship community and being a leader in the support hub during the week alongside staff and volunteers. Aspects of the role are described throughout this parish profile (see: “Parish staff and leadership”; “Worship at All Saints” and “Historical financial performance”).

Rev. Norman Ellis wrote about All Saints: “It was when we opened the church and other buildings as a church-community centre day and night” and people from the community “poured in, that, then, I believe, Christ entered with them, and wondered perhaps why we had left Him out in the cold so long.”

In that Ellis tradition:

- ✓ Our new priest should be liturgically adaptable, approaching preaching less as teaching and more as dialogue. Our new priest will have the quality of what the priest-poet John Donne called “*nearness*”: it is not, he wrote, the eloquence or wit of the priest that matters, it is their nearness to the people.
- ✓ Our new priest will embody the incarnation as the non-anxious presence of Christ, practicing “*accompaniment*”; as Dr. Paul Farmer put it, “[t]here is an element of openness in accompaniment: I’ll go with you and support you on your journey wherever it leads. I’ll keep you company and share your fate for a while. And by ‘a while’ I don’t mean a little while.”

**What the All Saints community is seeking in our new parish priest (cont'd)**

We consulted with parishioners, parish staff and assisting clergy and asked: “what are we seeking for in our new parish priest?” Across these stakeholders, consistent themes emerged about the qualities and values we are hoping our new priest will bring:



# What the All Saints community is seeking in our new parish priest (cont'd)

When the community was asked during a 2021 strategic review to describe All Saints, these guiding images, ideas and actions emerged:



## Parish staff and leadership

All Saints has a full-time office administrator with a remarkable 20+ years of service to All Saints who supervises a full-time maintenance worker. A contract bookkeeper assists with day-to-day financial matters.

Sunday worship is supported by a part-time church musician and by three assisting clergy, one of whom is a vocational deacon dedicated to All Saints, a person who, among other things, chairs the board of directors of Homes for Tomorrow and is a faithful pastoral presence at All Saints during the week.

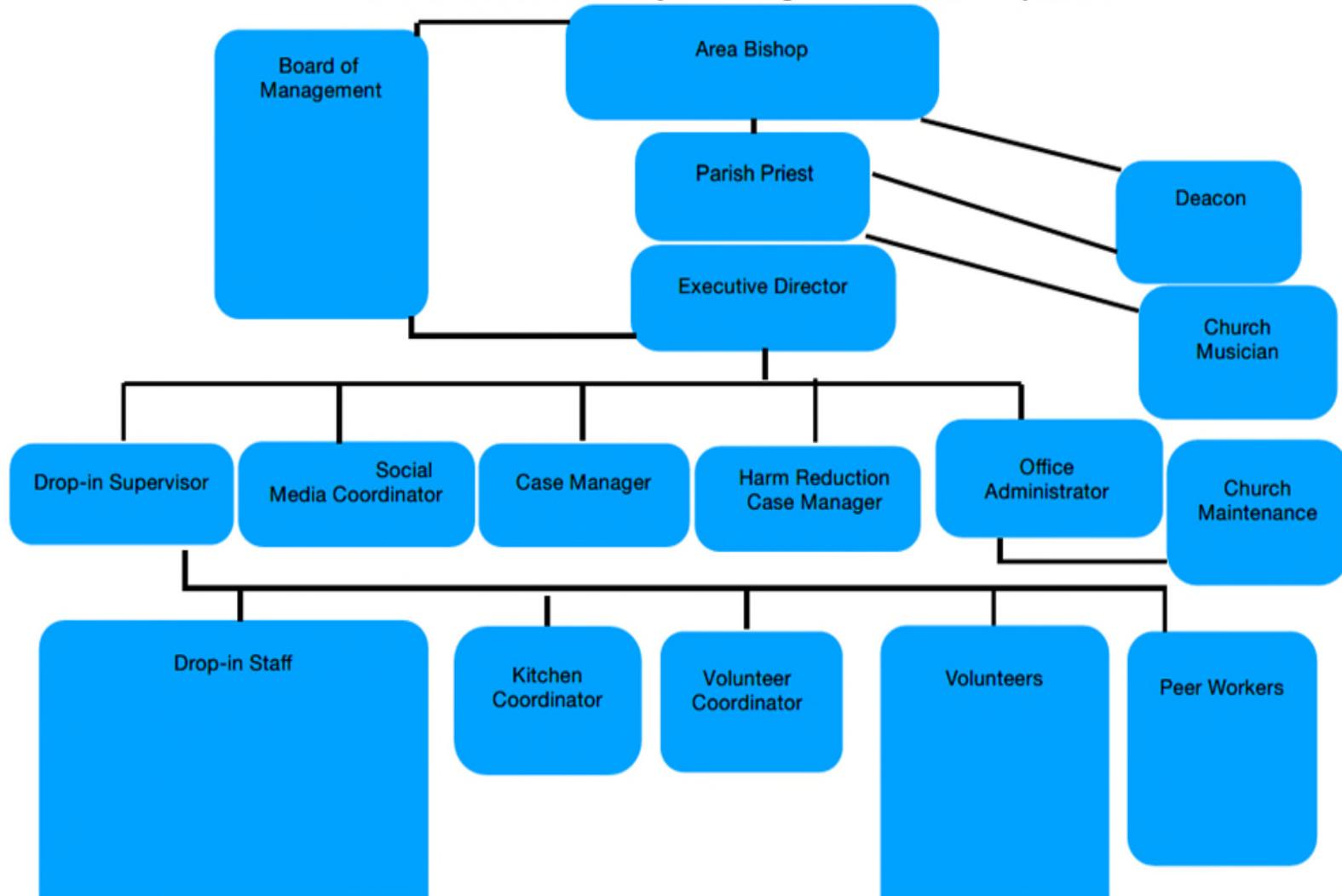
The support hub services are overseen by a full-time executive director who reports to the parish priest and to the board of management. She supervises a number of full-time employees, including drop-in workers, a social worker, a harm reduction case manager, as of September 2025 a part-time parish nurse, and several part-time drop-in workers. The executive director's responsibilities include fundraising for the support hub, alongside the parish priest. Two support hub staff have dedicated a remarkable 10+ years of service to All Saints. The drop-in and other programs offered by the support hub are run with the assistance of unpaid peer support workers and other volunteers.

As a Canon 25 Mission, All Saints' governance includes a board of management rather than church wardens. The board follows not-for-profit governance practices, meets around 10 times per year and has property and finance committees. The board is comprised of volunteers from outside the parish with a range of financial, legal, not-for-profit leadership and marketing skills; it recruits new members to refresh itself as vacancies arise and as needs are identified and can be filled. The parish priest and the executive director attend board meetings.

There is interest in adding a parish-led Advisory Board to All Saints' governance model.

## Parish staff and leadership (cont'd)

All Saints Church Community Centre Organizational Chart – April 2025



## Worship at All Saints

All Saints has a lively and growing worship community. On Sundays, approximately 20 people attend a BAS sung eucharist service. Our parish priest has been supported on Sundays by assisting clergy, including two priests and our vocational deacon. When a priest is unavailable, sung morning prayer replaces the sung eucharist. Recently, a 9:30 pre-worship bible study and discussion group of about 10 has been meeting on Sundays. On Wednesdays, there is a service of said morning prayer with up to five or so in attendance.

Sunday services include music led by our part-time church musician. Music joyfully engages the entire congregation and is drawn from a variety of traditions, including regular Black gospel-music Sundays.

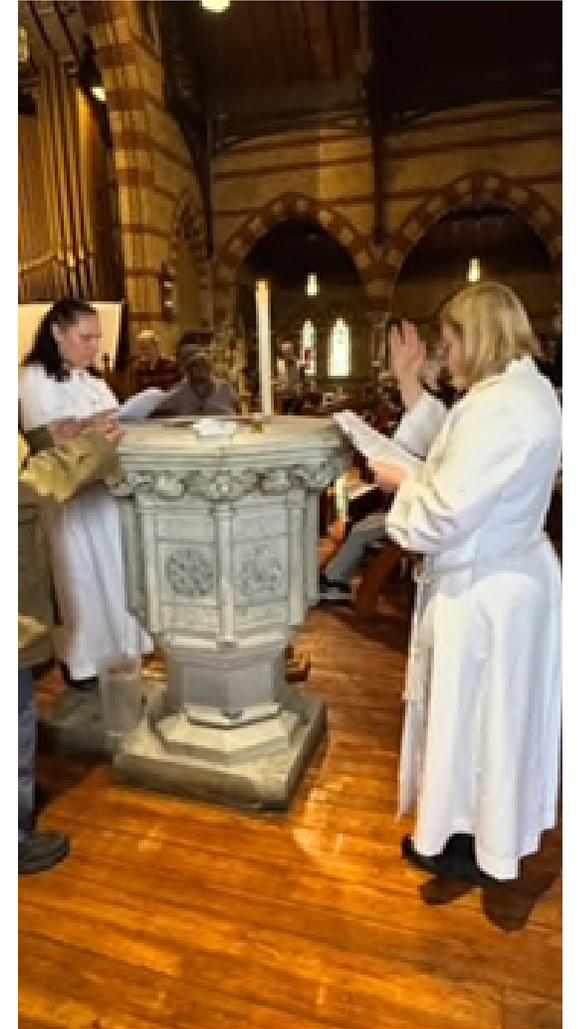
Members of the congregation participate in worship services by serving at the altar, reading the first and second lessons and leading intercessions.

After Sunday worship, the community enjoys a meal together, prepared by members of the congregation.



## Worship at All Saints (cont'd)

Services throughout the liturgical calendar include Ash Wednesday and the full range of Holy Week worship, including a unique Good Friday stations of the cross that draws participants from far outside the parish, making its way around the neighbourhood while remembering those who have died on our streets in the previous year. Christmas at All Saints includes midnight mass on December 24 as well as worship on Christmas day. With respect to occasional offices, at Easter 2025 we were joined by the area bishop and his family and the service included a number of adult baptisms and confirmations, a beautiful expansion of the worship community at All Saints. Other adult baptisms (as pictured here) occur during the year. There have been a number of funerals each year and there were two weddings in 2024.



## The parish campus: the present and future uses of our buildings

Our campus includes four buildings:

1. The beautiful church building. It features extensive stained glass and polychromatic brickwork in the high Victorian gothic revival style of Butterfield. The nave is dedicated to the support hub four days a week. It is wheelchair accessible, although overall building accessibility should be improved.
2. The parish hall, currently licensed to Margaret's, an independent not-for-profit agency serving the community with meal and other daytime support services.
3. 319 Dundas, built in the 1980s and operated by Homes for Tomorrow, an independent agency. It provides supportive housing for 61 individuals. All Saints' kitchen and some support hub offices are on the ground floor of that building.
4. Cornerstone, a currently unused building behind the parish hall, previously used for a variety of church and support hub purposes.

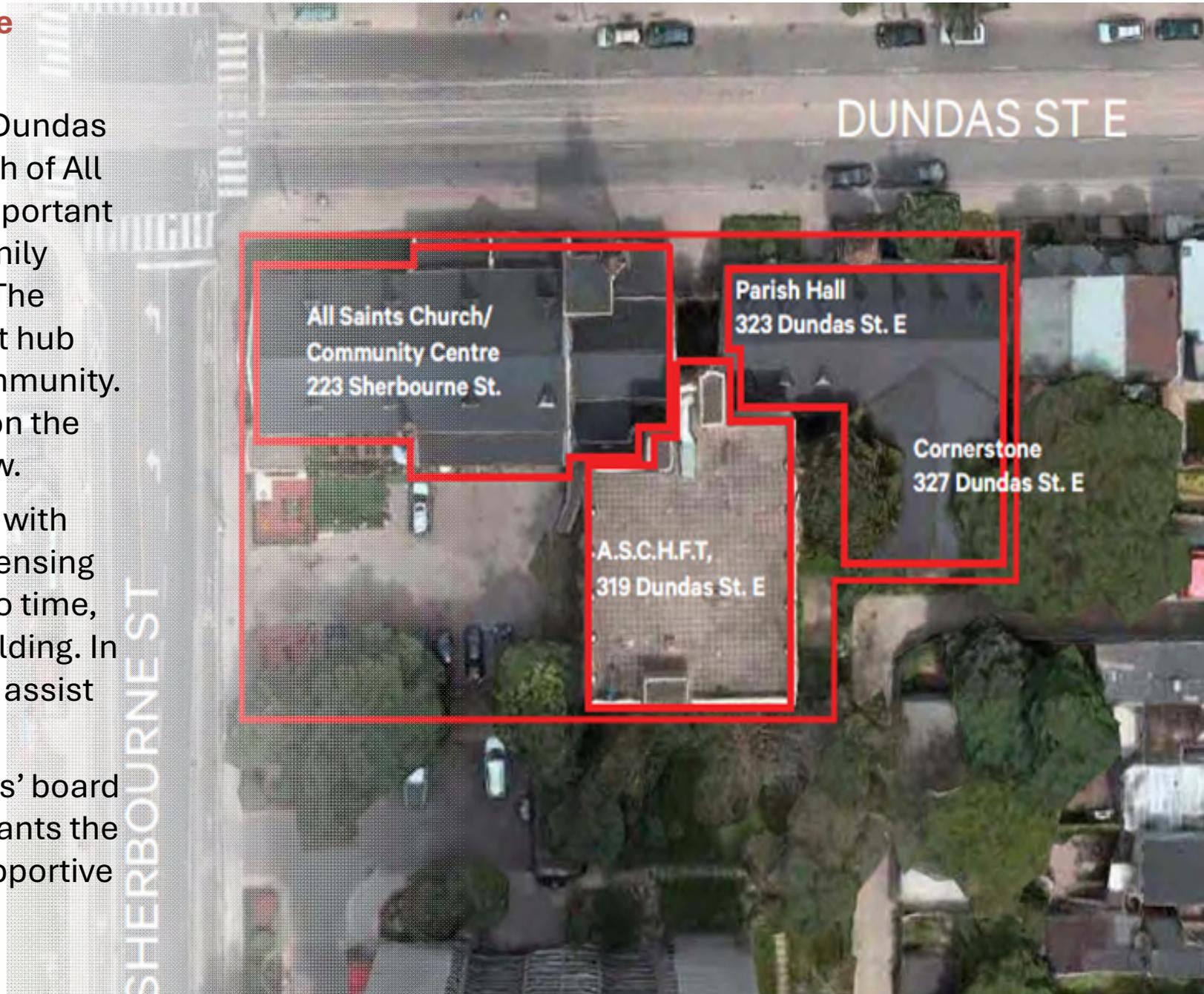


## The parish campus: the present and future uses of our buildings (cont'd)

The supportive housing operated at 319 Dundas by Homes for Tomorrow was an outgrowth of All Saints, and Homes for Tomorrow is an important parish partner agency that also offers family housing in a building on a nearby street. The residents are guests of All Saints' support hub programs and some join the worship community. By convention, the parish priest has sat on the board of directors of Homes for Tomorrow.

All Saints partners in the use of its space with other agencies, including currently by licensing the parish hall to Margaret's. From time to time, agencies license space in the church building. In addition to revenue, these arrangements assist All Saints in achieving its mission.

With the support of the diocese, All Saints' board of management is exploring with consultants the possibility of building new, additional supportive housing on the parish campus.

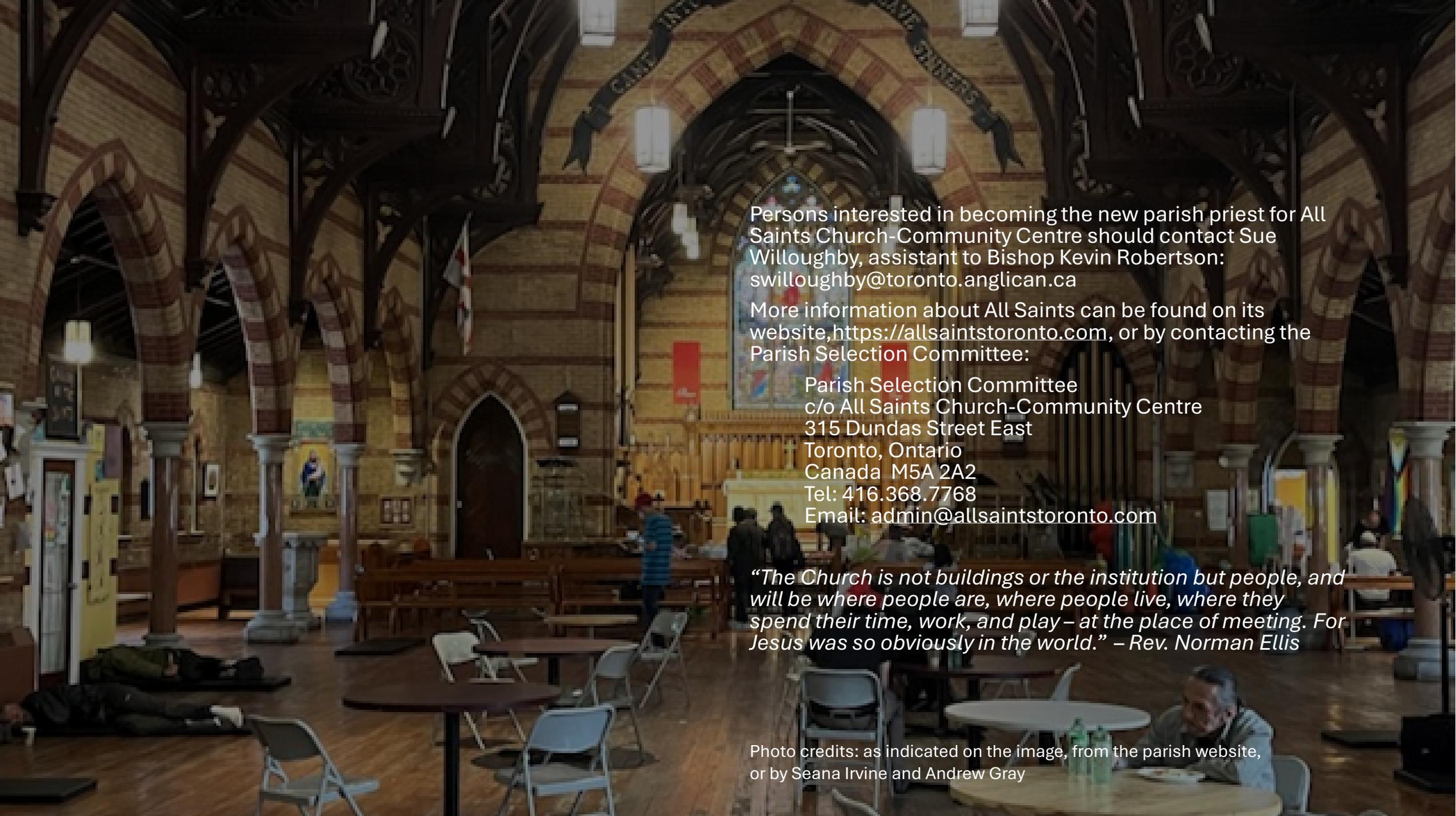


## Historical financial performance

The budget is set by the board of management with the parish priest and executive director. Recent financial results are as follows:

- 2024:
  - Revenues: \$1,003,202
  - Expenses (including non-cash items): \$1,088,332
  - Surplus/(Deficit) (excluding unrealized gains/losses on securities): (\$88,130)
- 2023:
  - Revenues: \$986,031
  - Expenses (including non-cash items): \$1,245,139
  - Surplus/(Deficit) (excluding unrealized gains/losses on securities): (\$259,108)
- 2022:
  - Revenues: \$1,060,474
  - Expenses (including non-cash items): \$1,106,156
  - Surplus/(Deficit) (excluding unrealized gains/losses on securities): (\$45,682)

Deficits have to date been funded from limited reserves, but the board is committed to eliminating deficits through greater fundraising and improving efficiency. Expenses are relatively consistent based on the current size of All Saints' operations. Approximately 50% of revenues are received from the Diocese of Toronto through two annual grants and through space licensing. These grants are the responsibility of the parish priest and the board. The balance of revenues are a mix of donations and grants; donations are either the responsibility of the parish priest and/or the executive director, depending on the donor, and grants are primarily the responsibility of the executive director.

The image shows the interior of a large, historic Gothic Revival church. The architecture features high, pointed arches supported by massive, ribbed piers. The floor is made of dark wood, and the walls are a mix of brick and stone. In the foreground, several round tables with white folding chairs are set up, suggesting a community space or cafe. In the background, a large stained-glass window is visible above the altar area, and a few people are seen sitting at tables. The lighting is warm and somewhat dim, highlighting the intricate details of the architecture.

Persons interested in becoming the new parish priest for All Saints Church-Community Centre should contact Sue Willoughby, assistant to Bishop Kevin Robertson: [swilloughby@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:swilloughby@toronto.anglican.ca)

More information about All Saints can be found on its website, <https://allsaintstoronto.com>, or by contacting the Parish Selection Committee:

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Canada M5A 2A2  
Tel: 416.368.7768  
Email: [admin@allsaintstoronto.com](mailto:admin@allsaintstoronto.com)

*“The Church is not buildings or the institution but people, and will be where people are, where people live, where they spend their time, work, and play – at the place of meeting. For Jesus was so obviously in the world.” – Rev. Norman Ellis*

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