Aldenham Art Festival 2026 – Event Report

Overview

The 2026 Aldenham Art Festival was a truly outstanding success — not only financially, but also in the way it opened our church to the wider community. The atmosphere throughout both weekends was warm, friendly and full of energy, with artists and visitors alike commenting on the welcoming spirit of the event and the warm 'family' feel on entering the building.

Our Volunteers

The Festival simply could not happen without the remarkable dedication and enthusiasm of you all. Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who contributed, including those who:

- baked cakes, scones, sausage rolls, sandwiches and other treats
- welcomed visitors at the door, stewarded the event, wrapped artwork and handled payments
- served endless tea and coffee and ran the refreshment bar with good humour
- encouraged visitors to buy artwork, made purchases themselves, or donated generously
- helped put up and take down display boards and all the other equipment and signs and arranged flowers
- took away and distributed fliers and posters in shops and local places, placed the road signs, and generally promoted the event locally
- spread the word to artists, encouraged new exhibitors, or took part as artists themselves
- handled entries, artist queries and the inevitable complexities behind and in front of the scenes

Your contribution — in every form — made this festival possible. **A huge and heartfelt THANK YOU.**

Some facts & Figures

- **Total Sales:** £11,484
- **Pictures Sold:** 85
    - Including **two artists who sold every single piece** — something that doesn't happen often.
- **Average Sale Price:** £130
- **Door & Refreshment Income:** approx. £3,200

- **Total Takings:** £17,953 (plus artists' entry fees, minus expenses and artists payments)

- **Estimated Profit to the Church: Approx £8,000**

These figures represent a brilliant year, but the success of the festival goes far beyond the financial outcome which will help greatly in preserving our wonderful building.

Community Impact

The festival once again proved to be a brilliant meeting point for artists, visitors and volunteers. Many commented on the friendly, inclusive atmosphere — a place where people of all faiths or none felt welcome. The combination of open doors, warm smiles and delicious cake created a sense of community that money simply cannot measure.

Special Thanks

We extend a **huge thank you** to the Golf Club across the road for their tremendous support for providing all the drinks and canapes for our Preview Night and for the advertising they provided throughout the event. Their partnership has become an invaluable part of the festival's success, and we are delighted that they have already promised to support us again next year.

Looking Ahead

Please mark your diaries for next year's festival weekends:

10–12 September 2027 17–19 September 2027

We look forward to welcoming you — and many new faces — back to Aldenham Church for another celebration of creativity, community and hospitality.

Our kindest and warmest thanks to you all.

Ken and Lindsey.

And a special note from our new vicar on his first experience of this event:
"I would like to add my thanks on behalf of the church council for the time and energy all the volunteers put in so that the Art Festival could run again this year. It couldn't happen without the dedication and hard work of all of you. As a result, we have put on an event that brings people together, celebrates local talent and raises money to preserve our historic building. Your efforts are much appreciated!"

Rev John Castle, Vicar