

APCM AGENDA AND REPORTS FOR 2025

Sunday 17th May 2026

12:30pm

Introductions

1. Welcome
2. Prayer
3. Appointment of minutes secretary to the meeting

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Minutes of the meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 18th May 2026
2. Election of Church Wardens for 2026
 - Election of Senior Warden
 - Election of Junior Warden

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of APCM held on 18th May 2026
3. Matters arising
4. Reports
 - a. Electoral roll
 - b. The financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2025 – any questions to our Treasurer William Liew via email: pcc.treasurer@stmaryredcliffe.co.uk
 - c. On the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church
 - d. On the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
5. Elections of:
 - a. Four members of Deanery Synod
 - b. Up to 5 lay representatives on the Parochial Church Council to serve until 2029
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Any other business

Closing prayer

Electoral Roll Report

At the time of the APCM there are **236** people on the electoral roll. **7** people have joined the roll.

It is with great sadness that we note the deaths of the following people in the past year:

- John Allen
- Jean Langley
- Denise Reynolds
- Pat Stevens

Financial Summary (Full details on the TAR)

Funds

	2024	2025
Unrestricted Funds	200,807	163,772
Restricted Funds	418,656	512,943
Endowment Funds	781,457	778,520

Income

Income from	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Donations/Legacies	246,234	830,832	1,077,066	1,202,460
Charitable Activity	29,050	610	29,660	22,154
Other trading Activity	85,171	51	85,222	83,663
Investments	10,163	238	10,401	10,934
Other	1,994		1,994	33,478
TOTAL	372,612	831,731	1,204,343	1,352,689

Expenditure

Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
429,036	717,740	1,146,776	1,277,039

Expenditure on Charitable Activity 2025

Charitable activities		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025
Current year	Note	£	£	£
<i>Church & PCC activities:</i>				
Staff costs	9	81,007	373,844	454,851
Church fabric costs		-	85,249	85,249
Church running costs		8,972	107,200	116,172
Parish share		100,105	-	100,105
Church services		12,995	9,769	22,764
Music		1,726	16,372	18,098
Charity contributions, collections		-	7,610	7,610
Community activities		-	38,959	38,959
Hub running costs		-	11,982	11,982
<i>Support costs:</i>				
Parish office running costs		36,154	9,726	45,880
IT & communication		30,802	6,284	37,086
Printing, postage & stationery		13,312	433	13,745
Legal & professional Fees		35,834	33,948	69,782
Training, recruitment & travel		3,370	6,889	10,259
Depreciation		11,097	-	11,097
Loss on Fixed asset disposal		528	-	528
Stewardship costs & finance charges		5,917	-	5,917
Other property rent		16,516	-	16,516
Other		18,121	2,536	20,657
		<u>376,456</u>	<u>710,801</u>	<u>1,087,257</u>

Expenditure on Charitable Activity 2024

Charitable activities (continued)

Charitable activities		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
Prior year	Note	£	£	£
<i>Church & PCC activities:</i>				
Staff costs	9	121,677	354,217	475,894
Church fabric costs		17,477	162,439	179,916
Church running costs		18,739	133,439	152,178
Parish share		83,946	-	83,946
Church services		10,262	9,440	19,702
Music		2,023	19,456	21,479
Charity contributions, collections		-	8,718	8,718
Ecclesiastical robes		291	14,462	14,753
Community activities		825	33,313	34,138
Hub running costs		-	9,387	9,387
<i>Support costs:</i>				
Parish office running costs		51,848	10,000	61,848
IT & communication		27,907	635	28,542
Printing, postage & stationery		8,745	3,240	11,985
Legal & professional Fees		35,121	41,581	76,702
Training, recruitment & travel		3,172	2,492	5,664
Depreciation		3,935	-	3,935
Stewardship costs & bank charges		3,588	-	3,512
Other property rent		16,033	-	16,033
Other		4,549	1,887	6,436
		<u>410,062</u>	<u>804,706</u>	<u>1,214,768</u>

Fabric Report

South Aisle & South Ambulatory Roof - lead work repaired so now watertight. Sheetting to cover organ pipes significantly over budget.

Removal of Sawdust from Bell Tower – completed.

Vodafone - Fibre Optic cable installed into Tower & the spire

Refurbishment of Railings around Church - repainting, general refurbishment of gates & railing completed.

New metal Chatterton stair handrail – installed making access safer to Chatterton room

South door glazing – Tie bar has been adjusted and glazing by door handle has been re-leaded and repaired. This panel receives a lot of impact causing it to fail.

Roof - regular maintenance of roof, gutters, sumps etc to prevent water ingress needed in various areas of church. Ceiling paintwork flaking due to previous damp issues.

North steps handrail – Planning permission rejected so this is on hold, unlikely to be successful if appeal.

Chatterton door lock – there is consent in place, but no progress on this yet. Need adjustments on permission granted, awaiting advice from diocese before proceeding.

Damp in northwest corner of North Transept – problem caused by blocked gutters – regular maintenance programme agreed.

Spire Works

The installation of the ladders on the spire and inspection of the stonework completed in November. Spire works to be carried out from March to June 2026 – ongoing work but progressing well.

PV Cell installation

We have been granted planning permission with some conditions. Diocese, & Historic England are very supportive. Faculty Petition currently with Chancellor so awaiting his decision but we are hopeful this will be granted soon.

Panels expected to provide 100% of power needs in summer, and about 25% in winter. Return on investment is expected to be 6-7 years and lifetime of panels 25 years.

Heating – major gas leak meant installation of new pipework across runway in North Churchyard. Boiler passed its health check in October but failed in December and significant delays ensued due to various problems. The installation of the new pumps bought with it complications of the new pumps being Three phase not two phase which meant additional work plus 2 gas leaks occurred, again causing delays in the

completion of the repair. We trialled a set of radiant heaters provided by the Diocese as part of their programme to help churches move to being carbon neutral. These helped keep some of our congregation warm but sadly our organ suffered as temperature dropped below the ideal meaning extra tunings this year. We will be trialling underpew heaters as recommended by the Diocese later this year.

Alternate Heating Options

After much research & consultation we have been advised that a Commercial Air Source Heat System is the most viable option. Work continues to finalise the details of this system.

Nathaniel Bridges monument – stonework crack and loose stone repaired and stonework cleaned by Strachey conservation.

West window conservation & repair - A trail carried out in March to test a protective covering for once conservation complete was successful.

Stonework conservation completed March 2026 by Minerva and West Window works completed by Dan Humphries in April 2026. Protective glazing installed.

Roof repair of Toilet block ongoing – persistent leak in to Disabled toilet. Problem isolated & repair to flashing will be carried out asap by vergers

Proposed works for 2026

Pruning of the trees in the South Churchyard is hoped to be carried out in the Autumn.

Lady Chapel Chandelier fused by water ingress - no cracks of lead roof found so Architect suspects it was debris accumulated in the parapet gutter. The Chandelier needs repair as a result of this leak and we hope will be actioned soon. A water diverter will be installed during repair to prevent further damage.

Accessibility to Lady Chapel via Ambulatories – This has been surveyed and more work needs carrying out as a few practical complications have been identified, before ramps installed.

Lady Chapel carpet

Legacy funding is available for a new carpet which needs replacing due to moth damage, but we are investigating if it is be worth restoring tile floor underneath carpet depending on what state it is in. Work is ongoing to secure contractor, to seek relevant permission to remove carpet & access condition of tiled floor.

Clothes Moth Problem – being constantly monitored to prevent any damage to vestment collection. Moth & Insect traps place and Moth deterrents installed. Need to acquire humidity monitors for Vestment storage areas.

Vestment conservation team re-established to assess condition & carry out repairs as needed

Repair of Lamp post in South Churchyard - damaged at Easter 2025 – a specialist repair – quotes being obtained.

Refurbishment of Nave, aisles, transepts & west end lighting - awaiting revised quote, permission to carry out works and funding.

Liz Hewitt

Churchwarden, Acting Fabric Committee chairperson

Deanery Synod

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT 2026

A reflection

With this year's Deanery Synod report covering the Interregnum period at St Mary's and as the church emerges now into a new season, it seems right yet again to remember what the Synod is for. In a word: connectivity. It's about seeking out our brothers and sisters in Christ in our Deanery (the collection of Church of England parishes in our neighbourhood): sharing the faith, finding opportunities to do so, partnering to discuss issues and opportunities, sharing problems when they arise, offering and finding mutual support, and more. As with Diocesan Synod it's about being part of a wider community of worship: of intertwined communities with attendant rights and duties.* [*please see the note below*]

SYNODS AND MORE

Synod meetings since last year's APCM were held in June and October, and in March this year. To give a flavour of what has been going in our Bristol South neighbourhood I focus on just one of these meetings; and I also report on a Diocesan meeting geared toward Deanery business.

Synod on 21st October 2025

Focus: The focus of this Synod was Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), which we learnt the Church Urban fund has used "as an approach and tools to help communities grow through connecting, with some additional practical tools."* Area Dean Revd Sarah Hancox introduced the speakers: Revd Rosy Ashley (Adviser for Parish Development, Bristol Diocese) Toni Bush (Church Buildings Community Enabler), Hugh O'Boyle (Community Development Practitioner). [**please see link below*]

We heard from our speakers that churches often find themselves focussing on negatives instead of dwelling in God's abundance, and that ABCD is an approach for churches to discover the treasure within. Whereas it's said that the often instinctive approach of churches is to identify deficits in a community and try to fix them, ABCD looks at the strengths first, since these are the tools to-hand. Some questions frequently asked are whether groups in a community are aware of each other, and connected; and whether communication of itself improves things and connects the strengths.

Activities: “Anywhereville”, a whole-Synod ‘flip-chart’ exercise. Small group exercises: “Five Gifts”, and “Know, Teach, Learn”

Take-aways: I remember this as a well-attended Synod; an at times riotous (in a good way) meeting in which members constructed a hypothetical flip chart ‘town’ (“Anywhereville”) with amenities and aspects that members were asked to suggest based on a strengths/deficits scale (for example: parks, libraries vs. fly-tipping, bad WiFi, and no dentists), and the very lively discussions we had. I was impressed by the additional activity small group exercises. “Five Gifts” asked people to reflect on their inherent gifts in terms of the headings “Knowledge, Skills, Passions, Grounded, Connected”: what you know, can do and care about; what keeps you grounded and connected. “Know, Teach, Learn” followed: attendees were asked about gifts they could share, the idea being that those with knowledge and skills connect with those who want to learn, in order to create a learning community (notice boards at schools, libraries and churches being potential tools for outreach), all based on the question: do people have a gift that they could share?

Other: Notice was given of the licensing of (and invitation to) Revd Sam Denyer’s installation as Priest in Charge at St Martin’s Knowle; and of Ken Petrie, Churchwarden at St Andrews Hartcliffe (and former member of St Mary’s) provisionally elected as member of the Diocesan Synod (ratified at the recent March Synod). Revd Sarah urged members to think on, pray and speak with her if someone wishes to be a part of Deanery Synod.

Diocese

As Lay Chair for the Deanery I’ve attended twice yearly meetings of Area Deans + Lay Chairs in the Diocese with the Bishop, Archdeacons and Diocesan Lay Chair. These have been insightful and interesting occasions; particularly the most recent meeting (20th March) where, in discussion with our Diocesan Lay Chair, we (the seven Deanery Lay Chairs) explored strategies to help us in our work – which I mention here to interest all at St Mary’s and its volunteers going forward (Reps, a potential future Lay Chair and anyone wanting to support parish-deanery work). Topics we discussed included forming a working group of the Deanery Lay Chairs in the Diocese to facilitate close working, share ideas and experience, provide mutual support; and roll out such approaches into individual Deaneries. Discussion further included calling on the significant talents available in our Lay communities, and discussing and better understanding the purpose and objectives of Deaneries – bearing in mind the existing published material on which their responsibilities are built. Discussion then tuned in on clarifying and agreeing the main roles and responsibilities of Deanery Lay Chairs, with reference to work going on in other Dioceses, and material published by the National

Deaneries Network. My view is that this is a very good resource for Deanery Lay Chairs and one that will be a help to deaneries and their parishes.

Finally

This is my last post and I'm minded to recall a fond memory I have of Bishop Viv when, as Deanery Lay Chair, I was invited last year to a summer Garden Party held in her honour in which we celebrated her dedication to the churches of the Diocese and all who live within it, and her actions for the Gospel on a wider national stage. With this and Bristol South Deanery in mind, it's been an honour to serve St Mary's as Deanery Rep, and to contribute to Deanery work and life. I hold you all in prayer as you discern God's way in your local context and grow in love for your Deanery neighbours and each other.

Eleanor Vousden, Deanery Synod Parish Rep from 2020, Deanery Synod Lay Chair 2021-26

Notes

Bristol Diocese: “[t]he Deanery Synod sits between the parishes with their Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) and the full diocese, with its Diocesan Synod. Each parish elects representatives to the Deanery Synod, which brings together the thinking of the church's life in the deanery. It is sometimes asked to consider matters referred to it from the Diocesan Synod and from the General Synod. It is the place where the voice of the parish is first heard beyond the PCC”.

[<https://www.bristol.anglican.org/aboutus/governance/deanerysynods/>]

Church Urban Fund: [Exploring Asset Based Community Development - CUF](#)

Diocesan Report

The Bristol Diocesan Synod is the governance body of the diocese, formulating diocesan policy, assisting the bishop and his staff to support and oversee the work and mission of the diocese, approving the budget, and debating important local and national issues affecting the Church. It considers matters referred from general synod, deanery synods, PCC's and synod members.

Each meeting includes a Bishop's Address, a General Synod report, a Bishop's Council/Board of Directors/Mission and Pastoral Committee report, and features Question-Time and begins with a short act of worship.

The diocese always has an overall strategy, setting out its priorities, guiding thinking. The current one is entitled Transforming Church. Together. (TCT). It is the largest and most ambitious strategy that I have yet encountered, in many years' involvement with Church of England local governance, and it is a strategic plan based around renewing the diocese's mission, focusing on following Jesus, serving communities, and fostering an inclusive culture. It is concerned with growth, environmental sustainability and empowering leadership. TCT updates are considered at most diocesan synods at the present time.

There are usually three meetings of the Bristol Diocesan Synod, but in 2025, there were four. The main business of the meetings was as follows:

At the March meeting, there was a report from the Diocesan Board of Education. There was a video of young people posing questions to the synod for its consideration. There was a report on using Sharesy at Holy Trinity Horfield. Sharesy is a UK-based on-line venue-hire market place connecting people looking for space with local community venues, such as schools, church halls and community centres. The synod considered living in love and Faith. There was a report on the diocese's carbon emissions in the years 2021-23.

At the June meeting, which included the AGM of the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance, the synod voted to receive and adopt the annual report and financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2024, and to reappoint auditors, Hays Mac. People were also elected to posts on the Board of Finance.

The synod also received the safeguarding report. There was a presentation about roof repairs to All Saints Corn Street, where the memorial to Edward Colston is situated.

September's meeting was additional, and was solely about Living in Love and Faith, prayers of blessing for same gender couples, and featured a good deal of round table discussion.

At the November meeting, the synod voted to authorize the Bristol Diocesan Board of Finance to expend, in the year 2026, sums totalling £15966000. This represents a projected deficit of at least £288.000. Although the budget was voted through, (had this not been the case, the diocese would not have been able to spend any money in 2026!), there were a larger number of objections and abstentions than usual, due to factors such as the diocese suspending funding for Carbon Net Zero.

There was an update on Priority Communities, an initiative involving the most deprived areas receiving targeted help, including funding and dedicated resources. The synod also received a report on the Church Urban Fund Together Network Partnership, a nation wide alliance of Christian organisations, working to combat poverty and strengthen communities, including providing places of welcome and trying to address food insecurity through local partnerships, notably thanks to hard working volunteers.

Auriol Britton, Member of Deanery and Diocesan Synod