



ST. AIDAN'S IN THE BEACH

To know Christ and make Christ known

www.staidansinthebeach.com



OUR INVITATION TO YOU

We are excited to welcome a priest who will shepherd us on our spiritual journey as we seek to know Christ and make Christ known.

Qualities most important to us:

- † Scripture focused; strong theological teacher
- † Helps to identify and nurture parishioners' spiritual gifts
- † Empowers staff and parishioners to serve
- † Collaborative; team player
- † Responsive to pastoral needs of the parish
- † Energetic; resilient
- † Takes risks
- † Appreciates that music is a high priority and can create a worship experience that balances diverse style preferences
- † Looking for a long-term position

The Church of St. Aidan was established in 1908, after summer beachgoers worshiped for nearly two decades in a tent and later a pavilion on the beach. The church building, located at Queen Street and Silver Birch Avenue, was completed in 1910.

Memorial Hall, which hosted many church and community activities over the years, was added in 1922 and sold in 2019.

Proceeds from the sale of Memorial Hall and adjacent lands were used towards the recent renovation of the church building.

A SHORT HISTORY

WHO WE ARE

St. Aidan's is a vibrant and dynamic parish community located in the Beach neighbourhood in Toronto, Ontario. We are made up of 225 members of Vestry and 46 children and youth. Our post pandemic average Sunday attendance is 83.



Our facilities and community have much to offer our new incumbent:

- Inclusive, welcoming young parish (average age is younger than Diocese average)
- Vibrant children's ministry, with 20 children per week
- Even split of relative newcomers (less than 10 years) and long time members (more than 20 years)
- Core group of very dedicated volunteers
- Close-knit, faithful community, encouraging of one another's gifts and desire to serve, actively living out the Gospel
- Engaged in outreach ministries to marginalized communities
- Forward focused; with a desire to maintain our growth momentum (we want to grow spiritually, financially, programmatically and in attendance/participation)
- We have a substantial endowment fund and recently completed a successful Strong Roots, New Season financial campaign
- A beautiful newly renovated church, with a multiyear fully funded plan to repair masonry and stained glass, landscape the west garden and provide additional resources for programs and staff
- 4-bedroom Rectory within minutes of the church (and the beach!)

WORSHIP & LITURGY

A quiet and contemplative eucharist is held on Sundays at 8:30 am. At 10:30 am, we gather for a eucharist with music and children's programming. An intimate eucharist is held on Wednesday mornings and Christian meditation takes place on Wednesday evenings.

St. Aidan's occasionally holds services outdoors and has had baptisms in the lake. Our congregation welcomes the experience of new liturgy and recognizes the importance of being open to ways in which we can understand the relevance of the gospel in an ever changing, challenging and increasingly secular world.



At the start of our worship services we read the following LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"In our baptismal covenant we affirm that we will strive for justice and peace among all people, respect the dignity of every human being, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Therefore, we give thanks to our Creator for the earth we share with all creatures, and we acknowledge that here we are on the traditional lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Wendat.

We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, and we seek to live respectfully with each other and with the earth.

We believe that every child matters, and that Black lives matter.

All of creation is sacred.

We know that love is love, and we welcome everyone who desires to join us in worship.

You are a beloved creation of God, and you are most welcome here."



CHURCH LIFE

Children & Youth Ministry

The St. Aidan's community is proud to nourish a thriving children's ministry. Infants and toddlers begin their Sunday morning in the nursery, while school-aged children join their families for the beginning of the service, talk with the preacher, and then sing their way downstairs for church school. Children rejoin their families to share communion together.

We are excited to have up to 15 youth (grades 6 - 9) attend Sunday morning programming and social nights. This fall they attended the diocesan sponsored Recharge Retreat where they made connections with youth in other parishes throughout the East End.



The young family and youth demographic is growing within our parish and in the broader Beach community. One of our campaign initiatives was to expand our youth ministry, encouraging youth to take part in our ministries and outreach opportunities. Our goal is to provide both traditional and innovative youth programming (both on Sunday morning and in mid-week programming), with opportunities for the development of youth leadership through youth-led initiatives. We are working to identify growth opportunities for St. Aidan's by understanding the gaps in youth programming and supporting cross-ministry opportunities for youth to engage in the parish.

Adult Education

St. Aidan's offers regular learning opportunities throughout the year including book studies, Bible studies and eco-theology lectures at church and in parishioners' homes.



Music Ministry

Music is a significant component of St. Aidan's life and worship. Most of the music at St. Aidan's is traditional, but respondents to a recent survey indicated a desire to incorporate additional styles of music. A new Music Ministry Coordinator joined us in the Spring of 2022 and under his direction we are undertaking a music pilot program to explore the role of music and congregational singing in worship. Additionally, we have a junior choir and an in-house band, the "St. Aidan's Regrets," composed of several parish musicians who play folk and bluegrass music.



Pastoral Care

Our Interim Priest in Charge, Deacon, and Honorary Assistant provide pastoral care to those requiring spiritual support and/or hospital visits, as well as supporting housebound parishioners and performing memorial services. At this year's vestry meeting, the parish voted to support the discernment process of a second Vocational Deacon. We also have a prayer shawl ministry to provide comfort and peace to people experiencing bereavement or illness.



Eco-Spirituality

St. Aidan's believes that caring for creation is central to its Christian ministry. The eco-spirituality group has developed a range of integrated programs of study, spiritual development and action. We joined the Toronto Climate Action Network and continue to build relationships with our elected officials to better advocate for change.



Community Engagement

St. Aidan's hosts our neighbours in the Beach for a variety of community building activities including a monthly "Supper at St. Aidan's" and weekly Euchre and Meditation programs. Our newly renovated meeting rooms on the lower level are being rented by a small private school, The Cole Academy, which is focused on environmental recovery, inclusivity, the arts, social justice, and community.





Outreach

Many of St. Aidan's parishioners participate in a number of programs and single event initiatives including:

- Advocacy: Communication directly with politicians on matters of public policy involving refugee resettlement, climate change, and chronic homelessness and partnerships with neighbourhood faith communities to host candidates meetings.
- East End Refugee Committee (EERC): This multi church committee sponsors refugees to Canada by providing financial support, friendship and settlement assistance.
- The Beach Cares (TBC): Created to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis of 2015, TBC has completed the sponsorship of two families and a young woman to Canada.
- Out of the Cold (OOTC): Until March 2020, St. Aidan's hosted 30 people one night per week between November and April providing meals, entertainment and sleeping space. In the Fall of 2020, volunteers began taking hot meals to encampments throughout Toronto.
- Beach Interfaith Outreach Committee (BIOC): This interfaith committee supports the local food bank and offers a Monday to Friday lunch program providing fellowship and helping to address food insecurity.
- Restorative Justice Housing Ontario (RJHO): Provides housing, community support and reintegration for people released from prison.
- Christmas Lunch: For many years St. Aidan's has hosted lunch on Christmas Day for our neighbours in the community.
- Toronto Urban Native Ministry: Serves Indigenous people on the street, in hospitals, in jails, shelters and hostels, providing counseling, ceremony, spiritual care and referrals to community services.

CHURCH PROPERTY

We are in the final stage of a multi-year revitalization of our church building and property.

Improvements include:

- **Accessibility and Flexibility:** barrier-free entry and access throughout the building (washrooms with adult change tables, elevators, movable pews)
- **Sustainability & Health:** high-efficiency mechanical and electrical systems
- **Technology Enabled:** fibre-optic and wireless internet and audio/visual capability throughout the building (including live-streaming)
- **Heritage & History:** retention of heritage details (stained glass, masonry repair, vaulted ceilings, woodwork)
- **Relandscaped West Garden:** an external venue for church services and meetings, quiet reflection, children's play, and community enjoyment



ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



With a population of approximately 2.9 million people, Toronto is Canada’s largest city and one of the most livable cities in the world. Toronto’s motto is “Diversity is Our Strength” and is known as one of the world’s most multi-cultural cities. We pride ourselves on our wide range of cultures, languages, food and arts as well as the friendliness of our people.

The Beach is located 20 minutes from downtown Toronto and is a safe, charming, laid-back neighbourhood of approximately 22,000 people in the East End. Balmy Beach, Scarborough Beach, Kew Beach and Woodbine Beach border the neighbourhood. There are more than 400 one-of-a-kind boutiques, spas, and eateries, along with several top-ranked schools.

The Beach community is paradise for the active person and is host to extensive walking paths, the boardwalk and bike paths that extend all the way into the downtown core. Other outdoor activities include swimming, paddling and hiking the Martin Goodman trail or Glen Stewart Ravine.

THE RECTORY

The Rectory, a four bedroom, 1.5 bath detached home with garage and large, private yard, is a 2-minute walk from the church and a 3-minute walk to the beach. It is within walking distance of a grocery store, the TTC, restaurants and coffee shops.



STAFFING

St. Aidan's is staffed by the following full time paid positions:

- Interim Priest in Charge

Part-time paid positions:

- Administrative Assistant
- Caretaker
- Children's Ministry Coordinator
- Music Ministry Coordinator
- Two choir soloists

Volunteer positions:

- Vocational Deacon
- Honorary Assistant
- Youth Ministry Coordinator

OFFICE HOURS: 9:30AM-1:00PM TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY



WHO WE ASPIRE TO BE

In 2021, our Advisory Board held a series of visioning sessions led by Janet Marshall, head of the diocesan Congregational Development department. Janet helped us create [A Plan for St. Aidan's During a Season of Transition](#) identifying our values and goals that will guide the direction and activities of the parish over the next few years. Our missional aspirations include:

Modeling life in Christ and inviting people to life in Christ

Building and strengthening relationships with each other and with our neighbours

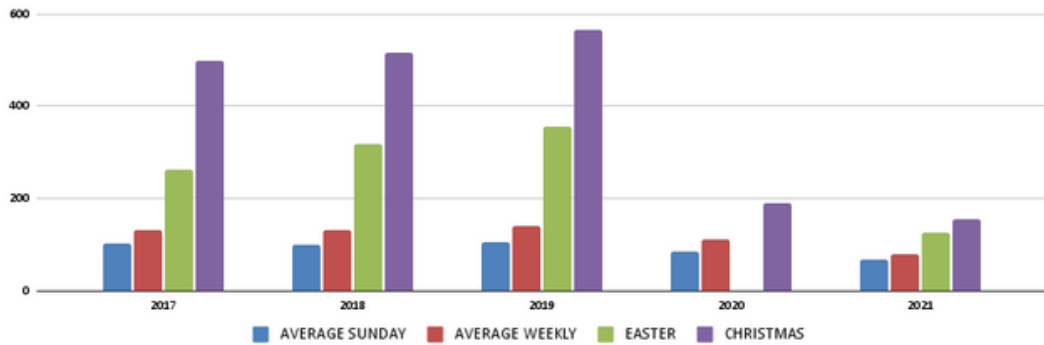
Involvement in cultural, socioeconomic, and environmental justice issues

Ministry with children, youth, and families



DEMOGRAPHICS & FINANCES

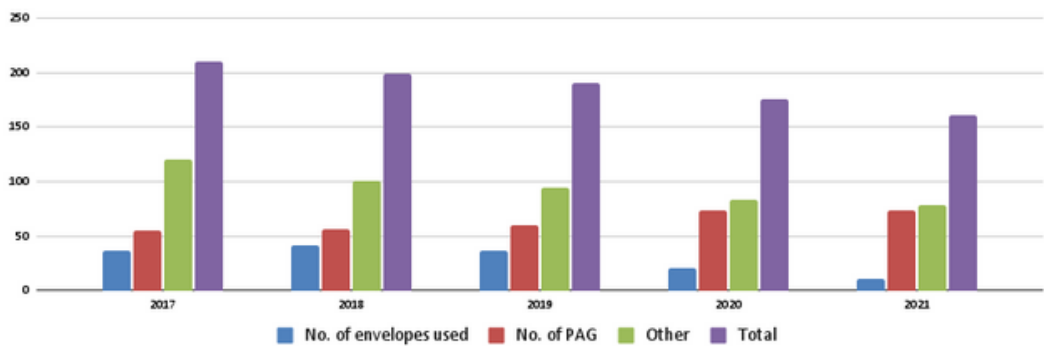
Attendance



Operating Budget



Number of Donations



Despite the relatively significant post-pandemic changes seen in the above graphs (reflected across churches of all denominations and the non-profit sector generally), St. Aidan's has proven its resilience by completing a very successful fundraising campaign, completing fully-funded and extensive renovations, operating with a budget surplus, and re-initiating programming in the pandemic-recovery phase. We have every reason to believe that our growth will continue as our parish journeys together and nurtures our neighborhood community. Our [2021 Vestry Report](#) provides more details.

THANK YOU

The Parish Selection Committee has worked hard to create this Profile in the hopes that this will assist “The One that God has called” to join our faith community - to lead, to serve, and to journey together with us.

Thank you for learning about St. Aidan’s. We have been praying for you.

Please send resumes to swilloughby@toronto.anglican.ca

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100