



APCM for St John's Chapelry, Aust

Meeting held on 25th April 2026 at 11am

Vestry Meeting

Election of Church wardens

(All Parishioners eligible to vote.)

APCM

(All members of the Electoral Roll eligible to vote)

Approval of minutes of the APCM held on 30th April 2025.

Annual Report PCC

Financial Affairs and Audited Statements

Report on the fabric and ornaments of the church -

Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod -

Safeguarding and Reporting of Serious Incidents -

Appointment of the Independent Examiner

Any questions

ELECTIONS & ADVERTISEMENTS

(only Elected PCC members eligible to vote)

1 Election of parochial representatives to the laity to the PCC

2. Election of Standing Committee

3. Election of Treasurer

4. Election of PCC Secretary

5. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

Part 2: Annual Report : Year ended 31st December 2025

2.1. Aims and Purposes

St John's Church Council (DCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend David Moss, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church.

2.2. Administrative information

The church is situated the village of Aust, and is part of the North Severnside Benefice and within the Diocese of Bristol. The church is subsumed to Olveston Parish and is referred to as the Parish of Olveston with Aust

Contact details:

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The weekly Benefice Newsletter, the Benefice website:

<https://www.revsrural.com/alveston/> and the North Severnside Facebook page are all established means of communications. They have become an important means through which the church communicates its activities within the community and the world at large

The District Church Council (DCC) is a charity exempt from registration with the Charity Commission.

DCC members who have served during 2024 and until the date of this report's approval are as follows:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Role on DCC</u>
Vicar	Rev David Moss
Focal Minister	Trevor Cook
Churchwardens	Jenn Dickens Jon Burnett
DCC Chair	Richard Deverson
DCC Secretary	Josie Turnbull
Deanery Synod	Barbara Burnett
Elected Members	David Prothero (Treasurer) Josie Turnbull Philip Cue

2.3. Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment is on an annual basis at the AGM. All other matters regarding the DCC membership is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the DCC. The normal term of office is 1 year

2.4. Objectives and Activities

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church

2.5 Achievements and Performance

2.5.1: Worshipping and Prayer

As a church, we are committed reaching out and growing in faith and love as a community, using our buildings as a worship space for the community; including joint services with the local Evangelical Church, the Aust Pilgrimage and as a service for the community for baptisms, weddings and funerals etc.

We continue our policy of only having services (with special exceptions) on the second and fourth Sundays of the month; albeit we have changed the service schedule to hold Holy Communion on the second Sunday and Morning Prayer on the fourth. We have used the Church of England Lectionary, selecting appropriate material for the different styles of services as appropriate.

At present there are 17 parishioners on the Church Electoral The average two weekly service attendance is 12 attendees, during the festivals and at the Christmas carol service was 40.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing.

Our thanks to Barbara Burnett who has continued to represent St John's DCC at the Deanery Synod. A report of the proceedings of Deanery Synod can be obtained upon request.

2.5.2. Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is part of every member's ministry at St. John's. Revd. David our Vicar occasionally visits the housebound to give communion and anoint with oil.

2.5.3 Mission and Evangelism

The church values being part of the community in Aust. It involves itself in all the activities of the village. Members play table tennis, manage an annual fete, and holds its meetings in the local pub. Mission and evangelism is being embedded within the community. Sadly the Aust Pilgrimage which was such an integral part of our witness has not been held for a couple of years but we hope the it restarts soon

We also value being part of a Benefice and this means members of the church and community have attended Alpha Courses, Lent and Advent Courses held at St. Helen's and St. Mary's, Olveston.

2.5.4 Ecumenical Relationships

There is a close relationship between ourselves and Aust Evangelical Church. At key times such as Remembrance Day we worship together

2.5.5 Church Events

(a) Annual Church Fete:

This was held on 27th July 2024. This annual event builds on the relationship that the Church has with the local community as well as being our most important fund-raising event. This year's fete is scheduled for 4th July 2025.

(b) Quinquennial Inspection

The Quinquennial inspection of St John's Ancient Chapelry in Aust, was undertaken on the 28th August 2025 by Izaak Hudson who produced his report which is available upon request to any of the church officials.

(c) Harvest Festival:

A service of celebration was held on 12th October 2025. Donated food items were taken to The Community of the Sisters of the Church who manage a food bank in St. Paul's, Bristol. The service was followed by a Harvest Lunch held at the Village Hall.

(d) Coffee morning

A successful coffee morning on behalf of Macmillan's was held on 28th September and was supported by members of our DCC; it raised £400

(e) Remembrance Day Service:

A Remembrance Sunday Service was celebrated at St. John's church on 9th November. Members of the Evangelical Church and other villagers joined us to pay our respects together at the War memorial at the east end of the church.

(f). Christmas Eve Communion:

Our Christmas Holy Communion service was held at 5.15pm on Sunday, 21st December. The annual Carol Service was held immediately after the Communion Service at 6 pm and was concluded with mulled wine and mince pies in the church.

2.6: Statistics

Electoral Roll, Attendance, Baptisms, Confirmations, Funerals and Weddings

Electoral Roll, Attendance, Baptisms, Confirmations, Funerals and Weddings

Statistic	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
No. on Electoral Roll	15	15	16	16	16	17
Sunday Adult Attendance	10	10	10	10	10	12
Sunday Under 16 Attendance	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of Baptisms	0	0	1	1	1	0
No. of Confirmations						
No. of Funerals	2	4	0	1	1	2
No. of interment of ashes	0	0	1	4	2	1
No. of Weddings	0	0	0	0	0	1

Regular Giving

Statistic	2020 (£)	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)	2024 (£)	2015 (£)
Planned Giving	2,162	2,347	2,148	2,218	2,438	2,048
Loose Change	180	250	400	596	1,071	1,180

Building Repairs

Work Undertaken	2020 (£)	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)	2024 (£)	2025 (£)
Minor Repairs and Maintenance	456	206	0	0	1,450	2,452
Major Repairs and Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0

Charitable Giving

Charity/Cause	2020 (£)	2021 (£)	2022 (£)	2023 (£)	2024 (£)	2025 (£)
Royal British Legion		75	75	75	50	75
Ukraine Appeal			100			
Uganda Clergy Appeal	100					
Aust Village Hall Committee		500				150
Total	100	575	175	75	50	225

3. Financial Review

Total income in 2025 was £9,285 of which £7,373 was unrestricted. This includes £526 as Gift Aid and £252 in top-ups under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. Total expenditure was £11,425, of which £11,400 was unrestricted.

Unrestricted income was £646 (10%) higher than in 2024. This was due largely to increases of (a) £828 in income from parochial fees (almost double the amount for 2024) and (b) £338 (24%) in gross income from fundraising events (predominantly the Summer Fete). However, there was a reduction of £256 (9%) in income from service collections and planned giving by standing order.

Unrestricted expenditure was £1,756 (18%) higher than in 2024. Although there were increases in most categories of expenditure, the largest single component of the increase was £1,000 for repairs and maintenance costs. In 2025 repairs and maintenance expenditure was £2,452, including costs of £883 for resolving electrical problems, £704 for addressing heat pump problems and £807 for architect's fees associated with the Quinquennial inspection.

In overall terms, unrestricted expenditure exceeded income by £4,027 in 2025. However, with churchyard maintenance costs (£1,890) being met from the restricted Graveyard Fund, the unrestricted fund showed an in-year deficit of £2,137.

The Graveyard Fund established in 2016 continues to make a significant contribution towards meeting the costs of the regular maintenance of the churchyard. Income in 2025 from regular contributors was £1,080, which is close to meeting the cost of routine grass cutting. The cost of additional churchyard maintenance in recent years has been met largely from a legacy of £5,000 received in 2018. However, at the end of 2025 the Graveyard Fund displayed a negative balance of £115, so that in future any costs over and above routine grass cutting will have to be met from general unrestricted funds.

As far as other restricted funds are concerned, the only income received was interest on investments, whilst the only restricted expenditure incurred in 2025 was the annual donation of £25 (from the Fabric Fund) to Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust.

Reserves Policy

It is DCC policy to maintain (if possible) a balance on unrestricted funds (free reserves) equating to approximately 6 months' unrestricted payments. Based on average annual expenditure over the last 4 years, this is equivalent to £4,800. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

At 31 December 2025 the balance of the free reserves was £10,021, which is £5,200 above the target. However, as a small parish, DCC recognises that the cost of any significant unforeseen repairs could easily run to several thousand pounds. In addition, it should be noted that the balance of £10,021 for free reserves at the end of 2025 is £4,800 lower than the balance 5 years ago.

As far as restricted funds are concerned, at the 31 December 2025 there were balances of £13,391 in the Facilities Fund, £4,659 in the Music Fund and £1,918 in the Fabric Fund. As already mentioned, at the end of 2025 there were no monies remaining within the Graveyard Fund. The purpose of the Facilities Fund is to provide funds to enable increased and more flexible usage of the church. In this context, DCC is currently pursuing plans for the glazing of the tower area within the church, along with the provision of toilet and kitchen facilities. The Graveyard Fund contributes towards maintenance work (e.g. regular grass cutting) within the churchyard. Specific plans for the use of the Music Fund are still under consideration.

It is DCC policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Aust District Church Council holds a small fund (current balance of £200) to meet the maintenance costs of the Aust Village defibrillator. Any expenditure relating to this fund requires the authorisation of the village committee responsible for the maintenance of the defibrillator.

Historically, a small fund (balance of £149) was held on behalf of the Aust Pilgrimage Committee. However, the Aust Pilgrimage has not taken place in recent years and the Committee has been disbanded. It is therefore unlikely that such an event will take place in the future, and as a consequence, the balance held has been re-assigned to the Aust DCC unrestricted fund. However, should the pilgrimage take place again then any expenses incurred will be met by the DCC.

Full Financial Statements. These are available as a separate document not included in this report. Please request one if needed.

5.0: Safeguarding Report

The church of St. John in Aust is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Debbie Harries remains as the Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) for Olveston with Aust. Trevor Cook remains responsible to the DCC in Aust.

5.1 Policies

The Benefice's Safeguarding policy was adopted by the DCC and Safeguarding remains as a standing item for review at each DCC meeting

Update on other policies that may have been reviewed if they are not included within the parish Safeguarding Policy i.e. (Recruitment of Ex-Offenders, Social Media, Domestic Abuse)

5.2 DBS Checks

As part of the safer recruitment process, where eligible, volunteers working with vulnerable groups have been DBS checked at the level appropriate to the role. Because the parish provides activities for vulnerable groups, the DCC members are also eligible for an enhanced DBS Check.

There are five volunteers / DCC members who require a DBS check for their role and all of them have a current check (ie. the check has been completed within the last 3 years).

5.3 Training

Safeguarding training at different levels is a requirement for all roles, the current situation in terms of meeting the requirements in the parish is as follows:

Basic Awareness (all church officers and volunteers)

Foundation (DCC members, volunteers working with vulnerable groups, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officer).

Leadership Safeguarding (Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Licensed Lay Ministers)

Domestic Abuse (PCC members, Churchwardens, Parish Safeguarding Officers, Licensed Lay Ministers)

5.4 Reporting to the DCC

The DCC was updated about Safeguarding matters in the parish at all its meetings throughout the year. During the year there were no safeguarding matters which were reported on to the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

Part 6.0: Thanks

DCC members are grateful to the amazing team of people from both the church and the local community who help to maintain the churchyard and fabric of the church. We want to particularly thank all those who give their valuable time to enrich our services: LLM and Focal Minister Trevor Cook the churchwardens, Jenn the organiser, our organists Jon Burnett and Adrienne Lucker, and all those who read, interceded, and cleaned the church.

Thanks too to all those volunteers who turned out to clean up the churchyard and to Phil Cue and Richard Deverson who managed the maintenance of trees, the headstones, the laying of the hedgerow on the northern boundary and pollarding of the lime trees along the south path

Thanks also to Sasha Thomas and her team who faithfully climb the tower to wind the clock and keep it accurate

Indeed all those who have given of themselves in some way. All your contributions have ensured that St John's Community and Church is well cared for and maintained to a very high standard both inside and out.

Appendix 1

Report from the wardens on the fabric and ornaments

Appendix 1

This year, we have conducted the quinquennial inspection undertaken by Izaak Hudson of DHV Architects. In general, the fabric of the church is in reasonably good order but there are quite a few actions which need to be undertaken within the next few years. A copy of the quinquennial report has been circulated to the DCC and is available for inspection on request.

A summary of the most urgent actions is to be found at the end of this appendix.

To ensure churchyard safety, an estimate has been received to make the chest tombs by the south door safe and will be given priority.

There has been no change to the church furnishings and ornaments this year

An inspection has been carried out by our church insurers with no major issues raised.

Work which should be undertaken within the next 6 months

1. Clear out lead roof catchpits to the tower roof and the vestry roof (and replace fallen undercloak in the vestry gutter).
2. Remove vegetation growing in the ground drainage channel running west of the porch.
3. Pack the unsafe base to the brick chest tomb west of the south porch.

Work recommended for the next 1-3 years

1. Repoint lead flashings to the tower roof and point the cracks in the crenellations to act as monitoring for movement.
2. Tidy-up the storage to the tower base.
3. Clean the porch gates to remove surface rust.
4. Repair the weather bar to the priest's door and the foot of the vestry door and repair spalled stone to jamb of priest's door.
5. Replace rotten post to fence to south path in graveyard.

Appendix 2 Deanery Synod Report. – See attached

Signed on behalf of the DCC. 22nd April 2026.

David Sefton Moss Vicar

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Sefton Moss', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.