

PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of
Tuesday, April 14, 2026

In attendance: Reverend Mary-Cate Garden, Joseph Amuah, John Hancock, Carolyn Findlay, Georgia Roberts, Joan Grayer, Mike Duval, Janis Perkin, Michael Perkin, Joy Bowerman, Cynthia Greer, Michael Roy

Regrets: Sophia Chiboka, Gillian Morris, Gillian Martin, Mayowa Ojo

1. Opening the Meeting

a) The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Joseph Amuah

b) Reverend Mary-Cate offered a prayer

c) Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda was moved by Joy Bowerman and seconded by Mike Duval

CARRIED

2. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of February 10, 2026

Amendment to minutes:

On Page 2 under Warden's Report, change "Jembe" to "Djembe"

Approval of the Minutes:

As amended, moved by Michael Roy and seconded by Carolyn Findlay

CARRIED.

3. Business arising from previous meeting(s)

None

4. Regular Reports

a) Rector's Report

- Rev Mary-Cate expressed appreciation for all who helped with the Easter activities
- Attendance, despite the poor weather all through Easter week, was good: Easter morning at 8 am - 10, at 10 am - 86
- Noted: there were 15 on live stream for the Easter Vigil
- Sunday after Easter - just under 70, 59 at 10 am
- A warm welcome was extended to our new board member, Michael Roy
- The new Parish Council year begins in May, Mary-Cate will be commissioning the new Parish Council at the April 26th service
- May 9th is the consecration of the new bishop-elect, Kathryn Otley, at the cathedral at 10:30 am. Everyone is encouraged to attend
- Wardens and some others will be attending a finance and property workshop in Carleton Place on Saturday April 18.
- Mary-Cate will meet with the Mothers' Union on April 15th to discuss preparations for St. Mark's Day

- Bible Study has increased in attendance (over 12 most days)
- Appreciation was expressed to the property and stewardship committees
- Coffee after the 10 am service and attendance at CCC has been good
- New protocols introduced to the Pastoral Care team are going well
- Police checks: Still ongoing, Mary-Cate will write the letters on church letterhead instead of seeking letters from the Diocese
- Proposed new events:
 - With good weather, a service on the front lawn
 - Possibility of the introduction of an Evensong with perhaps music such as jazz sometimes
 - Summer field trip (see Janis's report)
 - A parish Doors Open on the same day as the Ottawa Doors Open. (It was decided that we would hold back on this idea until next year.)
 - A "parish day" for all ages where we discuss who we are and what we want to be
- A "Welcome to All" poster is to be made and displayed in the Link emphasizing an all-inclusive church
- With the donation of a flagpole, hopefully we can put up a St Mark's flag, as well as special flags, for example, for August Pride month
- A request was made to honour and respect the privacy of our renters, particularly the Kiwanis Festival participants, AA meetings on Sunday night and NA on Monday night. Mary-Cate will promote this in the church services this week

b) Wardens' Report(s)

Janis Perkin advised us of 2 Indigenous events that we may consider as a field trip

1. The Spirit of the Drum Pow Wow being held in Smiths Falls June 13th and 14th
2. Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival (Competition Pow Wow) held at Wesley Clover Park in Ottawa June 20th and 21st

It was suggested that we offer car pools for whichever event we decide to make our field trip. Anyone who wishes to attend the other event of course is encouraged to do so.

c) Property & Maintenance Report

A set of 8 broken chairs from the church Hall were welded and put back into circulation. All of the other burgundy upholstered chairs were checked to replace missing screws and to tighten any loose ones. A motion detector was installed for the Link door external light. Two of the church hall folding coffee tables were repaired. The link door was adjusted to always latch completely when it closes. One of the short wooden benches in the link was adjusted to be more sturdy.

John Hancock

Mike Duval's report:

- Roof repairs – Quick-fix solution quote obtained at \$565, which might stop leaking for awhile. Continuing to obtain quotes for a permanent solution.
- Garbage and recycling – Update on the provincial mandate and what it means for St. Mark's.

- Advance HVAC – First service completed; mechanical equipment deficiencies identified. We are obtaining further clarification on several items listed in the service quote, particularly related to pump repairs. Approval has been given to replace the pressure relief valve. A pressure relief valve is a critical safety device that releases excess pressure from a heating or mechanical system to prevent equipment failure, pipe damage, or potential safety hazards. Replacement is important to ensure safe system operation and to prevent over-pressurization.
- First aid kit – Requires new supplies. Costing currently being obtained. It is a Type 2 first aid kit.
- Sump pump – Not keeping up with demand. Seeking secondary pricing for a commercial-style pump.
- Carpet cleaning – Working on a schedule (Parliament Cleaning Group).
- Volunteer safety requirements.
- Anderson's Fire – Annual inspection booked for April 28th. - \$158.20 + cost of deficiencies that may be required.
- Emergency lighting – Battery replacements completed on two lights. Cost of each battery: \$60. Monthly inspections completed.
- Window replacement – Ongoing data and quote collection. We are also exploring potential funding opportunities to support this program.
- Basement washroom, Toilet repairs completed (broken handle and failed fill valve replaced). Remaining toilets will be serviced in due time, as several are currently running and causing unnecessary water loss.

Thank you,

Mike Duval

Peoples Warden

d) Treasurer's Report

I am trying something new and will ask for your opinion this evening.

Joy Bowerman

Discussion after:

Everyone approved the new charts for helping us better understand the monthly financial results. The same charts will be displayed in the newsletter to keep the parishioners up to date also.

e) Membership Report

We had several visitors over Easter, and the general comments were on our friendliness, and welcoming, so thank you to all those who were part of that.

We have a few who have stayed with us, after their 'church shopping'

I haven't looked to see how many people we have weekly, but it is stable, and the church looks

occupied when viewed from the choir.

We had very good attendance at the Easter services. I was pleased to see that there was a good number at the Great Vigil of Easter / Holy Saturday service. Mary-Cate is doing a great job of encouraging people to attend, so thank you.

Church school fluctuates widely, and wildly!

We have children who now serve at the altar, or who have sports competitions, or a grandma with a new hip, who cannot drive at present. I haven't seen the Njokus in a while.

If anything changes in church school, such as no class, I always email the parents, so they will know what to expect, but Christy doesn't reply.

Could be they are busy with work schedules also.

Cynthia Greer

f) Choir Report

We are, as is very evident, a faithful reliable group. The past Easter services were very well attended. So thank you to the choir. I will also note that it was very nice to be recognized for the work and effort we put into the singing.

That isn't why we are in the choir, but still it is very encouraging. Some people might not think so, but I believe it always helps to thank people. Sermon over!.

Cynthia

g) Stewardship

April 2026 Parish Council Stewardship



We have spent Lent learning about the saints and great Christians by participating in Lent Madness, congratulations to Constance and her companions in winning the Golden Halo. We also had the opportunity to spend that time by following 40 Acts of Stewardship. I confess that I didn't participate in all 40 but the ones I did brought a bit of joy into my day-to-day life. For instance, one of the acts was Chocolate (yes chocolate in Lent). The act was simple enough, give someone some chocolate for no reason. I had read the Act earlier in the day, so as I was in the check out line in Shoppers I decided to pick up one of the chocolate bars. After paying for it I handed it back to the clerk. She asked why I would give her a chocolate bar and so I told her part of my Lenten journey was to do a daily act of generosity and that today's act was to give someone some chocolate. Her smile was radiant and she said I hope I get more Christians coming through. So simple, so effective.

Over the past months we gathered at a joint Financial Advisory/Stewardship Committee to discuss the way forward. We had an excellent meeting and are moving forward in planning a multi year, multi faceted approach to stewardship and increasing our abundance at St. Mark's. At present we are collating feedback from the meeting before moving forward with a more detailed plan. We look forward to presenting a robust and exciting way forward.

In the interim we are publishing monthly articles in the E Newsletter about different aspects of Stewardship. In April we are planning one on stewardship insights in Pastoral Care and look forward to more perceptions of stewardship from our ministries.

Michael Perkin

h) Outreach Report

I made 5 trips to Debra Dynes. Donations have been steady, much improved since January.

A clear bin for the donations provided by Georgia Roberts is much appreciated and is set up with new signage. I think it is helping to increase the amounts donated.

Debra Dynes sent me an email yesterday with upcoming events that I shall put into the newsletter
Julie Lipinska, the new Outreach person from St Matthew's, brought me stamps and 2 stamp albums to donate. Bill Woodley from Oxfam picked up the stamps on Sunday.

Joan Grayer
Outreach Coordinator

5. New Business

- Joan Grayer expressed a thank you to Russell for his help in preparing the garden for Easter Sunday. She will put something in the newsletter to ask for volunteers this summer.
- Georgia Roberts suggested having an Activity Fair in the autumn to further acquaint our new members with volunteer opportunities in Altar Guild, Coffee, etc.

6. Parish Council Highlights for Newsletter:

- New visual charts for monthly finances
- Consecration of the new bishop-elect Kathryn Otley
- Spring Cleaning and Maintenance plans for May 23 8 am to 1 pm

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday May 12 2026 at 7 pm.

8. Adjournment/Grace

Joy Bowerman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:32.

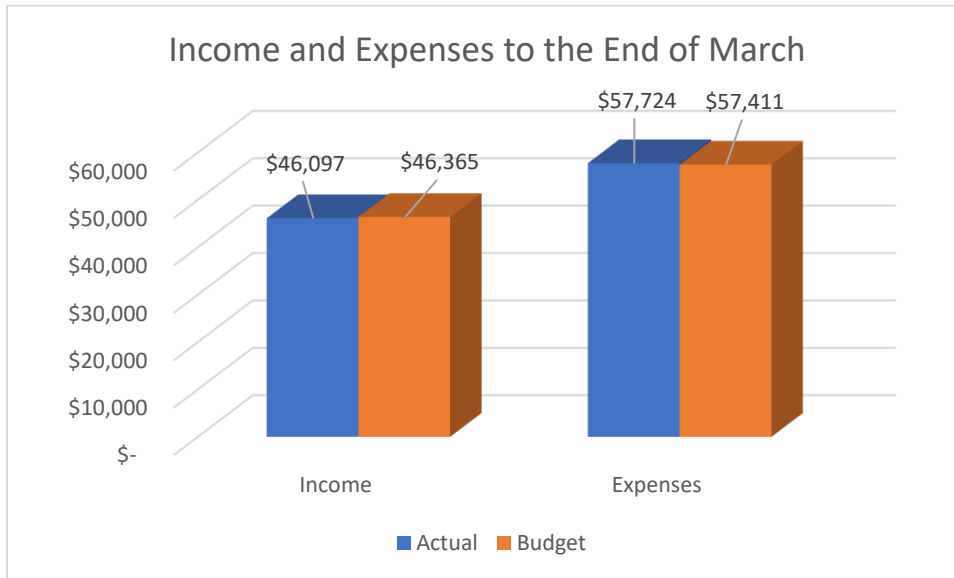
Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm with the saying of the Grace.

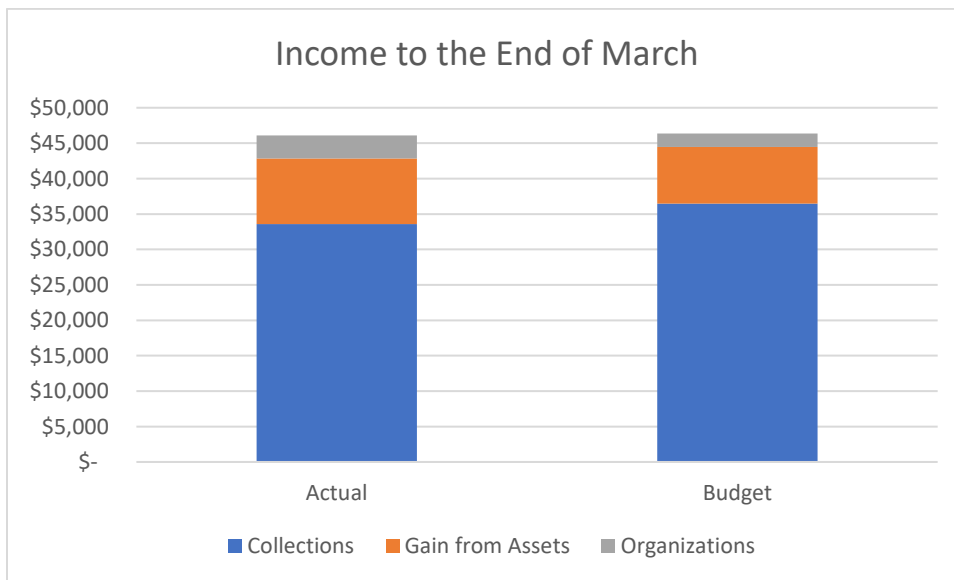
Respectfully submitted by Joan Grayer

Financial Report for Parish Council April 2026

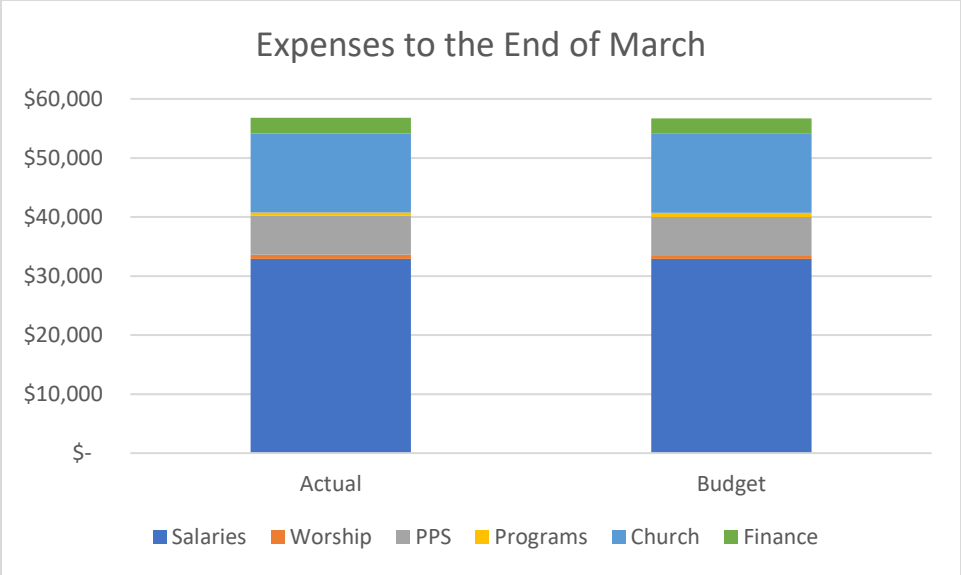
In general, we are very close to where we expected to be at this point in the year. Please remember that this is expecting that our expenses will exceed our income by ~\$16,500 at the end of the year.



While our income was very close to expected, where the income came from was slightly different. We have had increased income from Gain from Assets (mostly User Fees) and Organizations (mostly Bazaar) and slightly less than expected Collections income.



When we look at our expenses, we find that the categories are very close to our budgeted amounts. Some amount of variation is expected, especially this early in the year. For example, an expense which was budgeted for April may end up being spent in March and only a few months into the year can make a significant difference in the expenses in a particular category.



Income and expenses from both Black History Month and the Pancake Supper since last Parish Council.

Here is a summary of those items

	Income	Expense	Net
Pancake Supper	\$315	\$57	\$257
Black History Month	457	506	48

St Mark's Church
Balance Sheet
 As of 31 March 2026

	<u>31 Mar 26</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
TD BANK	44,900.35
Total Chequing/Savings	44,900.35
Other Current Assets	
Dollar for Dollar	2,625.50
HST Receivable	318.77
PST Receivable	725.19
Total Other Current Assets	3,669.46
Total Current Assets	48,569.81
Other Assets	
Investments	
Gladys O'Ray CTF 2654	28,396.24
Judy Corbishley CTF	9,544.54
Rectory Trust CTF 4053	488,249.33
Total Investments	526,190.11
Total Other Assets	526,190.11
TOTAL ASSETS	574,759.92
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
RESERVE ACCOUNT	
Seniors Outreach	245.00
Funeral Receptions	948.68
Capital Projects	13,670.01
Choir Fund	2,505.83
Choir Gowns	810.07
GIFT Funds	4,470.06
Key Deposits	373.59
Memorials	6,558.47
Ministry	7,212.15
Pastoral Care Support Fund	875.00
Rector's Discretionary	191.46
Sunday School	467.17
Tree Care	643.28
Total RESERVE ACCOUNT	38,970.77
Total Other Current Liabilities	38,970.77
Total Current Liabilities	38,970.77
Long Term Liabilities	
Gladys O'Ray Bequest	28,396.24
Judy Corbishley Bequest	9,544.54
Rectory Trust	488,249.33
Total Long Term Liabilities	526,190.11
Total Liabilities	565,160.88
Equity	
Accumulated Funds	18,583.88
Net Income	-8,984.84
Total Equity	9,599.04
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	574,759.92

St Mark's Church
YTD Budget Comparison
 January through March 2026

	Jan - Mar 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
GENERAL			
Collections			
Identifiable Offering	32,988.00	36,240.00	-3,252.00
Open	316.00	200.00	116.00
Special Collection	270.00	25.00	245.00
Total Collections	33,574.00	36,465.00	-2,891.00
Gain from Assets			
Investment Income	763.60	700.00	63.60
Solar Income	292.65	1,300.00	-1,007.35
User fees	8,231.00	6,000.00	2,231.00
Total Gain from Assets	9,287.25	8,000.00	1,287.25
Organizations			
AA	700.00	450.00	250.00
Bazaar	1,921.00	1,150.00	771.00
Pancake Supper	315.00		
We Kicked the Habit	300.00	300.00	0.00
Total Organizations	3,236.00	1,900.00	1,336.00
Total GENERAL	46,097.25	46,365.00	-267.75
DIRECTED			
Property Maintenance	50.00		
Black History Month	457.00		
Flowers	315.00		
Forward Day by Day	35.25		
Lenten Outreach			
Centre 440	60.00		
Not specified	760.00		
Total Lenten Outreach	820.00		
Alongside Hope	965.00		
Total DIRECTED	2,642.25		
Total Income	48,739.50	46,365.00	2,374.50
	48,739.50	46,365.00	2,374.50
Expense			
SALARIES			
Staff	32,895.51	32,895.51	0.00
Total SALARIES	32,895.51	32,895.51	0.00
WORSHIP			
Music	100.50	300.00	-199.50
Piano/Organ	530.09	0.00	530.09
Service & Altar Supplies	63.40	200.00	-136.60
Total WORSHIP	693.99	500.00	193.99
PROPORTIONAL PARISH SHARE	6,632.01	6,632.01	0.00
OUTREACH			
Alongside Hope	915.00		
Total OUTREACH	915.00		

St Mark's Church
YTD Budget Comparison
 January through March 2026

	Jan - Mar 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget
PROGRAMS			
Pancake Supper	57.80		
Black History Month	505.46	500.00	5.46
Christian Education	0.00	125.00	-125.00
Publicity	0.00	50.00	-50.00
Total PROGRAMS	563.26	675.00	-111.74
CHURCH			
Cleaning Service	3,638.06	3,999.99	-361.93
Electricity	1,873.45	1,500.00	373.45
Heating	2,210.16	3,400.00	-1,189.84
Operating Supplies	888.81	200.00	688.81
Repair & Upgrade	1,896.64	1,400.00	496.64
Snow Removal	2,010.33	2,100.00	-89.67
Telephone & Internet	347.14	267.00	80.14
Water	524.64	500.00	24.64
Total CHURCH	13,389.23	13,366.99	22.24
FINANCE			
Bank Charges	102.40	125.01	-22.61
Insurance	2,515.99	2,516.01	-0.02
Total FINANCE	2,618.39	2,641.02	-22.63
MISCELLANEOUS			
Forward Day by Day	22.95		
Photocopier	-6.00	300.00	-306.00
Postage	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Rector's Hospitality	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Wardens' Hospitality	0.00	100.00	-100.00
Total MISCELLANEOUS	16.95	700.00	-683.05
Total Expense	57,724.34	57,410.53	313.81
Net Income	-8,984.84	-11,045.53	2,060.69